



# Communiqué

May 2022

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## Physical Therapy Board

*Harvey Aikman, PT, Chair*  
*Liesl Olson, PT, Vice Chair*  
*Kathryn "Kate" Roby, PT, Sec.*  
*Manuel "Tony" Domenech, PT*  
*Melissa Skillern, PT*  
*Donivan Hodge, Public Member*  
*Jacob Delgado, Public Member*  
*Glenda Clausell, Public*  
*Member*

## Next Board Meeting

**July 29, 2022**  
**Teleconference**

1801 N Congress Ave, Ste. 10.900  
Austin, Texas

## WE'RE MOVING!



As part of the Texas Capitol Complex Master Plan, the George H. W. Bush State Office Building, a 14-story building with 603,000 square feet of administrative office space, is ready for occupancy. The new building will house over 20 state agencies, including the Executive Council of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Examiners (ECPTOTE).

ECPTOTE is scheduled to move in early June. After close of business on Monday, June 6, the server that provides functionality to all of the agency's computers and phones will be disconnected in preparation for relocation. During this transition, correspondence with staff, both by phone and email, will be interrupted for several days until the server is back up and running at the new location. Once accomplished, some staff will resume working remotely answering calls and responding to emails during the physical move of all of the office furnishings, equipment, and files. The entire move should be completed by June 20, 2022.

**ECPTOTE new address will be:**

**1801 N Congress Avenue, Suite 10.900**  
**Austin, TX 78701**

Mail sent to the current address that arrives after June 6 will be forwarded to the new address.

Further information is linked from the agency website at [www.ptot.texas.gov](http://www.ptot.texas.gov).

## Are You Ready for a CC Audit?

There seems to be a recent trend with licensees who are found non-compliant with the continuing competence (CC) renewal requirement during the CC Audit. Per PT Rules §341.2. Continuing Competence Requirements. (g), the Board is required to audit a random sample of licensees at least quarterly to determine compliance with CC requirements. The sampling is 5% of licensees who have renewed in the last six months every quarter. Also, PT Rules §341.2. (e) requires licensees to maintain original continuing competence activity completion documents for four years after the license expiration date. Some of the reasons for non-compliance are:

**Lacks Approved CCUs** - All continuing competence activities submitted to satisfy TX renewal requirements must be approved through the Continuing Competence Approval Program (CCAP) with an assigned approval number, be presented by an Accredited Provider with a TX APS number, or be from a pre-approved category with a standard approval number.

Information on CCAP, which is administered by the Texas Physical Therapy Association (TPTA) for the PT Board, is available at <https://ccap.tpta.org/>. Included on this site is a CCAP Online Course Search of approved courses, and a CCU Tracker that can be used as a repository for storing and managing your CCUs.

A list of Accredited Providers is available at <https://ccap.tpta.org/ccap-accredited-providers/>.

A list of pre-approved categories with their standard approval number is available at <https://www.ptot.texas.gov/page/cc-ce>.

**CCUs Taken Outside the Renewal Period** – A license renewal period in which CCUs can be obtained starts on the first of the month following the license expiration date through the upcoming license expiration date. For example: A licensee whose license expired 4/30/2022 has a renewal period that began on 5/01/2022 through 4/30/2024. Only courses/activities that are approved to meet TX renewal requirements and are taken within the licensee's renewal period can be counted toward the total CCU renewal requirement.

Because of birth month renewal, the renewal period of a newly issued license is from the first of the month after license issuance for 2 years plus additional months to transition to the end of the licensee's birth month. The renewal period could be anywhere from 2 years to 2 years + 11 months.

**Lacks HHS-Approved Human Trafficking Training** - The renewal requirement of Human Trafficking Prevention Training was mandated by the Texas Legislature in 2019 with the Texas Human Trafficking Resource Center of the Health and Human Services (HHS) charged with the approval and online posting of approved courses. Only HHS-approved courses meet this renewal requirement.

