



NC Board of PT Examiners (NCBPTE) Report - APTA NC Business Meeting October 13, 2023

By Kathy O. Arney, PT, MA, Executive Director

Draft 4

Purpose of the Board: The purpose of the NC Board of Physical Therapy Examiners (NCBPTE) is to regulate the practice of physical therapy in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of North Carolina. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Wednesday, December 6, 2023. North Carolina Board of PT Examiners meetings are in person at 8300 Health Park, Lower Level Conference room. The public is welcome to attend in person.

1. Appointments to the Board:

In 2023, a total of five (5) members were appointed to the Board. One physical therapist resigned when she was no longer eligible to meet the clinical practice requirement and one medical doctor resigned when a personal emergency prevented her serving the appointed term.

Former Board member physical therapist, Jamie Miner, PT was appointed to fill the vacancy of the physical therapist member, and Dr. Lee Diehl, MD was appointed to fill the vacancy of the medical doctor member. In addition, Renu Kasula was appointed as public member filling the position for the prior member who declined to be considered for reappointment.

The nominations and ballots for 2024 appointments to the Board of two (2) physical therapists, and one (1) physical therapist assistant were completed by the APTA NC per NCGS Article 18E 90-270.91. APTA NC will notify Governor Roy Cooper of the results of the balloting for consideration and appointment of terms to the Board beginning January 1, 2024.

The Board thanks Mr. C. David Edwards, PT for his service to the Board from 2018–2020 and 2021–2023. Mr. Edwards provided exceptional service to the Board by serving as Board Chair, Secretary-Treasurer, Finance and Audit Committee member, Public Protection Task Force member and Chair, Rules Committee member, both Attorney Transition and Executive Director Performance Review Task Forces and delegate to the FSBPT House of Delegates. He is not eligible for reappointment having served two consecutive terms.

The Board thanks Mrs. Teresa F. Hale, PT, for her service to the Board from 2018 – 2020 and 2021–2023. Mrs. Hale has provided exceptional service to the Board by serving as Board Chair, Investigative Committee Member, Public Protection Task Force member, Rules Committee member, both Attorney Transition and Executive

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Director Performance Review Task Forces and delegate to the FSBPT House of Delegates. She is not eligible for reappointment having served two consecutive terms.

Current Board members will continue to serve until appointments are made by the Governor.

Board Member	Position	Term Expires
C. David Edwards, PT	Chair	2023
Leslie P. Kesler, PT	Secretary-Treasurer	2024
Teresa F. Hale, PT	Member	2023
Jamie Miner, PT	Member	2025
Megan L. Wentz, PTA	Member	2023*
Stephanie Bernard, PTA	Member	2024
Lee Diehl, MD	Medical Doctor	2025
Renu Kasula	Public Member	2025

*Indicates eligibility to serve another term

- 2. Online Renewal:** Licensees are required to renew licenses annually **online**. Postcards will be mailed to the address on file at the Board office prior to November 1, 2023 specifying that the renewal period will be open online from November 1, 2023 until *January 31, 2024 5:00 pm EST*. Payment will require a credit card and must be received by January 31 for the license to be renewed. **There will be no paper renewal applications or payments.** *(The Board **strongly** recommends that licensees renew online by January 15, 2023 to ensure timely processing. The renewal fee is \$120.00 plus processing costs.)*

- 3. Board Information Technology Update:**
As the public and licensees access the Board website, there are notable changes including a new licensee dashboard. When licensee's login to utilize Board services there is a new look that will encompass both licenses, compact privileges, and privileges for military members. All Board services previously accessed by first logging in, can now be found on each licensee's personalized dashboard. Users will need to "expand" their license or privilege to find related options and services. In addition, some information on the Home Page may have moved and can be found using the search feature.

The Board is moving to the Cloud and any issues or questions can be directed to the Board via email at PTBoard@ncptboard.org.

- 4. Continuing Competence Requirements**

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If your license continuing competence reporting period is closing January 31, 2024, you will be required to complete and record your continuing competence activities prior to renewal. Access your continuing competence report available from your personal dashboard for details. This must be complete for the renewal to be accepted.

Continuing Competence Audits:

Annual random audits are conducted at the end of license renewals for the reporting period just closed. Typically, PT/PTA licensees selected are to send documentation by mail of their reported 30/20 points of activities to the Board office for audit.

