

# MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY



## Newsletter

Issue 14 Volume 1

Spring 2019

### Board Members:

Cyndi Scott, PT, Chair  
SuAnn Poole, PTA, Secretary  
Deborah McDonald, PT, Treasurer  
Shannon Singletary, PT, Member  
Douglas Roll, PT, Member  
Gene Barrett, MD, Physician Member  
Melanie Woodrick, CPA, Consumer Member

### Board Staff:

Stephanie Boyette, Executive Director  
Natalie Miller, Licensing Investigator  
Beth Holmes, License Registration Agent

### Board Counsel:

Gloria Green, JD, Special Assistant  
Attorney General

MS Board of Physical Therapy  
PO Box 55707  
Jackson, MS 39296-5707  
(601) 352-2918 Telephone  
(601) 352-2920 Fax  
sboyette@msbpt.ms.gov  
www.msbpt.ms.gov



## Word from Board Chair

Let's see...the Board has been very busy over the past 6 months working on behalf of the consumers and physical therapy practitioners in the state. We've completed telehealth and dry needling regulations, and they have been submitted to the Occupational Licensing Review Committee (OLRC) and the Secretary of State's Office as proposed rules. We have almost completed updating the regulations to streamline and minimize the process of garnering and maintaining licensure in the State of Mississippi. We now have therapists working in our state utilizing the Compact Privilege License. We have continued with the business of investigating and disciplining those practitioners who do not have the best interests of our clients and patients at the forefront. We joined with others to defeat a bill in the Mississippi legislative session that would have swept our Board into a shared services arrangement with others. We have embarked on a journey to investigate distribution of the PT/PTA workforce in Mississippi and attempt to predict future needs. As you can see, we've been active and positive on behalf of the profession and its patients.

The word of the day today is FIDUCIARY. Is that a new word for you? Borrowed from the banking, finance, and legal field, it simply means that professionals in fields with fiduciary responsibility are bound by ethics and law to put the needs of the client/patient ahead of their own needs. Whether or not you want it, as a health care professional, you possess fiduciary responsibility. What might that look like for you? It might mean staying late or coming in early to accommodate a scheduling request. It might mean refraining from up-charging for services provided. It likely means allowing only licensed physical therapy practitioners to assist patients with programs. It might look like many things for you in your practice. The important thing to remember is that as a professional, you are in the seat of authority, and our clients are in the vulnerable position. It is our responsibility to protect that vulnerable patient and ensure that he/she gets the quality and outcomes desired. As physical therapy practitioners, let's go out there and exercise our FIDUCIARY responsibility.

Cyndi K. Scott, PT, PhD, MBA



# RENEWAL OPTIONS AND REMINDERS

The Board suggests that you keep the following information in mind when renewing your license:

**ONLINE RENEWAL IS MANDATORY. THE ONLINE APPLICATION SHOULD BE SUBMITTED NO EARLIER THAN MAY 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**Address Changes: Have you moved or had a change in employment? Did you notify the Board office in writing of the change?** The Board will mail renewal notices approximately sixty (60) days prior to the end of the licensure period. This means the notice will be mailed prior to May 1, 2019 to the last home address on file with the Board. Please notify the Board immediately by logging into your online profile and making address and employment changes yourself; or, you may email, fax, or mail your changes in information. Refer to Part 3103 Rule 1.9 of the regulations.

**Completion of renewal application:** You should verify that you have answered every question, including updating any changes to your personal and professional addresses and telephone numbers and that you have listed all continuing competence (CC) courses in aPTitude. The entire address (name, address, city, state, zip and telephone number) for both home and employment should be included in completing your renewal application. The information requested is pertinent for Board use, and your renewal will not be completed until you have provided this information.

**Photo Required:** If you do not have a photo in your profile or if your photo is older than four (4) years, you will be instructed to upload a new photo before the **RED** renewal button will be displayed. The photo must be an approximate size of 2x2 inches, head and shoulder only, full face, front view, **in color** on a plain white background, standard photo stock paper. Scanned or computer-generated photographs must be printed on photo quality paper and must have no visible pixels or dots. Photos can be uploaded to the licensee's profile or the photo (in jpeg format) can be emailed to [sboyette@msbpt.ms.gov](mailto:sboyette@msbpt.ms.gov) or mailed into the Board office. As an alternative to scanning an actual photo, you may have someone take a photo of you with your smart phone or make a selfie and upload it from your phone to your profile. Refer to Part 3103 Rule 4.1.3

**Photos that will not be accepted include:** 1) photo that includes anyone besides you; 2) no sunglasses, hat or cap; 3) copy of a photograph; 4) driver's license photo and/or picture identification.