Other Human Trafficking courses could be approved through CCAP for general CCU credit toward your overall total, but unless they are also approved through HHS, they will not meet the Human Trafficking Prevention Training requirement.

A list of HHS-approved courses is available at <https://www.hhs.texas.gov/services/safety/texas-human-trafficking-resource-center/health-care-practitioner-human-trafficking-training>.

**No Response** – Not receiving the CC Audit notification does not excuse a licensee from participation in the audit. It is the licensee's responsibility to update contact information within 30 days of a change.

Contact information can be updated at [https://www.ptot.texas.gov/forms/public/change\\_contact\\_info](https://www.ptot.texas.gov/forms/public/change_contact_info).

## Disciplinary Actions

PT Board Formal Disciplinary Actions taken at the April 22, 2022 Board Meeting:

- (1) **Carly Morrow, PT #1312729 (Abilene)** - failed to properly renew license by not meeting the fingerprint requirement in a timely manner. Violation of Section 453.255 of the Act and chapter 341.1 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for fifteen (15) days.***
- (2) **Cody Allred, PTA #2155315 (Amarillo)** - failed to meet initial licensure requirements by not meeting the fingerprint requirement in a timely manner. Violation of Section 453.215 of the Act and chapter 329.1 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for fifteen (15) days.***
- (3) **Carolyn Barnett, PT #1330331 (Northport, AL)** - failed to meet initial licensure requirements by not meeting the fingerprint requirement in a timely manner. Violation of Section 453.215 of the Act and chapter 329.1 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for fifteen (15) days.***
- (4) **Megan Finnestad, PTA #2158129 (Maple Grove, MN)** - failed to meet initial licensure requirements by not meeting the fingerprint requirement in a timely manner. Violation of Section 453.215 of the Act and chapter 329.1 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for fifteen (15) days.***
- (5) **James Cochrane, PT #1339133 (Altamonte Springs, FL)** - failed to meet initial licensure requirements by not meeting the fingerprint requirement in a timely manner. Violation of Section 453.215 of the Act and chapter 329.1 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for fifteen (15) days.***
- (6) **Victor Huang, PT #1335540 (Plano)** - failed to meet initial licensure requirements by not meeting the fingerprint requirement in a timely manner. Violation of Section 453.215 of the Act and chapter 329.1 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for fifteen (15) days.***
- (7) **Clayton Kendrick, PTA #2156844 (Colleyville)** - failed to meet initial licensure requirements by not meeting the fingerprint requirement in a timely manner. Violation of Section 453.215 of the Act and chapter 329.1 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for fifteen (15) days.***
- (8) **Gwonuk Lim, PT #1337741 (Elmsford, NY)** - failed to meet initial licensure requirements by not meeting the fingerprint requirement in a timely manner. Violation of Section 453.215 of the Act and chapter 329.1 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for fifteen (15) days.***
- (9) **Kailee Gaddis, PTA #2158609 (Denison)** - failed to meet initial licensure requirements by not meeting the fingerprint requirement in a timely manner. Violation of Section 453.215 of the Act and chapter 329.1 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for fifteen (15) days.***
- (10) **Arpitha Ganagaboraiah, PT #1340771 (Algonquin, IL)** - failed to meet initial licensure requirements by not meeting the fingerprint requirement in a timely manner. Violation of Section 453.215 of the Act and chapter 329.1 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for fifteen (15) days.***
- (11) **Ivonne Gonzales, PT #1339807 (Austin)** - failed to meet initial licensure requirements by not meeting the fingerprint requirement in a timely manner. Violation of Section 453.215 of the Act and chapter 329.1 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for fifteen (15) days.***

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*Disciplinary Action, cont. from pg. 3*