Licensees may review Board rules at the link below: (Scroll down to 21 NCAC 48G .0105 - .0112)

<https://www2.ncptboard.org/app/LawAndBoardRules/LawAndBoardRules.php>

In person activities are not required. Continued Competence points may be obtained electronically as described below: 21 NCAC 48G .0109 CONTINUING COMPETENCE ACTIVITIES

(a) Continuing Education activities are eligible for points as follows:

- (1) The maximum number of points allowed during any reporting period for an interactive course offered through electronic media shall be 15.
- (4) For registered participation in a non-interactive course offered by an approved provider by videotape, satellite transmission, webcast, DVD, or other electronic media, one hour of participation earns one point. The maximum number of points allowed during any reporting period shall be 10.
- (8) For completion of a home study physical therapy program furnished by an approved provider, one hour of home study earns one point. The maximum number of points during any one reporting period allowed shall be 10. (These may be online/electronic/live electronic).

5. **Board Rules and Permanent Rulemaking:** No new rules have become effective since August 2021. The Board Rules Committee will continue to review and update rules in response to public feedback, modernization of Board processes, and other relevant topics. Feedback to the Board regarding rules is welcome at any time. Board rule feedback may be submitted to: PTBoard@ncptboard.org. A link to the Board Rules is as follows:

<https://www2.ncptboard.org/app/LawAndBoardRules/LawAndBoardRules.php>

6. **Board Newsletters:** *NEW!* The Board has begun issuing monthly Newsletters via email to all licensees to enhance the speed of access to information from the Board.

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These newsletters have an updated look, are shorter for ease of review and are posted on the Board website as they are published. These newsletters will take the place of the annual newsletter sent just prior to the beginning of license renewals.

7. Board Meeting Minutes and Recent Scope of Practice Questions:

Approved Minutes of Quarterly and Special Board meetings are posted on the Board website under Board Information. Additional information on Board responses to recent Scope of Practice questions may be found at the following link:

<https://www2.ncptboard.org/app/LandingPages/ScopeOfPracticeHome.php>

Public Protection Task Force

The Public Protection Task Force was established by the North Carolina Board of PT Examiners in June 2021 to evaluate risks and potential harms in physical therapy practice in North Carolina and make recommendations to the Board for actions that may be useful in eliminating or mitigating those risks and harms. Results of the work of this Task Force may be found on the Board website in Position Statements and in answers to scope of practice questions and newsletters. Most recent topics include:

- Informed Consent
- Dry Needling
- Musculoskeletal Ultrasound
- Ethical Decision Making
- And more.

Recent postings can be found at the links below:

- Newsletters: <https://www2.ncptboard.org/app/Newsletters/Newsletters.php>
- Position Statements:
<https://www2.ncptboard.org/app/PositionStatements/PositionStatements.php>
- Scope of Practice Questions:
<https://www2.ncptboard.org/app/LandingPages/ScopeOfPracticeHome.php>
- Latest Updates: <https://www2.ncptboard.org/index.php>

8. Licensing Updates

a. Military Members – New Federal Law

Federal Law H.R. 7939 Veterans Auto and Education Improvement Act of 2022 became effective January 5, 2023 upon signature of the President of the United States. Section 19, Portability of Professional Licenses of Members of

the Uniformed Services and their Spouses, authorizes and enables states to issue a privilege to practice in the state upon submission of required documentation to military members and their spouses that have a current license in another state. Further, if the military member or spouse is licensed to practice PT in another state and is a member of the PT Compact, the eligible military member or spouse must obtain a PT Compact privilege to practice.

These provisions facilitate interstate practice through expedited methods for obtaining appropriate credentials to practice in NC. There are no prohibitions for the military member or spouse to obtain a full physical therapy license to practice in NC if they wish, with a complete application and all required documentation.

State law NCGS 93B-15.1 enables military members who have not completed a CAPTE accredited education and without a license in another state to apply for licensure and become eligible to take the National Physical Therapy Exam.

b. Physical Therapy Licensure Compact

A member state of the PT Compact since 2017, North Carolina began issuing “privileges to practice” in North Carolina on July 1, 2019. The PT Compact is an agreement between member states to improve access to physical therapy services for the public by increasing the mobility of eligible physical therapy providers to work in multiple states. **The PT Compact privileges continue to serve as a legal and equivalent alternative to a PT license in compact participating states.** Privileges facilitate telehealth services both in state and other participating Compact states, ease of obtaining practice credentials for military members, their spouses, traveling and other physical therapy licensees to provide physical therapy services to the citizens of North Carolina. The PT Compact Commission has thirty-seven (37) member states, of which thirty (30) are issuing privileges to practice. To see participating states go to: <https://ptcompact.org/ptc-states>.

