

Department of Commerce, Community
and Economic Development

Division of Corporations, Business
and Professional Licensing

State Physical and Occupational Therapy Board Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2024



Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing

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This report is required under Alaska Statute 08.01.070(10).

**State Physical and Occupational Therapy Board
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Board Membership (as of the Date This Report was Approved)

Date of Final Board Approval: 6/7/2024

Tina McLean – Physical Therapist	Sterling	June 22, 2022 - March 1, 2026
Valerie Phelps – Physical Therapist	Anchorage	August 3, 2022 - March 1, 2025
Lindsey Hill – Occupational Therapist	Sterling	August 2, 2022 - March 1, 2026
Enlow Walker – Physician	North Pole	May 14, 2018 - March 1, 2025
Rebecca Dean – Public Member	Fairbanks	November 20, 2020 - March 1, 2028
Victoria Daugherty – Occupational Therapist	Douglas	May 24, 2024 - March 1, 2028

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Accomplishments

Regulation:

- HB99 Regulations project completed, forwarded to the Lt. Governor and be enacted March, 2024.
- Created regulatory recommendations for dry needling for physical therapists and occupational therapists.

Statutory:

- Created statutory recommendations for update of occupational therapy scope of practice.

Legislative:

Submitted the following for the 33rd Legislative Session:

- Letters of support and worked with industry on SB74/HB137 - PT Compact Licensure
- Letter of support HB85/SB83 – Professional Licensing; temp permits
- Letter of support for HB314/SB225 – investigative cost
- Letter of support – HB187 – Prior Auth Exempt for Health Providers
- Letter of opposition HB336 – Athletic Trainer Scope of Practice
- Letter for language recommendations changes for HB336 – Athletic Trainer Scope of Practice
- Letter of opposition – HB115 – Naturopaths: Licensing; Practice
- Letter of support with concern – SB91 – Telehealth: Multidisciplinary Care Team

Action Items:

- Created 4 standing committees – Scope of Practices, Legislative, Continuing Competency/Education and Regulations to accomplish goals and increased inquiries.
- Submitted letter to Alaska Department of Health and Human Services regarding Alaska Medicaid pay rate decrease/restructuring 08/04/2023.
- Forwarded same letter regarding AK Medicaid Services to Alec Kay, President of Alaska Physical Therapy Association and Kari Moore, President of the Alaska Occupational Therapy Association.
- Brought initial/renewal application Professional Fitness Questions regarding mental conditions into ADA compliance
- Reinitiated in-person meetings
- Initiated strategic planning project.
- Initiated disciplinary matrix project.
- Reviewed and responded to 26 items of board correspondence.
- Reviewed FSBPT Workforce Data Survey
- Review of current CEU requirements
- Continue to monitor and update FAQs on PHY website for content and greater ease of use
- Reduced timeframe for overall processing of licensure

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Accomplishments

Statistical:

- 364 physical and occupational therapy license applications approved 07/01/2023 through 06/06/2024 (date of approval of this report).
 - 108 occupational therapy licenses
 - 95 Occupational Therapist Licenses
 - 1 Occupational Therapist Limited Permit
 - 1 Occupational Therapist Temporary Permit
 - 10 Occupational Therapy Assistant Licenses
 - 1 Occupational Therapy Assistant Limited Permits
 - 256 physical therapy licenses
 - 218 Physical Therapist Licenses
 - 4 Physical Therapist Limited Permits
 - 1 Physical Therapist Temporary Military Courtesy License
 - 1 Physical Therapist Temporary Permit
 - 30 Physical Therapist Assistant Licenses
 - 1 Physical Therapist Assistant Temporary Military Courtesy License
 - 1 Physical Therapist Assistant Limited Permit
- Random Continuing Competency Audits completed – 70
- Investigative Actions completed:
 - Nov. 2, 2023 Report – 8 closed cases
 - OT – CE – License Action
 - PT – License application problem – Review Complete
 - PT – CE – Application withdrawn
 - PT – CE – License Action
 - PT – License application problem – License action
 - PT – CE – License action
 - PTA – Unlicensed practice or activity – Advisement letter
 - PTA – CE – license action
 - Feb 2, 2024 Report – 2 closed cases
 - PT – Substance Abuse – License Action
 - PT – Incompetence – Advisement Letter

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Activities

Board Meetings

The board met as a whole a total of five times during FY 2024: (July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024)

- August 4, 2023-Emergency Meeting
- November 16, 2023-Day One of Biannual Meeting
- November 17th, 2023-Day Two of Biannual Meeting
- February 15, 2023-Day One of Biannual Meeting
- February 16, 2023-Day Two of Biannual Meeting
- April 4, 2024-Emergency Meeting
- June 7, 2024 – Emergency Meeting

