



# Communiqué

May 2017

333 Guadalupe, Suite 2-510  
Austin, Texas 78701

512-305-6900  
[www.ptot.texas.gov](http://www.ptot.texas.gov)

## Inside This Issue

- 1 New Jurisprudence Assessment Module
- 2 Sunset Bills Filed
- 3 Disciplinary Action
- 4 Proposed/Adopted Rules
- 4 PT Board Meeting Highlights

## Physical Therapy Board

Harvey Aikman, PT, Chair  
Barbara Sanders, PT, Vice Chair  
Liesl Olson, PT, Secretary  
Gary Gray, PT  
Jeff Tout, PT  
Daniel Renya, Public Member  
Philip Vickers, Public Member  
Glenda Clausell, Public Member

## Next Board Meeting

July 21, 2017  
333 Guadalupe, Suite 2-510  
Austin, TX 78701

## New Jurisprudence Assessment Module

The new *Texas Jurisprudence Assessment Module (TX JAM)* will be rolling out on June 1, 2017. The *TX JAM* will be an interactive on line learning assessment that will evaluate knowledge of the following:

- Texas Physical Therapy Practice Act and Rules,
- Ethical Principles & Decision-Making Models,
- APTA Code of Ethics for the Physical Therapist and Guide for Professional Conduct,
- APTA Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapist Assistant and Guide for Conduct of the Physical Therapist Assistant, and
- APTA Professionalism in Physical Therapy: Core Values

**For New Applicants:** Individuals applying for a physical therapy license either by examination or endorsement will be required to complete the *TX JAM* as part of the licensure required items on or after June 1, 2017. Prior to June 1<sup>st</sup>, the current Jurisprudence Exam will still be required.

**For Licensees who renew prior to June 1, 2017:** Licensees must have 2 CCUs in ethics/professional responsibility specifically approved to meet the ethics/professional responsibility renewal requirement for Texas as part of the total number of required CCUs **AND** must take the current Jurisprudence Exam.

**For Licensees who renew on or after June 1, 2017:** Licensees must complete the *TX JAM* which combines and replaces both the current ethics/professional responsibility continuing competence (CC) renewal requirement and the current jurisprudence exam. A continuing competence unit (CCU) value of 2 CCUs has been assigned to the *TX JAM* and will count toward the required total of 30 CCUs for PTs and 20 CCUs for PTAs.

Licensees who have completed an approved ethics/professional responsibility course prior to June 1<sup>st</sup> can still count the CCUs toward the required total if renewing on or after June 1<sup>st</sup>, but must also complete the *TX JAM*.

For detailed information about the *TX JAM*, click [here](#).

## Sunset Bills Filed

The culmination of the Sunset Review was realized on March 7, 2017 with the filing of the Sunset Bills relating to the continuation and functions of the Executive Council of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Examiners (ECPTOTE), the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners (TBPTE), and the Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners (TBOTE). The Senate Bill (**SB 317**) was filed by **Senator Robert Nichols**, and the House Bill (**HB 4069**) by **Representative Cindy Burkett**. The degree of association of the bills as filed was identical.

In addition to continuing the ECPTOTE, the TBPTE, and the TBOTE as currently structured until 2029, other amendments to the statutes affecting physical therapy include:

- Discontinue the registration of physical and occupational therapy facilities and temporarily authorize the boards to expunge facility-related administrative violations from a licensee's record.
- Adopt the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact.
- Provide clear statutory authority for licensure by endorsement.
- Remove provisions prescribing educational requirements beyond completion of an accredited program or substantially equivalent to an accredited program.
- Clarify statutes to reflect current standards and conditions.
- Continue the boards' authority to delegate to other entities the responsibility of approving continuing education and continuing competence, and require the boards to adopt rules relating to the approval of continuing competence or continuing education courses inclusive of a request for proposal and bid process.
- Require the boards to conduct fingerprint-based criminal background checks of licensure applicants and licensees.
- Require the boards to develop a disciplinary matrix.
- Remove the "good moral character" standard as a criterion for foreign-trained licensure applicants.
- Provide for governor designation of the presiding officer of each board.

**SB 317** was referred to the **Senate Health & Human Services** and considered in public hearing on March 20, 2017. The bill was favorably reported out of committee as substituted on April 3<sup>rd</sup> with the most significant change extending the effective date of the discontinuation of facility registration until September 1, 2019.

The bill passed the Senate on April 18<sup>th</sup> with one floor amendment that adds to the requirements for board member training and was sent to the House where it was referred to the **House Public Health Committee**.

**SB 317** is scheduled for a public hearing in the **Public Health Committee** on Tuesday, May 9, 2017.

Any change in statute (PT Practice Act) as a result of the Sunset Bills would not occur until passed by both the Texas Senate and the Texas House of Representatives and signed into law by the Governor.

