

THE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY
Professional & Vocational Licensing Division
Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
State of Hawaii

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: February 13, 2024

Time: 9:00 a.m.

In-Person Meeting Location: Queen Liliuokalani Conference Room
HRS King Kalakaua Building
335 Merchant Street, First Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Virtual: Virtual Videoconference Meeting – Zoom Webinar (use link below)
<https://dcca-hawaii-gov.zoom.us/j/89738862549>
Phone: (669) 444-9171
Meeting ID: 897 3886 2549

Present: Cynthia Tamayo, Physical Therapist (“PT”), Chairperson
Joanne Zazzera, PT, Vice Chairperson
Stacie Keliinoi, PT, Member
Michele Chee, PT, Member
Rochelle Araki, Executive Officer (“EO”)
Christopher J.I. Leong, Deputy Attorney General (“DAG”)
Cortnie Tanaka, Secretary

Guests: None.

For purposes of this hybrid meeting, the Chair will take roll call of the Board members to establish quorum and for motions that require a vote of the Board members.

Virtual Meeting Instructions: A short video regarding virtual meetings was played for attendees.

Call to Order: The Chair took roll call of the Board members.

In accordance with Act 220, SLH 2021, all Board members attending virtually confirmed that they were alone in their nonpublic location.

After taking roll, quorum was established, and the meeting was called to order at 9:14 a.m.

The Chair provided information on internet and phone access for today’s virtual meeting and announced that today’s meeting was being recorded and that the recording will be

posted on the Board's web page.

Agenda: The agenda for this meeting was posted to the State electronic calendar, as required by section 92-7(b), Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS").

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of November 14, 2023: Chair Tamayo asked if there were any comments or concerns regarding the Board Meeting Minutes of the November 14, 2023, meeting. Upon a motion by Ms. Keliinoi, seconded by Ms. Chee, it was voted on and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2023, meeting.

Continuing Competence ("CC") Course Approval Requests: a. CC Courses Requests for Review
Chair Tamayo asked if there was any questions or discussions with regard to the courses submitted.

Vice Chair Zazzera stated that the courses were thorough.

Upon motion by Vice Chair Zazzera, seconded by Ms. Keliinoi it was voted and unanimously carried to approve the following courses for Professional Practice of Physical Therapy CCUs:

PROGRAM TITLE (SPONSOR)	UNITS
Upper Extremity Level 2	7.0
Advanced Full Body Level 2	22.0

Executive Session: At 9:20 a.m., it was moved by Ms. Chee, seconded by Ms. Keliinoi and unanimously carried to enter into executive session pursuant to HRS section 92-5(a)(1) to consider and evaluate personal information relating to individuals applying for professional or vocational licenses cited in HRS section 26-9, and to consult with Christopher Leong, Deputy Attorney General, on questions and issues pertaining to the Board's powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities pursuant to HRS section 92-5(a)(4).

At 9:29 a.m., it was moved by Ms. Keliinoi, seconded by Vice Chair Zazzera, and unanimously carried to move out of executive session and to reconvene to the Board's regular order of business.

Applications: a. **Michelle Crafton**
Upon a motion by Ms. Keliinoi, seconded by Ms. Chee, it was voted on and unanimously carried to approve the application for Michelle Crafton.

b. **Ratifications (list attached)**

Upon a motion by Ms. Keliinoi, seconded by Vice Chair Zazzera, it was voted on and unanimously carried to ratify the attached list of individuals for licensure.

New Business:

Scope of practice Question: If a physical therapist has the appropriate training, are they permitted to remove sutures and staples?

Ms. Keliinoi provided the Board with her research on practice acts from other states. She stated that some states found it may be appropriate as long as its noninvasive and is a part of the rehabilitation process that is guided by the physician so long as 1) the licensed physical therapist has completed an additional well-documented appropriate training and protocol; and 2) this procedure is not a billable service. This is not a billable PT service.