- (12) **Dylan Hanna, PTA #2157674 (Jacksonville)** - failed to meet initial licensure requirements by not meeting the fingerprint requirement in a timely manner. Violation of Section 453.215 of the Act and chapter 329.1 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for fifteen (15) days.***
- (13) **Timothy Harris, PT #1336682 (Bannockburn, IL)** - failed to meet initial licensure requirements by not meeting the fingerprint requirement in a timely manner. Violation of Section 453.215 of the Act and chapter 329.1 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for fifteen (15) days.***
- (14) **Rachel Masciarelli, PT #1340133 (Keithville, LA)** - failed to meet initial licensure requirements by not meeting the fingerprint requirement in a timely manner. Violation of Section 453.215 of the Act and chapter 329.1 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for fifteen (15) days.***
- (15) **Robert Smith, PT #1331251 (Gulfport, MS)** - failed to meet initial licensure requirements by not meeting the fingerprint requirement in a timely manner. Violation of Section 453.215 of the Act and chapter 329.1 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for fifteen (15) days.***
- (16) **Kory Stewart, PTA #2158312 (Burlington, IA)** - failed to meet initial licensure requirements by not meeting the fingerprint requirement in a timely manner. Violation of Section 453.215 of the Act and chapter 329.1 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for fifteen (15) days.***
- (17) **Tyler Stewart, PT #1331209 (Frisco)** - failed to meet initial licensure requirements by not meeting the fingerprint requirement in a timely manner. Violation of Section 453.215 of the Act and chapter 329.1 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for fifteen (15) days.***
- (18) **Kristopher Yanez, PTA #2154166 (Highlands Ranch, CO)** - failed to meet initial licensure requirements by not meeting the fingerprint requirement in a timely manner. Violation of Section 453.215 of the Act and chapter 329.1 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for fifteen (15) days.***
- (19) **Allison Heimer, PT #1338026 (Frisco)** - failed to meet initial licensure requirements by not meeting the fingerprint requirement. Violation of Section 453.215 of the Act and chapter 329.1 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for thirty (30) days + fingerprint requirement.***
- (20) **Melissa Westergard, PTA #2153418 (Highlands Ranch, CO)** - failed to meet initial licensure requirements by not meeting the fingerprint requirement. Violation of Section 453.215 of the Act and chapter 329.1 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for thirty (30) days + fingerprint requirement.***
- (21) **Jessica Brazell, PTA #2158048 (Elgin, SC)** - failed to meet initial licensure requirements by not meeting the fingerprint requirement. Violation of Section 453.215 of the Act and chapter 329.1 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order accepted the surrender of license to practice.***
- (22) **Edward Ernst Jr., PTA #2158261 (Overland Park, KS)** - failed to meet initial licensure requirements by not meeting the fingerprint requirement. Violation of Section 453.215 of the Act and chapter 329.1 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order accepted the surrender of license to practice.***

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*Disciplinary Action, cont. from pg. 4*

