

MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY



Newsletter

Issue 1

Volume 1

Spring 2007

Board Members:

Neva F. Greenwald, PT, Chair
Susan Pearson, PT, Secretary
Quoinsetta Franklin, PT, Treasurer
Marcia Kidder, PT, Member
PTA Member - Vacant
Michael Patterson, DC, Consumer
Member
Rahul Vohra, MD, Physician
Member

Board Staff:

Stephanie Boyette, Board
Administrator
Shirley Givens,
Licensing Investigator

Board Counsel:

Gloria Green, JD, Special
Assistant Attorney General

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About the Board

The present independent Board of Physical Therapy was created by the 2002 Mississippi Legislature and with a membership of one therapist from each of the four congressional districts, a physical therapist assistant, a consumer and a physician from the state at large appointed by the Governor. Board members appointed during 2002 were physical therapists: Neva Greenwald, Susan Pearson and Quoinsetta Franklin, physical therapist assistant, Joe Tufts, physician, Edward Searcy and consumer, Michael Patterson.

The first board meeting was held at the Mississippi Department of Health in April 2003 and officers were elected as follows: Neva Greenwald, Chair; Susan Pearson, Secretary and Michael Patterson, Treasurer. Our legal counsel was Jackie Tatum from the Office of the Attorney General. The Board functioned without financial support for a year as no appropriation for Board operations was made by the 2002 Legislature. To maintain day to day operations, the State Board of Health was mandated by the Office of the Attorney General to provide secretarial services and the Board authorized Neva Greenwald to act as the administrator. By the fall of 2005, the Board had funding, Stephanie Boyette had been employed as the Board Administrator, Shirley Givens had joined the staff as Board Investigator and Board office space and furnishings had been secured at the present location. Changes in Board composition since that time have included the resignation of two original Board members and the original legal counsel and the addition of Marcia Kidder to fill the physical therapist position for the first congressional district and a new appointee, Rahul Vohra as the physician member representative.

Inaugural Newsletter

The creation of a newsletter is an opportunity for us to address concerns, issues, rulings, and the change in regulations that occur from time to time. It is our hope that it will allow us to draw together the physical therapy community so that we will all be on the same page. Thus, your input and questions will be a significant part of this new endeavor.

Physical Therapy Board and Staff

A Word from the Board Administrator

The main responsibility of my position is assisting the Board in carrying out the provisions of the physical therapy practice act and regulations. This includes, but is not limited to, custodian of records, office manager, legislative liaison, and public relations.

The opportunity to serve you and the people of Mississippi is one that I take very seriously. I am your advocate with the legislature, other state agencies, physical therapy agencies across our nation, and the citizens of our state. I desire the very best for physical therapy services for state residents and will encourage all of us to hold ourselves to the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, and client service.

Stephanie Boyette

A Word from the Licensing Investigator

My job is to investigate any alleged or suspected violations of the practice law or the promulgated regulations. All complaints filed with the Board against a therapist's license are taken seriously, and are dealt with in a timely manner. My aim is to present the Board with the most thorough and accurate investigation possible in order to ensure fairness for both the complainant and the licensee.

Shirley Givens

Important Licensure Renewal Reminders

The Board would like you to keep the following information in mind when renewing your license:

Address Changes: Have you moved? Did you notify the Board office in writing of the change? The Board will mail notices, approximately sixty (60) days prior to the end of the licensure period. This means the renewal application will be mailed around May 1, 2007 to the last home address on file with the Board. Please notify the Board immediately by fax, email or mail if you have recently moved or forgot to notify the Board of this change. Refer to Section 3.8 of the regulations.

Completion of renewal application: Please complete the renewal application in its entirety. 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 CEU's completed on the back of the application. The entire address should be included on the form (name, address, city, state, zip and telephone number). The information requested is pertinent for your licensure file. Forms that are missing ONE piece of information will be returned as incomplete and may result in a lapsed license if the form is not completed in its entirety prior to the expiration date.

Renewal Fee: The renewal fee is \$150.00 for physical therapists and \$125.00 for physical therapist assistants. Check or money order should be made payable to Mississippi State Board of Physical Therapy (MSBPT).

