



## NC Board of PT Examiners Report - APTA NC Business Meeting October 8, 2021

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

**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 1, 2021. During the NC State of Emergency, Board meetings are being held remotely with public access using YouTube- NCPT Board: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUVBmOFf6-RRZ8hwvf8Iyew>

### 1. **Appointments to the Board:**

The nominations and ballots for 2022 appointments to the Board of one (1) physical therapist and one (1) physical therapist assistant were completed by the APTA NC. APTA NC reported the results of the balloting to NCBPTE and mailed them to Governor Roy Cooper for appointment of terms beginning January 1, 2021.

The Board would like to thank Ms. Crystal D. Ostlind, PTA, for her service to the Board from 2016-2021, including her service as the Secretary/Treasurer for 2 years, member of the Finance and Audit Committee for 3 years and, FSBPT Delegate. She has been a very active member of the Board during her two 3-year terms.

The Board would like to thank Ms. Leslie P. Kelsler, PT, for her service to the Board from 2019-2021. She has served as a member of the Rules Committee each year of her term and the Public Protection Task Force in 2021. She is the Alternate Delegate to the FSBPT House of Delegates for 2021. We value her expertise and active service for the last 3 years. She is eligible for reappointment.

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

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>
Teresa F. Hale, PT	Chair	2023
C. David Edwards, PT	Member	2023
Pearl L. Rhone, PTA*	Member	2020
Crystal D. Ostlind, PTA	Secretary/Treasurer	2021
Leslie P. Kesler, PT*	Member	2021
Paul Garcia, MD	Medical Doctor	2022
Jamie Miner, PT	Member	2022
Rosa M. Gonzalez, BSN, RN	Public Member	2022

*\*Eligible for reappointment*

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2. **Online Renewal:** Licensees are required to renew licenses **online**. Postcards will be mailed prior to November 1, 2021 specifying that the renewal period will be open online from November 1, 2021 until *January 31, 2022 close of business*. Payment will require a credit card received by January 31 close of business, for the license to be renewed. **There will be no paper renewal applications or payments as the Board office remains closed to the public during the State of Emergency with most staff working remotely.** *(The Board strongly recommends that licensees renew online by January 15, 2022 to ensure timely processing. The renewal fee is \$120.00 plus processing costs.)* Questions will be answered by sending an email to: [renewals@ncptboard.org](mailto:renewals@ncptboard.org). (Due to remote Board work, leaving multiple messages may delay response time.)

3. **Continuing Competence – Fall 2021 Update**

**Continuing Competence Audits:** Audits for the January 1, 2019- January 31, 2021 reporting period have been completed, including PT and PTA licensees selected at random. One Warning was issued by the Board for failure to respond to the audit requirement in a timely manner.

**COVID-19 NC State of Emergency and Continuing Competence Requirements:** The Board has received numerous questions about how to obtain continuing competence credit during the COVID-19 pandemic. To address concerns regarding live, in person activities:

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).

4. **Board Rules:**

**Temporary Rule Making:** In an effort to provide regulatory flexibility during the COVID-19 pandemic and facilitate exam eligibility, Temporary Rules, posted on the Board website went into effect on September 25, 2020 and became permanent on August 1, 2021. These rule changes enabled NCBPTE to participate in FSBPT's Alternate Approval Pathway (AAP) for the National Physical Therapy Exam (NPTE). The rules allow the Federation to make CAPTE accredited educational program PT/PTA students eligible to take the exam after the

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educational program certifies no sooner than 150 days before graduation that the students are on track to graduate.

AAP also enables the Federation to handle special accommodation requests for all applicants taking the NPTE. This new process continues to assure consistency and fairness for all applicants. The NCBPTE remains responsible for granting NC PT/PTA licensure.