- (23) **Joshua Hildebrand, PT #1338512 (Garner, IA)** - failed to meet initial licensure requirements by not meeting the fingerprint requirement. Violation of Section 453.215 of the Act and chapter 329.1 of the Board Rules. **Board Order accepted the surrender of license to practice.**
- (24) **Brett Janssen, PT #1338084 (Pulaski, WI)** - failed to meet initial licensure requirements by not meeting the fingerprint requirement. Violation of Section 453.215 of the Act and chapter 329.1 of the Board Rules. **Board Order accepted the surrender of license to practice.**
- (25) **Kyley Hansen, PTA #2158719 (Dickinson)** - failed to meet initial licensure requirements by not meeting the fingerprint requirement. Violation of Section 453.215 of the Act and chapter 329.1 of the Board Rules. **Board Order accepted the surrender of license to practice.**
- (26) **Christopher Scott, PT #1330024 (Austin)** - failed to meet initial licensure requirements by not meeting the fingerprint requirement. Violation of Section 453.215 of the Act and chapter 329.1 of the Board Rules. **Board Order accepted the surrender of license to practice.**
- (27) **William Jones, PT #1140507 (Dallas)** - practiced with an expired license. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 322.4 of the Board Rules. **Board Order required thirty (30) hours of community service.**
- (28) **Jeffrey Guild, PT #1231895 (Dallas)** - practiced with an expired license. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 322.4 of the Board Rules. **Board Order required thirty (30) hours of community service.**
- (29) **Pedro Velasquez, PTA #2052190 (Conroe)** - practiced with an expired license. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 322.4 of the Board Rules. **Board Order required thirty (30) hours of community service.**
- (30) **Cathleen Cantu, PTA #2056793 (Devine)** - practiced with an expired license. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 322.4 of the Board Rules. **Board Order required thirty (30) hours of community service.**
- (31) **Kenneth Vasquez, PTA #2108276 (El Paso)** - failed to properly renew license by not completing a required course prior to renewal. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 341 of the Board Rules. **Board Order required ten (10) hours of community service.**
- (32) **Kristien Vuelvas, PTA #2051202 (Lubbock)** - failed to properly renew license by not completing a required course prior to renewal. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 341 of the Board Rules. **Board Order required ten (10) hours of community service.**
- (33) **Sheila Wiedeman, PTA #2024701 (Midland)** - failed to properly renew license by not completing a required course prior to renewal. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 341 of the Board Rules. **Board Order required ten (10) hours of community service.**
- (34) **Craig Rettke, PT #1138436 (McKinney)** - failed to properly renew license by not completing a required course prior to renewal. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 341 of the Board Rules. **Board Order required ten (10) hours of community service.**

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*Disciplinary Action, cont. from pg. 5*

- (35) **Esmeralda Hernandez, PTA #2022531 (Laredo)** - failed to properly renew license by not completing the required amount of CCUs prior to renewal. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 341 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order required thirty (30) hours of community service.***
- (36) **Payal Patel, PT #1217760 (Lakeland, FL)** - (audit) failed to properly renew license by not completing the required amount of CCUs prior to renewal. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 341 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order required ten (10) hours of community service.***
- (37) **Jennifer Iulo, PTA #2142759 (Conroe)** - (audit) failed to properly renew license by not completing the required amount of CCUs prior to renewal. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 341 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order required ten (10) hours of community service.***
- (38) **Randall Hartwright, PT #1052355 (Plano)** - (audit) failed to properly renew license by not completing a required course prior to renewal. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 341 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order required ten (10) hours of community service.***
- (39) **Andrea Martinez, PTA #2142031 (Clovis, NM)** - failed to cooperate with the agency by not furnishing papers or documents requested in a timely manner. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 322.4 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for fifteen (15) days.***
- (40) **Carol Ward, PT #1129435 (Tyler)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by failing to document physical therapy services, inaccurately recording, falsifying, or altering patient/client records. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 322.4 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for thirty (30) days.***
- (41) **Debbra Torres, PTA #2073629 (Amarillo)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by failing to document physical therapy services, inaccurately recording, falsifying, or altering patient/client records. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 322.4 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for thirty (30) days.***
- (42) **Jeremy Albers, PTA #2089182 (Amarillo)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by failing to document physical therapy services, inaccurately recording, falsifying, or altering patient/client records. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 322.4 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for thirty (30) days.***
- (43) **Juan Martinez, PTA #2031888 (San Antonio)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by failing to document physical therapy services, inaccurately recording, falsifying, or altering patient/client records. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 322.4 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for thirty (30) days.***
- (44) **Brandi Anaya, PT #1245656 (Lubbock)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by failing to document physical therapy services, inaccurately recording, falsifying, or altering patient/client records. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 322.4 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for thirty (30) days.***
- (45) **Jensen George, PT #1338268 (Houston)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by failing to document physical therapy services, inaccurately recording, falsifying, or altering patient/client records. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 322.4 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for thirty (30) days.***
- (46) **Nikki Blattner, PT #1065613 (Trophy Club)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by failing to conform to the minimal standards of acceptable prevailing practice resulting in patient injury. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 322.4 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for fifteen (15) days.***

