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2 STATE OF ALASKA  
3 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY  
4 AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
5

6 April 24, 2020  
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8 By authority of AS 08.01.070(2) and in compliance with the provision of AS 44.62, Article 6,  
9 a scheduled meeting of the  
10 State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board  
11 was held via videoconference  
12 333 Willoughby Ave, 9th Floor,  
13 Conference Room C,  
14 Juneau AK  
15

16 **Friday April 24, 2020**

17 **Agenda Item 1 – Call meeting to order/roll call**

18 Jennifer Carlson, Physical Therapist and Chair of the State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy  
19 Board called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. This meeting was called to address board business. It  
20 was public noticed in the Anchorage Daily News and the Online Public notice system on April 13, 2020.  
21

22 VOICE ROLE CALL:

23 Keith Poorbaugh, Physical Therapist  
24 Enlow Walker, Physician, Secretary  
25 Robert Calhoon, Occupational Therapist  
26 Lisa Radley, Physical Therapist  
27 Jennifer Carlson, Physical Therapist, Chair  
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29 Staff Present:

30 Connie Petz, Licensing Examiner

31 Public Present - Telephonically

32 Kristen Neville, Manager, State Affairs American Occupational Therapy Association  
33 Kathy Gardner, Occupational Therapist - joined the meeting at 12:11 p.m.  
34

35 **Agenda Item 2 – COVID 19 - Health Mandates**

36 Ms. Carlson stated COVID 19 Health Mandates impact the health protection of citizens and the ability to  
37 provide services by Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy professionals. She confirmed all board  
38 members had read the most recent mandates and Mr. Walkers summary of Mandate 015. The board  
39 discussed it was not possible for the board to call a meeting every time a new health mandate is issued  
40 by the governor. These mandates change at a rapid pace and the COVID crisis could go on for years. The  
41 board will respect that health care providers are professionals and they will follow the mandates as it is  
42 their responsibility and best interest to stay informed.

43 **Agenda Item 3 – Clarification of Emergent/Urgent Procedures**

44 At the March 2020 board meeting, the board worked on providing guidance to assist licensees and  
45 recommendations for mitigating exposure due to COVID. It was later published and dated March 31,  
46 2020 emergent/urgent clarification.

47  
48 In review of the April 15, 2020 Mandate 015 – Services by Health Care Providers the board determined  
49 they do not want to rewrite the Governors mandate. Health Mandate 015 supersedes Mandate 005  
50 and 006 and affects the health care providers directly addressed in Mandate 009. It is noted  
51 mandate 015 is the first mandate that directly names physical therapy and occupational therapy.

52  
53 When the COVID crisis began the board provided Clarification of Emergent/Urgent based on the initial  
54 state mandates and had included the wording to “preserve personal protective equipment” (PPE). After  
55 reviewing the newest mandates, it was decided to amend the March 31, 2020 guidelines. Some of the  
56 prior recommendations for mitigating COVID-19 exposure risk were removed from the document, again  
57 because the Health Mandate -015 provides direction to providers. The revision will include a bolded  
58 statement; **All licensed providers must adhere to the published health mandates and CDC guidance  
59 regarding COVID-19.**

60  
61 **TASK:** Staff will forward the revised emergent/urgent clarification dated April 24, 2020 to upper  
62 management for approval to be published to the website on the CBPL COVID-19 Information for  
63 professional licensees under Program Guidance.

64 **Agenda Item 4 – License Renewal**

65 Per enactment of SB241 the Board has authority to waive requirements for continuing competency for  
66 the 2020 license renewal period. Any licensee under consent agreement will still need to meet their  
67 renewal requirements. The renewal application will be amended to guide licensees and the board will  
68 post a letter of clarification to the COVID website. All licensees should renew their license prior to July 1,  
69 2020. Licensees who were unable to complete their continuing education requirements prior to the end  
70 of the current license period (June 30, 2020) will be allowed to renew their license with the continuing  
71 education waiver without concern for disciplinary action. Again, an exception for those who are under  
72 discipline and they must still comply with their consent agreement.