**Permanent Rulemaking:** 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 all rules is welcome at any time. Submit feedback on Board rules to: [dragan@ncptboard.org](mailto:dragan@ncptboard.org)

Link to the Board rules:

<https://ncptboard.org/documents/boardrules/chapter%2048%20rules.pdf>

**5. Board Newsletter 2021:** The annual Newsletter will be posted on the Board website in early November, 2021. The Newsletter will address the following topics:

- Observations from the Chair
- New Board Staff
- Board Attorney- regulatory flexibility during COVID
- Board COVID response
- Alternate Approval Pathway for exam eligibility
- Scope of Practice updates including questions and answers
- Updates to Board Position Statements
- A report from Debbie Ragan, Deputy Director
- Reminders about annual license renewals
- New website updates
- Carryover Points

**6. Board Meeting Minutes and Recent Scope of Practice Questions:**

Approved Minutes of Quarterly and Special Board meetings are posted on the Board website under About Us, Recent Board Meeting Minutes. For additional information on Board responses to Recent Scope of Practice questions go to:

<https://www.ncptboard.org/AboutUs/AboutUsHome.shtml>

**7. Licensing Updates**

**a. Physical Therapy Licensure Compact**

The PT Compact Commission began issuing “privileges to practice” in North Carolina on July 1, 2019. The PT Compact, which facilitates the interstate practice of physical therapy and enables patients’ access to physical therapy services has been useful during the COVID-19 pandemic in facilitating services as both licensees and patients move or are required to stay-in place. The PT Compact Commission has (34) thirty-four member states, of which 25 are issuing privileges to practice. From July 1, 2019, as of September 27,

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2021, 270 Compact privileges have been issued for NC and 198 are active. Verification of Compact privilege holders can be made on the Board website under Online services: Verify a PT or PTA. For more information about eligibility for or obtaining a privilege in member states or the PT Compact Commission in general, go to: [ptcompact.org](http://ptcompact.org)

In compliance with the 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.

North Carolina continues to be represented on the PT Compact Commission by Kathy O. Arney, PT, MA, as delegate and Commission Chair.

**b. Temporary Exemptions from Licensure**

In addition to the Physical Therapy Compact facilitating licensee mobility and providing patient access to PT services, the NC PT Practice Act, NCGS 90-270.101, allows an “exemption” for physical therapists licensed in another jurisdiction of the United States to enter this State to provide physical therapy during a declared emergency. During the NC State of Emergency, Board staff created an online application portal for “Exemptions from Licensure during the State of Emergency.” From April 16, 2020 through September 10, 2021, 362 temporary privileges to practice without NC licensure have been issued, within 24-48 hours of application. Each applicant has licensure in another jurisdiction verified and contact information available to the Board. The public may verify this status directly on the home page of the Board website in real-time.

**8. Public Protection Task Force:**

At its quarterly meeting June 9, 2021, the Board adopted a motion to create a Public Protection Task Force. Recent trends in certain types of complaints to the Board, scope of practice questions involving newer technologies and techniques or Board rule changes and requests for expansion of the practice of physical therapy represent potential issues faced by NCBPTE as a regulatory board. These issues require more extensive research and careful consideration of potential risks and harms than time allows at quarterly Board meetings. The Task Force will examine potential risks and harms to the public and make recommendations to the Board to manage, mitigate or eliminate these potential risks and harms. The Task Force held its first meetings in July and September, 2021.

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**9. Website Modernization [www.ncptboard.org](http://www.ncptboard.org):**

The current Board website, [www.ncptboard.org](http://www.ncptboard.org) established in the early 2000s is being modernized! In the coming months visitors to the website will notice a streamlined look and the ability to easily search for information. We look forward to your feedback. Send feedback to: [PTboard@ncptboard.org](mailto:PTboard@ncptboard.org).

