

1 STATE OF ALASKA  
2 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY  
3 AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
4 BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY  
5 333 WILLOUGHBY AVE, 9<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, CONFERENCE ROOM C, JUNEAU, AK  
6

7 TELECONFERENCE MEETING  
8 January 10, 2018  
9

10 By authority of AS 08.01.070(2) and in compliance with the provisions of  
11 AS 44.62, Article 6, a scheduled teleconference meeting of the State Physical Therapy  
12 and Occupational Therapy Board was held on January 10, 2018 at Juneau, Alaska.  
13

14 **Wednesday, January 10, 2018**

15  
16 Ruth Kostik, chair of the Board of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy called the meeting to  
17 order on January 10, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. This meeting was public noticed December 15, 2017 in the  
18 Anchorage Daily News and the On Line Public Notice to discuss continuing education audits and other  
19 board business.  
20

21 **Voice Roll Call:**

22  
23 James Parietti, Physical Therapist  
24 Melissa Robinson, Occupational Therapist, Secretary  
25 Jennifer Carlson, Physical Therapist  
26 Rebecca Bingham, Physician  
27 Ruth Kostik, Public Member, Chair  
28

29 **Approved Absences for Keith Poorbaugh and Mari-Margaret Celeste Tydingco**  
30

31 **Staff: Connie Petz**  
32

33 **1: Continuing Education Audit Review**  
34

35 Board members reviewed six audited licensees and determined five met the continuing competency and  
36 continuing education requirements and one needs to provide more information. Staff – Petz read the  
37 license numbers of those the board approved.  
38

39 **PHY02763, PHYP1117, PHYP2149, PHYP391 and PHYP799**

40 Ms. Kostik did a voice roll call: James Parietti, Melissa Robinson, Jennifer Carlson, Rebecca Bingham, and  
41 Ruth Kostik all voted Yes.  
42

43 TASK: Staff will send letters to the licensees whose audits were approved and contact those who need  
44 to provide more information.

45

46 **2: Request for Board to Reconsider Continuing Education for Medical Billing**

47

48 One licensee asked the paralegal to ask the board to reconsider approval of continuing education credit  
49 for medical coding for her audit. The board read the licensees letter and determined they still stand that  
50 continuing education in medical coding or billing does not meet the continuing education law, "directly  
51 related to the skills and knowledge required to implement the principles and methods of occupational  
52 therapy".

53

54 It was noted when a job requirement for a physical therapist includes billing, it benefits the employer  
55 but it does not benefit the patient. What benefits the patient is when you know treatment techniques.  
56 Some professions may accept medical coding education for the continuing education but the PTOT law  
57 does not. Board members agreed that perhaps one day they may consider making a regulatory change  
58 to include a limited number of contact hours for medical coding but that is not how the current law is  
59 written. Staff reminded the board that a motion must be stated in the positive.

60

61 **ON A MOTION BY ROBINSON, SECONDED BY PARIETTI, THE BOARD WILL ACCEPT MEDICAL**  
62 **CODING BILLING FOR CREDIT FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION AND CONSIDER IT IS DIRECTLY**  
63 **RELATED TO THE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT THE PRINCIPLES AND**  
64 **METHODS OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PER 12 AAC 54.715 (C).**

65

66 **VOICE ROLL CALL VOTE: PARIETTI, ROBINSON, CARLSON, BINGHAM AND KOSTIK ALL VOTED**  
67 **NO. MOTION FAILED.**

68

69 Ms. Kostik stated the motion failed as the education did not meet the current continuing education  
70 regulation. After careful review of the course provided by the applicant, the board has determined that  
71 medical coding fails to meet the requirement as outlined in 12 AAC 54.715. APPROVED OCCUPATIONAL  
72 THERAPY COURSES AND ACTIVITIES. (c) To be accepted by the board, a continuing education course or  
73 activity must contribute directly to the professional competency of an occupational therapist or  
74 occupational therapy assistant and must be directly related to the skills and knowledge required to  
75 implement the principles and methods of occupational therapy.