73 **Agenda Item 5 – Letter from the Board to Licensees and Public**

74 The board completed a letter to address HSS Mandates and License renewal for 2020 and it will be  
75 published on the COVID website. [https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/CBPLCOVID-  
76 19Information.aspx](https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/CBPLCOVID-19Information.aspx) Chair Carlson read the letter for the record to have it in these minutes.

77 **Date:** April 24, 2020

78  
79 **Adopted by:** The Alaska State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board

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81 **PURPOSE:** COVID 19 crisis impact on Alaska Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy  
82 Licensees

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84 **HISTORY –** On March 11, 2020 Governor Mike Dunleavy issued a Declaration of Public Health  
85 Disaster Emergency under AS 26.23.020(c) for COVID-19. Governor Dunleavy has issued

86 subsequent health mandates limiting health professionals from performing services unless they  
87 are following the Health and Social Service (HSS) guidelines. Information and recommendations  
88 are ongoing and it is anticipated that these may change regularly. All licensees are expected to  
89 stay informed and follow HSS mandates. <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-mandates/>  
90 On April 10, 2020 Governor Dunleavy signed SB 241 into law.

91  
92 **Statement from the Board** – The Board held a meeting on March 26, 2020. In review of COVID  
93 19 public emergency and mandates the Board recognized a need to clarify emergent/urgent  
94 procedures. They also recognized COVID 19 restrictions have created the inability for some  
95 licensees to complete the continuing competency requirements for renewal of their  
96 professional licensees by June 30, 2020. The regulations for renewal requirements and audits  
97 add another burden during this trying time. The Board reviewed and acknowledged SB241 Sec. 6  
98 (b)(2) provides the ability to waive continuing education requirements to licensees.

99  
100 **Summary:**

101 **COVID 19 mandates from Health and Social Service** impact professional practice for Physical  
102 Therapy and Occupational Therapy. The Board crafted clarification of Emergent/Urgent  
103 Procedures which are published to the website.

104 <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/CBPLCOVID-19Information.aspx>

105  
106 **Enactment of SB 241** licensees may renew their license for the July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2022  
107 license period without having met all regulatory renewal requirements. Note: this decision does  
108 not apply to any licensee for this license renewal period who have a consent agreement and are  
109 under mandatory audit.

110  
111 **The Alaska State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board per authority of SB241**  
112 **Sec. 6 (b)(2) waives the 2020 license renewal requirement to provide 60 hours of therapy**  
113 **services and 24 contact hours of continuing education. The Board waives the continuing**  
114 **competency and audit requirements of 12 AAC 54.400 - 12 AAC 54.435 and 12 AAC 54.700 - 12**  
115 **AAC 54.725 for the June 30, 2020, license renewal.**

116 Ms. Carlson ask all board members to Vote on adopting this letter. All board members voted YES.

117 **TASK:** Staff will work with upper management to have the April 24, 2020 letter published to the website.

118 **Agenda Item 6 – Public Comment**

119 Kristen Neville, Manager, State Affairs for the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)  
120 informed the board about the AOTA planning for the Occupational Therapy Compact. She explained  
121 communication will be sent seeking input from all jurisdictions. She asked the board members to  
122 consider being involved and will be sending information via staff seeking feedback this summer. The  
123 Board thanked Ms. Neville for her attendance.

124 **TASK:** Staff will forward to the board when available.

125 **Agenda Item 7 – Adjourn meeting**

126 Staff asked the board and they all agreed to accept fully complete applications on Wednesdays. They  
127 will review and vote by end of day on the following Monday.



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129 The board, having no further business, adjourned the meeting at 12:47 p.m.

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Respectfully Submitted:

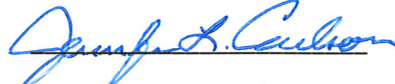
Approved:

Date

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10.01.20

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Connie Petz, Licensing Examiner

Jennifer Carlson, Chair

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Physical Therapist