Special Workgroup sessions:

- Scope of Practice 07-31-2023
- HB99 Regulations 09-08-2023

Standing Committee Meetings

Scope of Practices Committee:

- January 8, 2024
- Feb 12, 2024
- May 13, 2024

Legislative Committee:

- January 11, 2024
- March 14, 2024
- March 28, 2024
- April 11, 2024
- April 25, 2024
- May 9, 2024

Continuing Competency/Education Committee:

- May 2, 2024

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Activities

Regulations Committee:

- March 18, 2024
- April 15, 2024
- May 20, 2024
- June 17, 2024

Federation State Boards of Physical Therapy State Attendance: Board Approved Delegate and Administrative Staff Representative

- Leadership Issues Forum in Arlington, Virginia – July 15-16, 2023
- Annual Education Meeting in Jacksonville, Florida – October 20-21, 2023
- Informed Consent Taskforce Meeting - April 21-22, 2024 – Voting Delegate
- Regulatory Workshop - May 16-18, 2024
- Regulatory Hours:
 - Telehealth, Mobility & Regulation – August 16, 2023
 - Communication and Outreach Strategies for Boards – October 4, 2023
 - Reinstatement Licensure Petitions – Administrative Processes - February 21, 2024
 - Crafting Board minutes – April 17, 2024
 - Let's Clear the Air: Administrative and Criminal Expungements - June 20, 2024
- Webinars:
 - PT Board Investigations – Optimizing Regulatory Effectiveness in Investigations and Discipline – October 10, 2023
 - Emerging Areas of Practice and Scope of Practice Considerations – October 11, 2023
 - When, How, and Why of 2024 NTPE Redesign – November 14, 2023
 - FSBPT PT Compact: Benefit for Military Spouses – November 17, 2023
 - Implementing a Trauma-Informed Approach in Investigative Procedures – May 22, 2024
 - Regulatory Modernization: PT Reflections on the Journey to Amalgamation in British Columbia, Canada – June 11, 2024

National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy State Regulatory Leadership Forum: – Staff Representatives attended

- September 19-20, 2023 – virtual programming

Board and Commissions Training Sessions:

- Attended routinely by two Board members and staff: Other members access via video web posting.
- Board members participated in Departmental Board Member Training.

Stakeholder Collaboration:

The Board continually collaborates with professional organizations on ongoing statutory and regulatory modernizations to include but not limited to:

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Activities

- APTA-American Physical Therapy Association
- FSBPT-Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy
- AOTA-American Occupational Therapy Association
- NBCOT-National Board of Certification of Occupational Therapy
- AKOTA-Alaska Occupational Therapy Association
- APTA Alaska -Alaska Physical Therapy Association

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Needs

Statutory Updates:

Board will develop an updated statutory definition of Occupational Therapy to bring the professional scope of practice up to current industry standards = Goal 1.A

Board will develop an updated statutory definition of Physical Therapy to bring the professional scope of practice up to current industry standards = Goal 1.B

Board will work on statutory changes for title protection for DPT for Doctor of Physical Therapy = Goal 2.C

Update the language human to patient to allow for diversity/inclusion/equity/belonging.

Regulatory Updates:

Regulations updates to support compact licensure for physical therapy – Goal 3.A

Regulations updates to revise continuing education requirements as needed, based on relevance, to expand options for demonstrating continuing professional development = Goal 4.A

Regulation updates to develop additional continuing education opportunities = 4.B

Regulations updates to remove barriers for Foreign-Educated PT/PTA applicants caused by 6-month post-graduate internship.

Regulations updates to assist therapists re-entering the profession after extended leave(s) of absence = Goal 3.D

Regulations updates – investigate ability to streamline PT licensing for elimination of requirement of transcripts verification – redundant due to NPTE testing eligibility requirements? = Goal 3.B

Staffing:

Board seat to be filled: One PT or PTA to have a complete board per state statutes = Goal 5.A

Additional staff, specifically a full time dedicated executive administrator for this very active board as we move forward with significant statutes and regulations projects = Goal 3.C

Training:

NBCOT attendance to stay current on national best practices and standards = Goal 5.B

FSBPT attendance to stay current on national best practices and standards = Goal 5.B

Education:

The board will work to provide education to licensees in order to better clarify statutory/regulatory guidelines as it applies to public safety = Goal 2.A

The board will work to provide education to the public to improve expected best practices = Goal 2.B