Ms. Keliinoi added that the documents she found from her research with the following states: California, Florida, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire were from early 2010. She could not find anything more current.

Vice Chair Zazzera commended Ms. Keliinoi for her research. Her concerns are with Hawaii's practice act "*HRS §461J-2.5 Prohibited Practices. A physical Therapist shall not use invasive procedures. For purposes of this section, an invasive procedure is the breaking of puncturing of a person's good skin integrity, for example, through surgery or injections.*" Could removing the suture be considered breaking intact skin? Can an argument be made or a conflict may arise with that specific statement in the future?

Ms. Chee stated that it may be difficult to validate a standardize training and protocol. She asked if the inquiry is coming from a rural area having difficulties in finding a health care practitioner to perform these services?

Chair Tamayo stated that the inquiry came from Bayada Home Care and maybe due to a shortage of nurses. This may be a way to prevent sending another professional or sending the patient to the doctor.

Chair Tamayo concurs with the Board that "appropriate training" needs to be better defined. She further agreed with Vice Chair Zazzera's concern on the possibility of having an open incision and the skin is no longer intact if the suture/staple is removed.

Vice Chair Zazzera added that if an individual is not well trained in removing the sutures/staples, it may turn into a larger open wound and an infection may occur. Would the physical therapist be breaking the law based upon the practice act?

Chair Tamayo went on to state that Hawaii's current practice act does not cover this inquiry. If the Board is inclined to allow this practice, it should be added to the practice act like the other states that Ms. Keliinoi had researched. The Board

should not recommend that a physical therapist use their best judgment on what is an appropriate training nor should the Board recommend that it is not ok to remove sutures and staples. And define what appropriate training is.

EO Fernandez asked the Board if BLS training covers suture or staple removal.

The Board responded, no, it does not.

EO Araki asked the Board if staple or suture removal is covered in PT clinicals.

The Board responded, no.

Vice Chair Zazzera responded that basic doctoral physical therapy program goes over integumentary courses, which covers wound healing and debridement. But this course does not specifically teach how to remove sutures or staples. Removing sutures or staples will require an additional continuing education training.

Chair Tamayo added that sutures and staples are very different. To remove staples, a tool is needed. Sutures may be a simple pull is all that is needed.

EO Araki asked the Board if staples are usually removed by the physician.

The Board responded, yes.

EO Araki asked the Board, is removing staples or sutures outside of a PT's scope of practice?

Ms. Keliinoi stated that from researching the various states she had investigated, it was mentioned that it is clearly not in the PT scope of practice but there is some gray area with intact skin vs. a wound and certain specialties. There are PT's that have graduated with a doctor in physical therapy and have completed additional training to become wound specialists to do these types of procedures. She further added that she understands the concern with who is removing the staples or sutures. But if the Board makes a statement that this is not what PT's do, would it close the door for some that are highly trained in that area?

Vice Chair Zazzera stated that she was not comfortable approving of this practice as of yet. She added that it may be helpful if there were a large group of wound care specialists that would help define this practice within Hawaii's physical therapist administrative rules.

Chair Tamayo agreed with Vice Chair Zazzera that they cannot approve this practice based upon Bayada's inquiry. It can be explained that in practice it may

be okay under certain circumstances, but it needs to be defined what those circumstances are in the administrative rules. The answer to this inquiry is not a “no” but there needs to be more discussion; this is not covered in the Board of PT’s administrative rules.

Ms. Keliinoi agreed with Chair Tamayo. She stated that for PT protection, this could be detrimental for the patient and the physical therapist.

Chair Tamayo concluded that the appropriate answer would be to respond, if there was appropriate training, but appropriate training needs to be defined.

Ms. Keliinoi stated that the board is unable to decide at this time if a physical therapist can remove sutures/staples. Appropriate training would be needed but a clear description of what appropriate training must also be defined, and this is not within the PT’s scope of practice.

Vice Chair Zazzera added that it is not within their PT scope of practice or administrative rules. Further discussion would be needed and will need to be defined within their administrative rules.