**Renewal Fee:** The renewal fee is \$150.00 for physical therapists and \$125.00 for physical therapist assistants. Online renewal requires payment by a credit card or electronic check.

**Continuing Competence:** List all approved CC courses in aPTitude. Then enter the total number of CC hours from aPTitude into the Education tab in your profile. **If you are selected for CC random audit, you will see a message in red that "you have been randomly selected for CC audit" on the payment screen.** You will also receive an email notification. Since CC documentation is part of the renewal process, you will not receive your new seal and identification card until you meet the requirements of random audits. If your certificates have not been uploaded to aPTitude by June 30, 2019, you will be placed on CC probation. **All physical therapists and physical therapist assistants need to be aware that the Board can review anyone's continuing competence certificates at any time.**

**Mandatory CC Compliance:** All licensees must record and report compliance of continuing competence activities through the free online aPTitude program of the FSBPT at <https://pt.fsbpt.net/aPTitude>. For assistance with your aPTitude account, email [aPTitudeHelp@fsbpt.org](mailto:aPTitudeHelp@fsbpt.org) or by telephone at (703) 299-3100, option 5. Refer to Part 3103 Rule 5.5.

**Currently on CC Probation:** Those licensees that are currently on CC probation will be able to renew online, but the renewal process will not be complete until all documentation related to your CC probationary requirements have been received and reviewed through aPTitude. Please note that your expiration date will not change until this review has occurred. Refer to Part 3103 Rule 5.2(6).

**Change of name:** If you are requesting a change of name, a copy of a legal document must accompany the name change request. Legal documents consist of a copy of your marriage license or divorce decree.

**Be on Time:** It is in your best interest to submit the online renewal prior to June 30, 2019 to avoid late and reinstatement fees. Renewals completed in their entirety should have their new identification card and licensure seal before the end of the licensure period. All licensees will be able to review their expiration date in their profile, and the new date is immediately available for verification. The Board staff cannot guarantee that renewals received after June 14, 2019 will be processed in time for licensees to receive confirmation of renewal in the mail prior to June 30, 2019.

**Verify receipt of renewal:** Upon completion of the online renewal payment process, you will have the opportunity to print a receipt of payment and proof of renewal having been received. If you do not print the receipt at that time, you can go to the payment tab in your profile and print proof of payment.

**Failure to renew before the deadline:** A licensee who does not file all requirements for renewal before the end of the licensure period will be deemed to have allowed his/her license to lapse. Those individuals whose licenses expire will be required to pay the late fee in addition to the renewal fee. Failure to submit all renewal requirements by September 30 shall result in the necessity of the payment of a reinstatement fee in addition to the late fee and renewal fee. Refer to Part 3103 Rule 4.3 of the regulations. Remember...you may not practice as a physical therapist or as a physical therapist assistant until your license has been reinstated. Practicing with a lapsed license could result in disciplinary action by the Board.

**SPECIAL REQUEST:** During renewal period, May 1-June 30, the Board office is extremely busy with processing renewals. At the same time, we have all of the graduating physical therapists and physical therapist assistants applying for licensure and meeting deadlines for taking the NPTE. We are asking that you **PLEASE REFRAIN FROM CALLING THE BOARD OFFICE TO VERIFY THAT A CONTINUING COMPETENCE COURSE/ACTIVITY IS APPROVED.** If you need to check the approval of a continuing competence course, please go to the Continuing Competence page on the website and follow the INSTRUCTIONS that are posted there concerning CC APPROVAL. The link you need to select is: **IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING CCU APPROVAL. The Board staff thanks you for helping us process renewals and graduate applications in a timely manner.**

## RANDOM AUDITS

The Board is authorized by state statute to enter and make inspections of any place where physical therapy is practiced. Accordingly, the Board through its agents continues random inspections and audits to determine if licensees are in compliance with the Board regulations. During 2018 no licensees were cited by the Board.