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*Disciplinary Action, cont. from pg. 6*

- (47) **Christie Fryatt, PT #1129450 (Houston)** - failed to conform to the minimal standards of acceptable prevailing practice by violating the provision of services. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 322 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for thirty (30) days.***
- (48) **James Mor, PT #1307551 (Frisco)** - failed to comply with a previous Board Order by not completing the provisions listed in the Order. Violation of Sections 453.351 and 453.452 of the Act; and chapters 322 and 343 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for fifteen (15) days.***

#### ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

- (1) **James Moody, PT #1332997 (Overland Park, KS)** - failed to meet the initial licensure requirements by failing to complete the fingerprint requirement pursuant to Section 453.215 of the Act and chapter 329.1 of the Board Rules. ***Board administratively suspended license to practice on 04/22/2022.***
- (2) **Kaitlin Clark, PT #1337652 (Pasco, WA)** - failed to meet the initial licensure requirements by failing to complete the fingerprint requirement pursuant to Section 453.215 of the Act and chapter 329.1 of the Board Rules. ***Board administratively suspended license to practice on 04/22/2022.***



## Governor Appoints New Board Member

On May 4, Governor Greg Abbott appointed Omar Palomin, PT, DPT of McAllen to the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners for a term set to expire on January 31, 2023. This appointment is to fill the remainder of the term vacated by the resignation of Dr. Barbara Sanders, PT, PhD earlier this year.

Dr. Palomin is CEO of Performance Therapeutics. He is a member of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), APTA Private Practice Section, and the Texas Physical Therapy Association (TPTA). Additionally, he is a member of the McAllen ISD School Health Advisory Council. Dr. Palomin received a Master of Physical Therapy from The University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston and a Doctor of Physical Therapy from The College of St. Scholastica.



## Upcoming PT Board Meetings

The following dates have been set for the Board's upcoming quarterly meetings:

- July 29, 2022
- October 14, 2022

Meeting dates are subject to change. Check for updated information online at <https://www.ptot.texas.gov/page/meeting-dates>

*Are You Ready for a CC Audit?, cont. from pg. 2*

### **So how do you know if you're CCAudit ready?**

- Make sure all of the CC courses/activities you take are approved for TX renewal requirements,
- Take the required number of CCUs within your renewal period,
- Make sure the Human Trafficking Prevention course is HHS-approved, and
- Update your contact information with the Board.

Failing the CC Audit is an automatic referral to Investigations with the possibility of disciplinary action that could have a significant impact on your future. This could include community service, fines, suspension, loss of Compact privileges, or even a reportable event to your malpractice insurance.

If the Board continues to see a trend of increasing CC Audit failures, a change to the reporting of CCUs, auditing a larger sample size, or auditing all licensees might be warranted.



## **PT Board to Form ECI Work Group**

The Rules & Practice Committee of the PT Board will be reviewing a crosswalk between the PT Rules and Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) regulations that was developed in 2006. The compliance tool was a collaborative effort between representatives from ECI and PT Board Members to ensure that licensees practicing in an ECI setting remain compliant with both their licensure rules and regulations as well as those of ECI. Regulatory changes since the crosswalk was initially developed have rendered the tool ineffective, and a revision is in order.

The charge to the ECI Work Group will be to update the PT Rules and the ECI regulations sections of the crosswalk with the goal of finding the common compliance pathway for licensees working in an ECI setting.

If you have experience providing physical therapy in an ECI setting and would like to participate in the work group, please contact Karen Gordon, PT Coordinator at [karen@ptot.texas.gov](mailto:karen@ptot.texas.gov).



## **Proposed/Adopted Rules**

The Board took no rulemaking actions at its April 22, 2022 meeting.

A current pdf of both the PT Practice Act and the PT Rules is available online at

<https://www.ptot.texas.gov/page/act-and-rules>.