**10. 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, fax 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.

**11. 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](mailto:PTboard@ncptboard.org).

**The Board office remains closed to the public due to the NC State of Emergency. The majority of staff are working remotely. Phones are forwarded to a general mail box. To communicate with the Board, email is preferred.**

**12. Update regarding Investigations and Disciplinary Actions:**

**SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS FILED IN 2021 – YTD (September 22, 2021)**

**YEAR-TO-DATE STATISTICS**

Total Cases Reported and Investigated:	37
Total advertising complaints:	00
Total “other” complaints:	14
Total failure to renew	02
Total cont. comp complaints	01
Total Compact Privilege holder failure to complete JE in a timely manner	20

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**SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS THAT WERE RESOLVED THROUGH  
September 22, 2021**

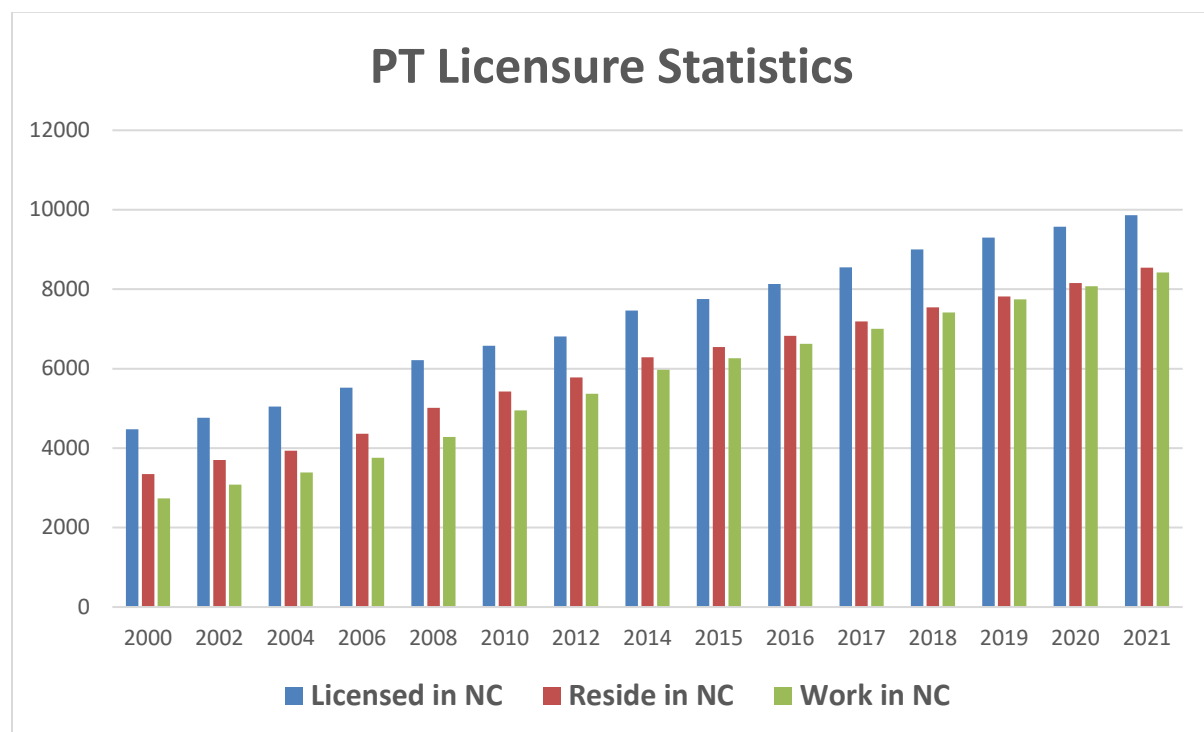
Total Cases Dismissed:	06
Total Suspensions Issued:	00
Total Probations Issued:	00
Total Warnings Issued:	00
Total Surrender of Licenses:	00
Total Revoked	00
Total Renewals Denied	00
Total Advisory Letters written:	17 (including 2 letters for failure to renew by deadline)
Total Letters sent regarding advertising:	00
Completed audit, no action required	149
Other: including invalid complaints-no name	04
Cases still pending:	09

**13. Questions? Email [karney@ncptboard.org](mailto:karney@ncptboard.org)**

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**Physical Therapist Statistics - Fall 2021  
September 14, 2021**

<b>DATE (Oct)</b>	<b>LICENSED IN NC</b>	<b>RESIDE IN NC</b>	<b>WORK IN NC</b>
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



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**Physical Therapist Assistant Statistics - Fall 2021  
September 14, 2021**

DATE (Oct)	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