The Board expresses its thanks for the courteous cooperation received by its inspectors at the majority of the sites visited. The Board is also pleased that several sites seemed to be in full compliance with physical therapy laws and regulations. Keep up the good work.

**Random Audits:** During 2018 the following practitioners were inspected and audited. The Board is happy to announce their compliance.

John Rayborn, PT	Douglas Fleming, PT
Rhonda Bush, PTA	Cynthia Jarrett, PT
Dana Rawls, PTA	Hope Lang, PTA
Skyla Maples, PTA	Ernesto Paras, Jr., PT
Allison McKenzie, PT	Laura Selby, PT
Alisa Williams, PTA	Caroline Oakes Strazi, PT
Joseph Cooley, Jr, PT	Dontavious Toles, PTA
James Blackwell, PTA	Kaley D. Carpenter, PTA
Sarah Douglas, PTA	Sonya Whitfield, PT
Daniel Diers, PT	Luis Castro, PT
Lori Landrum, PT	Kayley R. Carpenter, PTA
Sara Norval, PT	Thomas McGraw, PT
Stephen Jernigan, PT	Jennifer Pickens, PT
Lisa Weathers, PT	Natalie Whitehead, PTA
Deborah Domino, PTA	

## IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING CCU APPROVAL

As a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant licensee, it is **YOUR** responsibility to verify that the continuing competence (CC) courses you take are courses that meet the requirements of our regulations. To ensure that your courses are approved, please follow the steps listed below:

1. Go to the Continuing Competence page on the website ([www.msfbpt.ms.gov](http://www.msfbpt.ms.gov)) and select the list of approved courses for the appropriate year. To be certain that you are taking courses that are acceptable to the Mississippi State Board of Physical Therapy, it is best to select courses that the Board has reviewed, approved, and placed on this list. **ONLY** courses that have been submitted to the Mississippi Board for review appear on this list. **ALWAYS** check this list before registering and paying for a course.
2. If a course you would like to take does not appear on our list, you may check the regulations that appear at the top of the list and see if the course information provided to you by the sponsor lists any of the general approvals that we accept, such as courses approved by another state chapter of APTA. However, if there is any doubt in your mind whether the course is acceptable, you should follow the instructions in #3.
3. **CALL THE SPONSORING ORGANIZATION.** Ask if they have submitted the course to Mississippi and received approval. If they respond that the course is approved in Mississippi, ask the sponsor to fax or email a copy of the approval letter to you. At this point, you may discover that they are relying on the statement in our regulations Part 3103 Rule 5.4 (1) (b) that says that the Board will accept "Conferences and continuing competence activities provided by the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), Mississippi Physical Therapy Association (MPTA), and other state chapters and sections of APTA." If that is the case, the sponsor needs to put in writing, either in a letter or an email, a statement indicating approval of the course is "Per Mississippi Regulation Part 3103 Rule 5.4 (1) (b) the course will be accepted by the Mississippi State Board of Physical Therapy". They should also provide you with a list of any other state Physical Therapy Associations that have approved the course. **DO NOT ACCEPT THEIR VERBAL STATEMENT THAT THE COURSE IS APPROVED IN MISSISSIPPI!**

## DID YOU KNOW?

- ❖ There are 2,101 physical therapists and 1,359 physical therapist assistants with active Mississippi licenses as of April 9, 2019.
- ❖ The next scheduled Board meeting is July 11, 2019. This meeting is open to the public.
- ❖ The Board office will be closed April 29, 2019 for a legal state holiday.
- ❖ The simplest way to add a course to your **aPTitude** profile is to locate the **create and record a course** section. The website for aPTitude is <https://pt.fsbpt.net/aPTitude>.
- ❖ If you need to verify the number of CCUs needed for your next renewal, login to your profile and select the education tab.
- ❖ You can check the status of a request that you have made by logging into your profile and selecting the tracking tab.
- ❖ You can change your residential address and employment address by logging into your profile.
- ❖ **When you pay a fee online and get an error message during the process, please contact the Board office to verify that your transaction was completed.**
- ❖ All Board members are appointed by the Governor.
- ❖ The Board no longer accepts paper applications.
- ❖ The Board office does not accept cash payments. We accept checks or money orders with mailed in items; we do accept payment by debit/credit cards when paying fees or making a purchase online.
- ❖ We are here to serve you so please do not hesitate to call the Board office for assistance at (601) 352-2918.