Ms. Chee added that there is no billable code on this procedure for physical therapists, which is a CMS indication that it is not within the physical therapist’s scope of practice.

Upon a motion by Ms. Chee, seconded by Vice Chair Zazzera, it was voted on and unanimously carried to provide the above response on the inquiry “If a physical therapist has the appropriate training, are they permitted to remove sutures and staples.”

Executive Officers
Report:

FSBPT Leadership Issues Forum, July 15- 16, 2023 Report

EO Araki reported that it was very informative. Of focus to FSBPT’s forum was to update the model practice act. Leaders from the physical therapy association and the Board of PT administrator from each state was invited to attend and collaborate.

EO Araki added that FSBPT will be providing a virtual and in person board member training in Virginia in May, if anyone is interested.

Ms. Keliinoi asked about the discussion on protecting the term “DPT”.

EO Araki answered that Life Time is trying to trademark “DPT” for Dynamic Personal Training.

Ms. Keliinoi stated that she would be interested in hearing what the outcome would be.

EO Araki stated that FSBPT filed a challenge against Life Time's request to trademark "DPT".

Chair Tamayo stated that at her conference, this was not discussed.

EO Araki asked if there was any other questions or comments from the Board.

There was none.

Chairperson's Report: FSBPT Annual Education Meeting, October 19 – 21, 2023 Report

Chair Tamayo reported that there was an incredible amount of information that was presented in the few days of the meeting. The main topic was on boundary violations. Professional boundary should be based on the physical therapy's scope of practice and code of ethics. She added that everyone has the potential to commit boundary violations but why would some commit and not others. She further stated that research found it may be due to the lack of training, poor communication skills, not being aware of the situation, poor or lack of supervision, or not following set policies. Boundary violations also tend to occur more in rural areas and happen to people who had previous trauma in their life. The PT profession itself poses a larger risk for boundary violation due to the nature of its practice.

Chair Tamayo also reported that FSBPT has been putting focus on continuing competence. FSBPT has developed a healthy practice self-assessment toolkit. FSBPT has been in support of state boards who utilizes the self-assessment tool as part of a therapist's self-check within the licensing process. The results of the assessment are confidential and is a self-reflection on a PT's professional wellbeing. This can be a source of professional development and FSBPT can provide resources if needed.

Chair Tamayo also stated that another big topic was the benefits of continuing education with regard to competency. Taking courses alone will provide tools but may not necessarily make a therapist competent. She further added that over time competency drift may happen when a therapist becomes less competent by not keeping up or stop caring as they may already feel that they are competent and does not see themselves as needing to keep up with continuing competence.

Chair Tamayo also commended the work that FSBPT does, and all therapists should be proud of this part of the profession. It protects the profession and the community.

The Chair asked if there was any questions or comments. There was none.

Next Meeting: TBD
9:00 a.m.
TBD

Adjournment: With no further business to discuss, Chair Tamayo adjourned the meeting at 9:59 a.m.

Reviewed by:

Taken by:

/S/Rochelle Araki
Rochelle Araki
Executive Officer

/S/Cortnie Tanaka
Cortnie Tanaka
Secretary

3/27/24

Minutes approved as is.

Minutes approved with changes; see minutes of _____.

BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY 02/13/2024 – RATIFICATION LIST