To view the history, text, and actions of the bills, please follow the links below:

<http://www.legis.state.tx.us/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=85R&Bill=SB317>

<http://www.legis.state.tx.us/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=85R&Bill=HB4069>

## Disciplinary Actions

The following disciplinary actions were ratified at the April 21, 2017 Board Meeting:

- (1) **America Gonzalez, PTA #2053673 (Laredo)** – failed to properly renew her license; insufficient number/type of board-approved hours timely taken. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 341 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order required thirty (30) hours of community service.***
- (2) **Meredith Maedgen, PT #1124329 (Dallas)** - failed to properly renew her license; insufficient number/type of board-approved hours timely taken. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 341 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order required thirty (30) hours of community service.***
- (3) **Alejandro Ramirez, PT #1134773 (Mission)** - failed to properly renew his license; insufficient number/type of board-approved hours timely taken. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 341 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order required thirty (30) hours of community service.***
- (4) **Logan Spacek, PT #1247048 (Colleyville)** - failed to properly renew her license; insufficient number/type of board-approved hours timely taken. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 341 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order required thirty (30) hours of community service.***
- (5) **Rachel Spiker, PT #1249530 (Alpine)** - failed to properly renew her license; insufficient number/type of board-approved hours timely taken. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 341 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order required thirty (30) hours of community service.***
- (6) **Amanda Walker, PT #1124097 (Wills Point)** - failed to properly renew her license; insufficient number/type of board-approved hours timely taken. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 341 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order required thirty (30) hours of community service.***
- (7) **Ronald Kunz, PT #1248738 (Shady Shores)** - failed to properly renew his license; insufficient number/type of board-approved hours timely taken. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 341 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order required thirty (30) hours of community service.***
- (8) **Lauren Tricia Ho, PT #1241230 (San Marcos, CA)** - failed to properly renew her license; insufficient number/type of board-approved hours timely taken. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 341 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended her license to practice for (30) days.***
- (9) **Brittany Lee Bizzle, PT #1186370 (San Antonio)** – practiced in a detrimental manner by practicing with an expired license. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 322 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order required sixty (60) hours of community service.***
- (10) **Matthew Hughes, PT #1255406 (Dallas)** – practiced in a detrimental manner by practicing with an expired license. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 322 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order required thirty (30) hours of community service.***

Disciplinary Action cont. from pg. 3

**(11) Kevin Hearne, PT #1186559 (Cisco)** – practiced in a detrimental manner by failing to accurately record treatment notes. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 322 of the Board Rules. **Board Order suspended his license to practice for thirty (30) days.**

**(12) Stefani Crowley, PT #1139764 (Dallas)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by failing to accurately record treatment notes. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 322 of the Board Rules. **Board Order suspended her license to practice for thirty (30) days.**

Additionally, it was also reported to the board that the Attorney General's Office suspended the license of **Jaime Alfredo Luna, PTA #2072136 (Laredo)** for failure to pay child support in accordance with a court order. **The AG's Order suspends the license to practice indefinitely.**

## Proposed/Adopted Rules

The Board took the following rulemaking actions at the **April 21, 2017 Board meeting**. The full text of all proposed and adopted rules is available at: [www.ptot.texas.gov/page/act-and-rules](http://www.ptot.texas.gov/page/act-and-rules). If you would like to comment on proposed rules, please send your written comments to [karen@ptot.texas.gov](mailto:karen@ptot.texas.gov), or 333 Guadalupe, Suite 2-510, Austin, TX 78701. The proposed rules will be published in the February 10, 2017 issue of the *Texas Register* available at [www.sos.state.tx.us/texreg/index.shtml](http://www.sos.state.tx.us/texreg/index.shtml).

### Adopted Rules - to be effective May 22, 2017:

#### **§341.2. Continuing Competence Requirements &**

**§341.3. Qualifying Continuing Competence Activities** - The amendments are adopted to allow for the required jurisprudence examination for initial licensure and license renewals and the ethics/professional responsibility license renewal requirement to be combined into one jurisprudence assessment learning module. Additionally, the amendments clarify the core documents for physical therapy ethics standards; authorizes the PT Board to establish a continuing competence value for the module for license renewal credit; and eliminates the need to have an ethics/professional responsibility course approved to meet the renewal requirement.

## PT Board Meeting Highlights

At it's April 21, 2017 meeting, the Board adopted amendments to PT Rules **§341.2. Continuing Competence Requirements** and **§341.3. Qualifying Continuing Competence Activities**. Details of the adopted amendments to the PT Rules can be found above. There were no new proposed Rule amendments.

The Board ratified twelve (12) **agreed orders** which are listed on page 3, Disciplinary Actions.

The following dates have been set for the **Board's 2017 meetings** (subject to change):

\* July 20-21, 2017

\* October 12-13, 2017