## New Licensees

The Board is pleased to welcome 61 new licensees to the physical therapy community in Mississippi. This number includes both licensees who were issued since the winter 2018 newsletter and the Compact Privilege licensees issued since July 2018. Welcome to the physical therapy practitioner community in Mississippi!!

### **Physical Therapists:**

Barker, Milissa C.  
Beard, Austin G.  
Brooks, Brenda H.  
Church, Brady J.  
Fenimore, Heather J.  
Fitchpatrick, Kira Sade  
Gonzales, Christine B.  
Green, Krista L.  
Hewett, LaTonya J.  
Huelsing, Mitchell E.  
Hunnicut, Heather L.  
Jennings, Aneesha P.  
Koller, George B.  
Needham, Chelsea N.  
Peterson, Elysia S.  
Poe, Caleb Ryan  
Soave, Kenneth P.  
Starke, Monique E.  
Warnock, Kaili Lynn

### **Physical Therapist Assistants:**

Alvaro, Jacqueline M.  
Arnold, Brittany Nichole  
Breland, Donald L.  
Dickard, Kirsten Marie  
Elmore, Kayla L.  
Graham, Camden Amelia  
Hernandez, Deanna M  
Hollander, Jennifer Cathrine  
Huggins, Chelsea M.  
Livingston, Devin Kyle  
Rogers, Melody M.  
Sellers, Katie V.  
Tester, Eve Amelia  
Turner, Brooks E.

### **Physical therapy practitioners who have reinstated their license since the winter 2018 newsletter.**

#### **Physical Therapists:**

Algee, Robert D.  
Shipp, Kelsey Adams  
Simmons, Mary Blackledge

#### **Physical Therapist Assistants:**

Chisholm, Stephanie T.  
Crutcher, Catherine E.  
Worth, Patrick T.

#### **Compact Privilege:**

As one of the first states to implement the Compact Privilege for physical therapy practitioners, the following is a list of those who have been issued a compact privilege:

Abesamis, Mark	CP000137A
Adams, Nicholas E.	CP000166T
Black, Brian R.	CP000143A
Boland, Kail M.	CP000067T
Brandon, Jada A.	CP000031A
Burch, Adam	CP000034A
Coleman, Chandler E.	CP000065A
Colon, Emily	CP000118T
Daniels, Jeffrey B.	CP000179T
Eiken, Kristin A.	CP000125T

Farhat, Hassan	CP000087T
Henson, Jimmie D.	CP000142A
Hogue, Hannah K.	CP000035T
Jackson, Melissa Ann	CP000128A
LeNoir, Betty	CP000025T
MacNeill, Caroline	CP000149T
Musa, Jan Cupid	CP000172T
Petersen, Stephanie A.	CP000102A
Poole, Lisa A.	CP000097T
Powers, Kelly C.	CP000061T
Swedenburg, Courtney P.	CP000059T
Williford, Lora R.	CP000048T

As it stands at this time, twelve (12) states are actively issuing and accepting compact privileges. Those states are: Mississippi, Tennessee, Missouri, Utah, Oregon, North Dakota, Texas, Iowa, New Hampshire, Kentucky, Arizona and Nebraska.

If you are interested in exploring the compact privilege and its availability to you at this time, the first step you should take is to go to the website which is [www.ptcompact.org](http://www.ptcompact.org) and review the information on the compact. For answers to any questions that you have, you may call the Compact Commission at (703) 562-8500.

# ATTENTION

Look what's available on our website at [www.msbt.ms.gov](http://www.msbt.ms.gov). Please visit the website frequently for updated information.

### ***You can find:***

- Application packet
- Continuing Competence – a list of approved courses
- Consumer Awareness and Protection
- Current Board members
- Dry Needling requirements
- How to file a complaint
- Information on how to get a course approved
- Licensure renewal information
- Links to APTA, MPTA, FSBPT and more
- List of current disciplinary actions
- Name/Address change forms and many more
- Practice Act and Rules and Regulations
- Scheduled Board meetings
- Verification of License – check to see if someone is licensed

# The Physical Therapist Assistant Profession Turns 50

# PTA 50



While the American Physical Therapy Association's (APTA) centennial may be a couple of years away, there's another cause for celebration right here, right now: 2019 marks the 50th anniversary of the first physical therapist assistant (PTA) graduates. The celebration kicked off at the 2018 House of Delegates in Orlando when the PTA Caucus introduced the #PTA10K campaign and continued during the 2019 Combined Sections Meeting (CSM) in Washington D.C. with a huge party for the PTAs attending CSM.