PHYSICAL THERAPIST LICENSE

PT-5822-0	NICOLE ANN ERHART
PT-5823-0	Colleen Touhey
PT-5824-0	Erin Schantz
PT-5825-0	KAITLYN J QUIGLEY
PT-5826-0	KEVIN OI PANG LEI
PT-5827-0	Jason M Brenner
PT-5828-0	CARL JOHN M DELA PENA
PT-5829-0	KORY I J KASHIWABARA
PT-5830-0	STEVEN T OCZAK
PT-5831-0	Juliet Hoinkis
PT-5832-0	Amy Lauren Young
PT-5834-0	CLEA P TUCKER
PT-5835-0	ANDREA CW WHITE
PT-5836-0	KEVIN K MCLAIN
PT-5837-0	Christian Wirth
PT-5838-0	KYLIE R NISHISAKA
PT-5839-0	Ariana Athena Buxman
PT-5840-0	Christine Ninh
PT-5841-0	Laurel Constance Wolfe Wawrzynek
PT-5842-0	Kody R Eckert
PT-5843-0	JONNELLE GUIA QUERIDO
PT-5844-0	THUY TRANG N DINH
PT-5845-0	CHRISTINA FROHLICH
PT-5846-0	Kelby Grotbo
PT-5847-0	Donovan Steven Turchin
PT-5848-0	Betsy King
PT-5849-0	Allison Granzella
PT-5850-0	AKSHAYA MAHESH
PT-5851-0	MELISSA J DONEGAN
PT-5852-0	Joy Claypoole
PT-5853-0	STEPHEN ALEXANDER HILL
PT-5854-0	Erich Y Chung
PT-5855-0	MICHAEL P CAREY
PT-5856-0	Kendall Hines
PT-5857-0	NINA E DAVIS

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PT-5858-0	Cody Anderson
PT-5859-0	HALEY B PENDER
PT-5860-0	Hannah Swiger
PT-5861-0	CHIKA A MATSUMOTO
PT-5862-0	Lisa Dang
PT-5863-0	HANNAH K SAGERS
PT-5864-0	DILLIAN W MCDONALD
PT-5865-0	CHASE P LOVELACE
PT-5866-0	Katherine Kobeszka
PT-5867-0	Mollie Renee Sanregret
PT-5868-0	JAIME LYNN PIERSON
PT-5869-0	PAUL J PIERSON
PT-5870-0	Macie Watkins
PT-5871-0	Hana Aberson
PT-5872-0	Warren Buenavista
PT-5873-0	Jericho Emile Tombo Piansay
PT-5874-0	Jeffrey Thomas Szozda II
PT-5734-0	HANNAH S LATTIMER
PT-5735-0	ANTHONY NGUYEN
PT-5736-0	JEFFREY R GEIGER
PT-5737-0	JACKLYN R GEIGER
PT-5738-0	DANIELLE N SUNGA
PT-5739-0	AARON BOWE
PT-5740-0	Jerome Tyrone Higgs
PT-5741-0	TYLER J ALBRECHT
PT-5742-0	Michelle Kay Gilmer
PT-5743-0	Amanda Michele Gutierrez
PT-5744-0	JOHN M DARNALL
PT-5745-0	JILLIAN E SCHWARTZ
PT-5746-0	MEREDITH M MCCARTY
PT-5747-0	MARC S LARSON
PT-5748-0	Allison Pierce
PT-5749-0	Katelynn Mariah Downey
PT-5750-0	KYLE FLICK
PT-5751-0	SAVANNAH J MCALOOSE
PT-5752-0	MICHELE J MILLER
PT-5753-0	JEFFREY J LABIANCO

