



Communiqué

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Physical Therapy Board

Harvey Aikman, PT, Chair
Barbara Sanders, PT, Vice Chair
Liesl Olson, PT, Secretary
Manuel "Tony" Domenech, PT
Melissa Skillern, PT
Jeff Tout, PT
Donivan Hodge, Public Member
Philip Vickers, Public Member
Glenda Clausell, Public Member

Next Board Meeting

July 19, 2019
333 Guadalupe, Suite 2-510
Austin, TX 78701

Governor Appoints New Board Members

Governor Greg Abbott has appointed three new members and reappointed one member to the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners. The Senate confirmed the appointments on May 13, 2019.

Melissa Skillern, PT, DPT is a physical therapist at Easter Seals of Greater Houston. Previously she has served as a physical therapist consultant and evaluator for various charter schools across Texas. She also serves as vice chair of the City of Manvel's Events Task Force Board. Melissa received her Doctor of Physical Therapy from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. Her term will expire on January 31, 2025.

Donivan Hodge is a market research analyst with Concierge Auctions, and is the co-founder and offensive coach for the Leander Wolfpack Minor League Developmental Football team as well as a member of the Leander Chamber of Commerce. He received a certificate in Appraisal from Champions School of Real Estate and a degree in Marketing from the University of Phoenix. His term will expire on January 31, 2023.

Manual A. "Tony" Domenech, PT, DPT, Ed.D. is the Program Director and an associate professor for the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences at Austin. He previously served as the regional dean of the School of Allied Health Sciences for Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, and director of the Physical Therapy Clinic at Lackland Air Force Base. Tony received a Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy from the University of Kansas, a Master of Science in advance physical therapy from the Medical College of Virginia, a Doctor of Education from Oklahoma State University, and a Doctor of Physical Therapy from Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of Health Professions. His term will expire on January 31, 2023.

Barbara Sanders, PT, Ph.D. is the Department Chair of the Texas State Department of Physical Therapy and the President of the American Council of Academic Physical Therapy. She is a Board Certified Sports Physical Therapist and a Catherine Worthingham Fellow of the American Physical Therapy Association. Barbara received a Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy and in education from the University of Kentucky, and a Doctor of Philosophy from The University of Texas at Austin. She has been reappointed for a term that will expire on January 31, 2023.



New Board Members (L to R) Donivan Hodge, Melissa Skillern, Manuel “Tony” Domenech

PT Board Meeting Highlights

At its April 12, 2019 meeting, the PT Board **proposed amendments to and repeal of rules regarding facility registration/renewal and residency/fellowship completion and mentorship.** More details are available on page 4.

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

A new **FAQ on Evaluation/Reevaluation**, which can be found on page 5, was approved by the Board, and the development of a new FAQ on diagnostic sonography was discussed.

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

***July 18 – 19, 2019 *October 10 – 11, 2019 *January 16 – 17, 2020**

Disciplinary Actions

The following disciplinary actions were ratified at the April 12, 2019 Board Meeting:

- (1) **Belinda Ann Lamas, PTA #2047975 (Ingleside)** – practiced with an expired license. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 322 of the Board Rules. **Board Order suspended her license to practice for fifteen (15) days.**
- (2) **Briana Rivera, PTA #2144183 (Mobile, AL)** – practiced with an expired license. 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.**
- (3) **Ansu Susan Chacko, PT #1242999 (Frederick, MD)** – failed to properly renew her license. 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) **Kimberly Kujawa, PT #1031888 (Phoenix, AZ)** – failed to properly renew her license. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 341 of the Board Rules. **Board Order suspended her license to practice for ten (10) days.**
- (5) **Lynette Marie Owens, PTA #2015012 (Houston)** - failed to properly renew her license. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 341 of the Board Rules. **Board Order suspended her license to practice for thirty (30) days.**
- (6) **Megan Clark, PTA #2142280 (Austin)** – practiced in a detrimental manner by abandoning her job/position without providing sufficient prior notice. 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.**
- (7) **Richard Varien, PTA #2010369 (Brenham)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by abandoning his job/position without providing sufficient prior notice. 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.**
- (8) **Felix Flores, PTA #2019469 (Converse)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by using drugs or intoxicating liquors to an extent that affected his professional competence. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act. **Board Order suspended his license for forty-five (45) days.**
- (9) **Ricardo Macias, PTA #2118157 (El Paso)** – failed to report two felony convictions to the Board, as required by board rule. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 343 of the Board Rules. **Board Order suspended his license to practice indefinitely.**
- (10) **Justin Stromberg, PT #1168680 (Austin)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by using drugs or intoxicating liquors to an extent that affected his professional competence. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act. **Board Order reinstated his previously suspended license effective April 12, 2019, with restrictions.**
- (11) **Christopher Poore, PTA #2103032 (Arlington)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by providing a pain relieving cream to a patient under his care without conferring with the supervising physical therapist or notifying the patient's physician; thus practicing outside the scope of his license. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 322 of the Board Rules. **Board Order suspended his license for thirty (30) days.**
- (12) **Edward Summers, PT #1021467 (Austin)** – was convicted of a second felony for driving while intoxicated. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act, chapter 343/9 of the Board Rules and Section 53.021(b) of the Texas Occupational Code. **Board Order revoked his license to practice.**

Proposed/Adopted Rules

The Board took the following rulemaking actions at the April 12, 2019 Board meeting. The full text of all proposed rules is available at: www.ptot.texas.gov/page/act-and-rules. Proposed rules will appear in an upcoming June edition of the *Texas Register*, <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/texreg/index.shtml>. There were no new adopted rules during the meeting.

Proposed Rules:

§322.4. Practicing in a Manner Detrimental to the Public Health and Welfare, §344.1. Administrative Fines and Penalties, and CHAPTER 347. REGISTRATION OF PHYSICAL THERAPY FACILITIES - the amendments and repeal are proposed in order to discontinue the registration of physical therapy facilities; to eliminate failure to register or renew a facility registration and practicing in an unregistered facility from the list of practices considered detrimental to the public health and welfare; and to establish a process for expungement of facility-related administrative violations from a licensee's record as mandated by legislative changes in statute. These rule changes are pursuant to the amendment of the PT Practice Act, Occupations Code Chapter 453 pertaining to the repeal of physical therapy facility registration and annual renewal in SB 317 during the 85th Legislative Session.

Please note that until the proposed rule changes regarding facility registration and renewal are adopted with an effective date of September 1, 2019, current rules and regulations pertaining to facility registration and renewal remain in effect.

§341.3. Qualifying Continuing Competence Activities - the proposed amendments to §341.3. (5)(C) and (D) pertaining to continuing competence credit for completion of an accredited residency or fellowship and for serving as a mentor to a resident or a fellow were withdrawn for further consideration at the May 10th Executive Council meeting.



Compact Privileges Now Available in 12 States

Compact privileges are now being issued for Texas licensees to practice in the following member states:

- Arizona
- Colorado
- Iowa
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Nebraska
- New Hampshire
- North Dakota
- Kentucky
- Oregon
- Tennessee
- Utah

Resources regarding state jurisprudence requirements, associated fees, eligibility requirements, and the process for purchasing a compact privilege are available at ptcompact.org/resources-tools.

New FAQ – Evaluation/Reevaluation

The PT Board maintains a list of both **general and practice Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)** online at <https://www.ptot.texas.gov/faq>. If you have a question about abandonment, scope, supervision, documentation, evals/reevals, or referral, check the FAQ page for your answer.

Recently, the Board developed an FAQ regarding accepting an evaluation/reevaluation from a PT who works for another company.



Fingerprinting/Criminal Background Check Requirement

- Fingerprinting is a **requirement for any applicant for licensure**, either by exam or endorsement, whose license is issued on or after January 1, 2019. **A license will not be issued until this requirement is fulfilled.**
- Fingerprinting is a **requirement for current licensees who renew their license on or after January 1, 2019** if they have not previously submitted fingerprints for the initial issuance of a license or for a prior license renewal or restoration.
- For **more information** about the specific procedures to follow, go to the Board’s website at www.ptot.texas.gov.