The PTA is the only other physical therapy provider. PTAs stand side by side with the physical therapists (PT) in the clinic, during continuing education programs, and during advocacy events on the local, state, and national levels. The PTA is constantly evolving to meet the challenges of our ever-changing healthcare system. PTAs have earned the respect of the PTs with whom they work as well as nurses, allied health professionals, and others in the medical community. They are recognized as competent clinicians who are well-trained to carry out physical therapy interventions and progress patients per the PT plan of care.

Physical Therapist Assistants are regulated in each state; they are required to stay abreast of current and emerging treatment strategies through continuing education.

I look forward to seeing what the next fifty years will bring for the profession of physical therapy and the role of the physical therapist assistant. Many challenges are in front of us, and I believe that we are poised to face them with the courage and strength that our patients exhibit on a daily basis. Congratulations for achieving 50 years of success, earned respect, and dignified work.

Here's to 50 more!

Jeremy Foster, LPTA  
Mississippi PTA Caucus Representative  
Academy of Acute Care PTA at Large  
Academy of Clinical Electrophysiology and Wound Care  
Management PTA at Large

## Complaints & Disciplinary Actions in 2018

Complaints received: 23  
Physical Therapists – 13  
Physical Therapist Assistants – 10  
Non-Physical Therapy Practitioners - 1

Disposition of complaints: Closed – no action/violations - 6  
Board hearings - 4  
Pending investigation - 17  
Issued Stipulation and Consent Order - 2  
Revocation of license - 0



## Reminder – Licensure Requirement for Mississippi PTs and PTAs

The Mississippi Board of Physical Therapy (Board) **requires all licensees to report compliance with continuing competence by utilizing the free online system** at <https://pt.fsbpt.net/aPTitude>. The **aPTitude** system was built by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) to help PTs and PTAs comply with licensure renewal requirements, maintain their ongoing competence, and manage their activity records. The Mississippi Board has determined that **aPTitude** is the appropriate tool for PTs and PTAs to record their completed continuing competence activities and report that information to the Board for the random compliance audit at the time of renewal.

Create your free account in **aPTitude** and begin recording your completed activities and uploading your certificates or other completion documentation as soon as possible. All that is required to create your account is your name, license number, and email address. **If you have not registered by the date of your renewal, this will result in a delay with processing your licensure renewal.**

Here is a list of **aPTitude** features:

- Maintain your licensure information and transcript of completed continuing competence courses and other activities
- Securely store completion certificates
- Be reminded of the license renewal and continuing competence completion deadline
- Track completion progress for all licenses held (in addition to Mississippi)
- Find qualifying courses – many currently approved continuing competence courses for Mississippi are in **aPTitude**
- **Ability to create and record a course that is not listed in aPTitude but that is accepted by MS**

For assistance with your **aPTitude** account, email **[aPTitudeHelp@fsbpt.org](mailto:aPTitudeHelp@fsbpt.org)** or by telephone at 703.299.3100, option 5. Contact the **Board** for answers to questions on Mississippi's continuing competence requirements.

**Mississippi State Board  
of Physical Therapy  
Post Office Box 55707  
Jackson, MS 39296-5707**



### **Change of Home Address, Worksite or Name**

It is the responsibility of licensees to provide the Board with written notification of address changes (home and/or work) no later than 30 days after such change is effective according to Part 3103 Rule 1.9. For a name change, a copy of an acceptable legal document must accompany the request. The forms accepted are a copy of your marriage certificate or divorce decree. Failure to keep your address or name change current will result in a \$25.00 fee for the cost of resending any correspondence or materials.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ LICENSE # \_\_\_\_\_

FORMER NAME \_\_\_\_\_

FORMER ADDRESS (City, State, Zip) \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

NEW ADDRESS (City, State, Zip) \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

FORMER EMPLOYER: \_\_\_\_\_

PRESENT PRIMARY EMPLOYER \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS (City, State, Zip) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

*Mail this form to the Mississippi Board of Physical Therapy, P.O. Box 55707, Jackson, MS 39296-5707 or fax to (601) 352-2920.*