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PT-5754-0	Apurva Zawar
PT-5755-0	BRENDAN D LAURIA
PT-5756-0	ALEXANDER J MASZAK
PT-5757-0	KIRA C MARKUS
PT-5758-0	Katherine Joines
PT-5759-0	Gabriella DeLuca
PT-5760-0	Octavio Ramirez Tan
PT-5761-0	Catherine Ching
PT-5762-0	RACHEL SANTARIN FLORES
PT-5763-0	CHEYENNE K K AIPOALANI
PT-5764-0	NICHOLAS P LARGHI
PT-5765-0	SAMUEL W FLEUCHAUS
PT-5766-0	CODIE K S CONCHING
PT-5767-0	Taylor Murai
PT-5768-0	Victor Riveiro Cruz
PT-5769-0	Katy Ehnstrom
PT-5770-0	HAILEY LAUREL SAN JUN CHONG
PT-5771-0	ELLEN T NGUYEN
PT-5772-0	AUSTIN P VIDRINE
PT-5773-0	Braden M Collins
PT-5774-0	ZOLI ZORAN FISTES
PT-5775-0	TYLER T ISHIMOTO
PT-5776-0	ASHLYN C KAWASAKI
PT-5777-0	VELDA Y K LI
PT-5778-0	NICOLE P BLACKBURN
PT-5779-0	ALICE K KOSHEVATSKIY
PT-5780-0	HIPPOLYTE A BERNARD
PT-5781-0	BLAYNE K MORRIS-KATO
PT-5782-0	Kauionalani Patricia Kekuawela
PT-5783-0	STEPHANIE SUSAN ACCALIA
PT-5784-0	YVETTE VINCEE R FARALA
PT-5785-0	KATELYN E ELLISON
PT-5786-0	ALAN R SIERGIEJ
PT-5787-0	ALLYN E KAU
PT-5788-0	Teilissa Tua
PT-5789-0	RACHEL D CLENNEY
PT-5790-0	PAMELA M WOODS

PT-5791-0	AMY J HUSSEY
PT-5792-0	Nicolette Rubio Ramiro
PT-5793-0	THOMAS L REBOLD
PT-5794-0	TODD H SCHMIDT
PT-5795-0	KYLIE M STARR
PT-5796-0	Jennifer Breaker
PT-5797-0	Emily Bohan
PT-5798-0	JONATHAN J HERMANSEN
PT-5799-0	IRENE BOLIN
PT-5800-0	MARY DALE TABLIZO RAYMUNDO
PT-5801-0	Susanna Cole Billington
PT-5802-0	Paige Nicole Rubey
PT-5803-0	KYLAH MAXWELL-BROWN
PT-5804-0	KALEIGH G BULL
PT-5805-0	ELISE R WHISLER
PT-5806-0	DANIEL J L NG
PT-5807-0	Alexander Da-Kong Chin
PT-5808-0	KRISTEN CHIN
PT-5809-0	ROBERTO CASTILLO
PT-5810-0	MARTIN A FEES
PT-5811-0	Shannon E Zorsch
PT-5812-0	Christopher Bochen
PT-5813-0	Angela Bochen
PT-5814-0	ALEXIS B CHERVEN
PT-5815-0	MICHELOVE GARCIA
PT-5816-0	Adrianna Nunes
PT-5817-0	Shannon Nicole Jones
PT-5818-0	Tsun Ho Chau
PT-5819-0	JENNA VALENTINE
PT-5820-0	EDWARD K CHENG
PT-5821-0	Matthew Crist

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT LICENSE

PTA-715-0	MARIAH JO BATZ
PTA-716-0	Hope Christina Kaleiohana Taal Bracerros Factora
PTA-717-0	Brandi Lichty
PTA-718-0	Stephanie Berard

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PTA-719-0	VALERIE F PYTLOWANY
PTA-720-0	Jason Cabe
PTA-721-0	Joel Antonio
PTA-722-0	Tayna Chiemi Yasui
PTA-723-0	Brent Kawamura
PTA-724-0	Joelle-Lynn Uehara
PTA-725-0	Thi Tuong Van Nguyen
PTA-699-0	AARON M CARBACK
PTA-700-0	Kerry Gonzalez
PTA-701-0	STEPHANIE V MALGUY
PTA-702-0	ADDIE A LUTZ
PTA-703-0	DAVID KINGSTON
PTA-704-0	LENORA R AVALOS
PTA-705-0	Saori Cindy Minowa
PTA-706-0	Eloisa Viernes Obero
PTA-707-0	KRISTEN LEE NEWMAN
PTA-708-0	Ioana Silvia Demian
PTA-709-0	Katherine Mattox
PTA-710-0	Linda Marie Duling
PTA-711-0	Jasmine Kurkowski
PTA-712-0	Manny Umayam Batinga Jr.
PTA-713-0	Amber R Rego
PTA-714-0	Sheldon Cabudol