As of September 27, 2023, the current total of active compact privilege holders in NC is 524. Verification of Compact privilege holders can be made on the Board website under Licensee Look-up or at ptcompact.org. For more information about eligibility for or obtaining a privilege in member states or the PT Compact Commission in general, go to: ptcompact.org

In compliance with the NC PT Compact law, NCBPTE must require FBI Criminal Background checks for all initial licensure applicants, maintain FSBPT IDs for all licensees, and share current licensure data with the commission weekly. In 2023, North Carolina continues to be represented on

the PT Compact Commission by Kathy O. Arney, PT, MA, as delegate and Commission Chair.

c. FBI Criminal Background Checks and Applications for Licensure

In 2019, by virtue of the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact law, the Board began requiring fingerprinted FBI Criminal Background Checks (CBC) for all first-time license applications in North Carolina. The CBC results are submitted to the Board via email. This process can take a minimum 5 weeks or longer. These confidential reports must comply with the FBI requirements, and the time to complete licensure may be slowed if those results are not received timely.

9. Licensee Changes of Address and contact information: As required by rule, within **30 days** licensees should keep the Board apprised of any change in current home and work addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses. A current email address on file with the Board office decreases the chance of missing timely communications from the Board. License renewal reminder postcards will be mailed in late October to the preferred address on file.

10. Board Office Location and Address: NCBPTE, 8300 Health Park, Suite 233, Raleigh, NC, 27615. Website: <https://www.ncptboard.org>; Phone: (919) 490-6393 or (800) 800-8982; Fax (919) 490-5106; Email contact for questions: PTBoard@ncptboard.org.

11. Update regarding Investigations and Disciplinary Actions:

SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS FILED IN 2023 – YTD (September 27, 2023)

YEAR-TO-DATE STATISTICS

Total Cases Reported and Investigated:	46
Total advertising complaints:	02
Total “other” complaints:	39
Total failure to renew (by the deadline)	04
Total cont. comp complaints	01
Total Compact Privilege holder failure to complete JE in a timely manner	00

SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS RESOLVED in 2023 THROUGH August 31, 2023

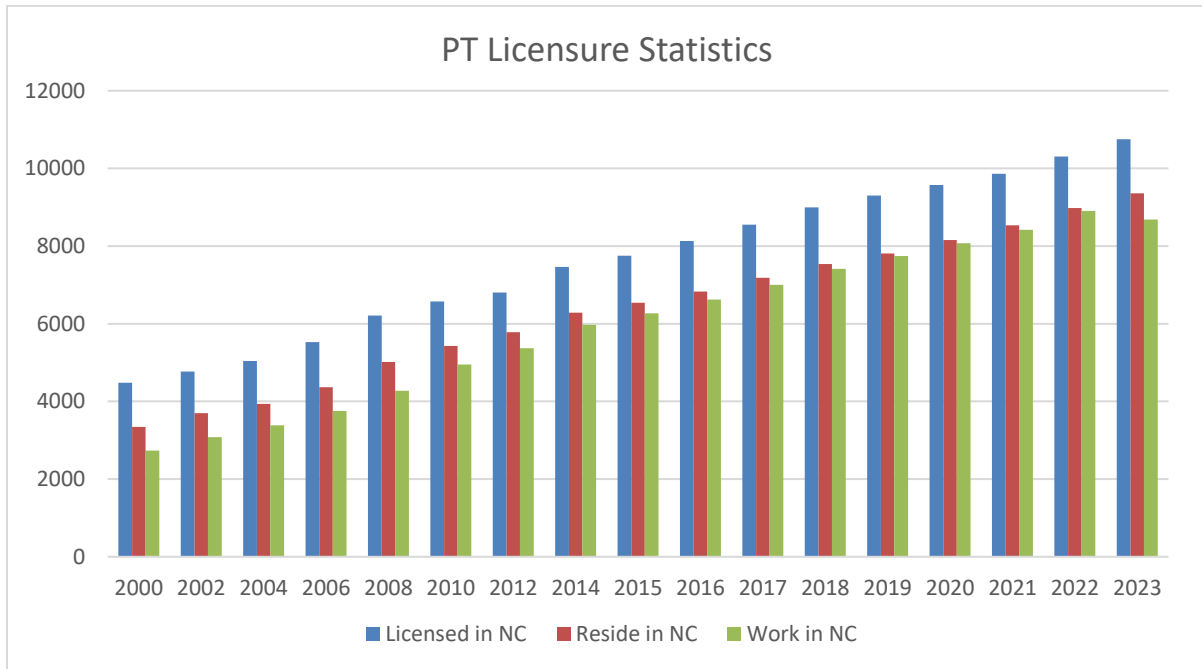
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Total Cases Dismissed: 13
 Total Suspensions Issued: 01
 Total Probations Issued: 00
 Total Warnings Issued: 02
 Total Surrender of Licenses: 00
 Total Revoked 00
 Total Renewals Denied 00
 Total Advisory Letters written: 07 (including 3 letters for failure to
 renew by deadline)
 Total Letters sent regarding advertising: 00
 Other: including invalid complaints-no name 05
 Cases still pending: 23