76

77 Ms. Kostik noted this would be similar to a request from a physical therapy license under the law is 12  
78 AAC 54.420 (c) To be accepted by the board, a continuing education course or activity must contribute  
79 directly to the professional competency of a physical therapist or physical therapy assistant and must be  
80 directly related to the skills and knowledge required to implement the principles and methods of  
81 physical therapy, as that term is defined in AS 08.84.190.

82

83 Staff will inform the paralegal of the Boards' decision.

84

85 **3: What happened to SB49?**

86

87 Ms. Kostik explained per Senator Gisells office, SB49 will not move forward this legislative session as  
88 they will be focusing on the budget. The board agreed it will give members more time to address other  
89 statutory considerations during the March board meeting such as licensure compact and perhaps the  
90 foreign educated.

91

92 **4: Other discussion – Correspondence**

93

94 A licensed physical therapist (PT) wanted the Board to confirm he was correct that a physical therapy  
95 assistant (PTA) may not independently evaluate the final visit for a discharge and goals met and then  
96 write the discharge assessment. Can a physical therapy assistant dismiss a patient? The Board discussed  
97 a PTA is under the authority of the PT and the PT is the only one who can discharge a patient. If the PT  
98 and PTA are working together with the patient and the PTA is writing the notes stating what the PT has  
99 determined they are identifying what the PT said. A PTA could not make their own assessment and have  
100 a PT sign off on it nor could a PT who has not seen the patient sign off on any PTA notes when that PT  
101 has not seen that patient or when they are not part of that treatment plan, especially the next day or  
102 after the fact.

103

104 Staff asked the board if physical therapists understand the supervision limits. Per 12 AAC 54.500(e) A  
105 physical therapist may not supervise, in any combination, more than three aides, assistants, students,  
106 foreign-trained candidates, or permittees at the same time. This was prompted by the increase in PTA's  
107 (and OTA's) in AK.

108

109 TASK: Ms. Carlson will draft a letter for the board to review and approve, then staff will forward it to the  
110 interested party.

111

112 A physical therapist asked the board to review a 6 day therapeutic yoga training program for continuing  
113 education. Staff had provided the standard board response to educate and direct a licensee to research  
114 their courses per Alaska statutes and regulations.

115

116 The program description said it was designed to teach techniques to healthcare professionals to be used  
117 in situations where patients are recovering from injury, illness, surgery, chemotherapy, or have a chronic  
118 condition. This course instructs how to work on mobility, flexibility and strength.

119

120 There was discussion and some board members did not think the content was physical therapy  
121 education because anyone could take the course and do yoga on their own. Others thought the  
122 techniques being taught and proper yoga stretches could benefit a patient both with mobility and  
123 strength issues.

124

125 The licensee will still need one-half of their education from approved providers per 12 AAC 54.410(b) An  
126 applicant shall complete at least one-half of the required contact hours in courses or programs offered

127 by an accredited academic institution or a professional organization approved by the board under 12  
128 AAC 54.420(a).

129  
130 The Board determined this course in therapeutic yoga movements would meet the skills and knowledge  
131 required to implement the principles and methods of physical therapy as it could be incorporated for a  
132 patient's benefit.

133  
134 TASK: Ms. Kostik will draft a letter for the board to review and staff will forward to the applicant.

135  
136 **Agenda Item 5 – Other discussion**

137  
138 Ms. Kostik took a moment to thank Melissa Robinson for her years of incredible service to the board.  
139 This may be her last 'meeting' although she is on the board until the end of February. Ms. Kostik also  
140 thanked Rebecca Bingham for her service. She will be with the board through the March 2018 board  
141 meeting. Both board members said they have appreciated their time on the board.

142  
143 **Agenda Item 6 – Adjourn Meeting**

144  
145 Ms. Kostik adjourned the meeting at 12:58 p.m.

146

147 Respectfully Submitted:

148 Connie Petz

149 Connie Petz, Licensing Examiner

150

151 Approved: [Signature]

152 Ruth Kostik, Chair

153 3/1/2018

154 Date

155

156

157