**12. Physical Therapy Licensure Statistics
 Physical Therapist Statistics - Fall 2023
 September 27, 2023**

DATE	LICENSED IN NC	RESIDE IN NC	WORK IN NC
1992	2654	1890	1682
1994	3207	2269	2046
1996	3933	2693	2365
1998	4688	3193	2702
2000	4477	3343	2738
2002	4767	3699	3083
2004	5044	3935	3384
2006	5524	4365	3757
2008	6215	5014	4278
2010	6574	5426	4953
2012	6807	5782	5371
2014	7461	6285	5974
2015	7755	6542	6266
2016	8134	6826	6623
2017	8551	7187	7003
2018	8998	7541	7412
2019	9299	7813	7745
2020	9574	8158	8075
2021	9859	8538	8418
2022	10302	8979	8909
2023	10751	9359	8682

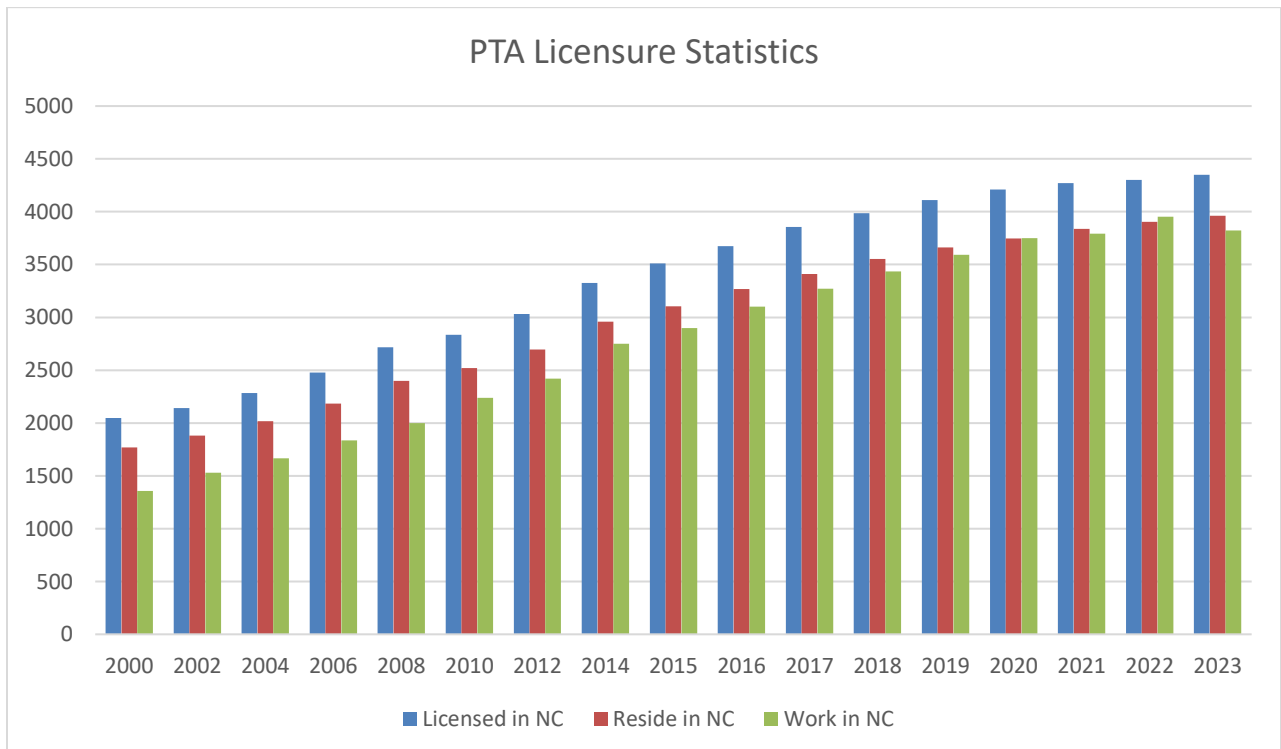
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**Physical Therapist Assistant Statistics - Fall 2023
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DATE	LICENSED IN NC	RESIDE IN NC	WORK IN NC
1992	942	786	713
1994	1251	1055	975
1996	1633	1342	1163
1998	1968	1627	1500
2000	2047	1770	1358
2002	2141	1880	1529
2004	2285	2016	1665
2006	2479	2184	1836
2008	2718	2399	2000
2010	2836	2521	2237
2012	3033	2695	2419
2014	3327	2959	2750
2015	3511	3106	2898
2016	3674	3269	3103
2017	3856	3412	3271
2018	3985	3553	3436
2019	4110	3661	3591
2020	4210	3746	3749
2021	4270	3838	3793
2022	4300	3903	3953
2023	4350	3963	3822



13. Questions? Email PTBoard@ncptboard.org