Continuing Education: Appropriate documentation of CE credits should be listed on the back of the renewal application and copies of course completion should be submitted with the renewal form. Please refer to Section 7-2 (4) of the regulations for information on licensees who have not yet received proof of course completion (90-proof).

Change of name: If you are requesting a change of name, a notarized or certified copy of a legal document must accompany the name change request. Legal documents consist of a copy of your marriage license, divorce decree, social security card, driver's license or other court order.

Be on Time: It is in your best interest to submit the renewal application prior to June 30, 2007 to avoid late and reinstatement fees. Renewal applications completed in their entirety and not returned by the Board for completion should have their new identification card and licensure seal before the end of licensure period. The Board staff cannot guarantee applications received after June 13, 2007 will be processed in time for licensees to receive confirmation of renewal in the mail prior to June 30, 2007. Remember... most employers will not let you work until your new renewal licensure information is in hand.

Verify receipt of renewal: It is strongly recommended by the Board staff that you send the renewal application by any means of mail which requires return receipt like certified or priority mail.

Failure to renew before the deadline: A licensee who does not file, with the Board, all requirements for renewal before the end of the licensure period will be deemed to have allowed his/her license to lapse. You then will be required to pay the late fee in addition to the renewal fee. Failure to submit all renewal requirements postmarked on or before 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 Section 6-3 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.

Proposed Rule Adoption to Section 6-1.2 of the Regulations:

The purpose of the amended regulations is to clarify the license expiration and renewal period for licensees. The following proposed rule will become effective April 20, 2007 pending final adoption at the March 13, 2007 Board meeting.

b. Each individual's licensure renewal group is based on the first letter of his or her last name at the time of the implementation of this rule or at the time of initial licensure, whichever occurred later. Each licensee shall remain in his or her originally assigned licensure renewal group for all subsequent license renewals. Thus, even if a licensee's name is changed, he or she shall remain in the same licensure renewal group as originally assigned.

Did you know?

- ◆ The Board no longer mails rules to licensees on a regular basis, due to the cost and the increasing availability and use of the computer. All changes made by the Board are posted at the agency website, www.msbtpt.state.ms.us
- ◆ There are 1412 physical therapists and 608 physical therapist assistants active licenses.
- ◆ You can verify license online by going to the Board's website.
- ◆ Per the regulations, the licensee shall prominently display the "Certificate of Licensure" or copy thereof at their place(s) of employment and the licensee shall carry the "License Identification Card" with them at all times and show said ID card when requested. Failure to follow the regulations could result in disciplinary action.
- ◆ There have been recent revisions to the regulations and that a copy of the regulations should be downloaded.
- ◆ You should always verify that a CEU course is approved before taking the course.
- ◆ Effective July 2008, all licensees must take two hours of board-approved programs in ethics/professional responsibility as part of your total CEU requirements per Section 7-2 of the regulations.
- ◆ Physical therapist assistants cannot screen or evaluate per Section 1-3 of the regulations.
- ◆ Your moral and ethical obligation is to report to the Board all information that indicates a person violating any provision of the practice act or promulgated regulations.
- ◆ The rules and regulations bind all licensees to the APTA code of ethics and guides for professional conduct.
- ◆ A PT or PTA submitting a renewal form or application for license without disclosing any legal action taken against them is considered to have fraudulently submitted the application and can be denied renewal or licensure or is grounds for suspension, sanction or revocation.
- ◆ The Board has membership in the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy which is composed of all the physical therapy licensing boards in the United States.

Office Closed On State Holidays

The Board's office will be closed on the following official state holidays:

◆ January	New Year's Day	1st Day (1) (2)	◆ September	Labor Day	1st Monday
	Martin Luther King's and Robert E. Lee's Birthdays	3rd Monday	◆ November	Armistice Day (Veteran's Day)	11th Day (1) (2)
				Thanksgiving Day	
◆ February	George Washington's Birthday	3rd Monday	<i>The day of Thanksgiving is fixed by proclamation by the Governor and shall be fixed to correspond to the date proclaimed by the President of the United States. (Section 3-3-7, MS. Code of 1972, Annotated.) The Governor, at his discretion, designates any additional day (s) for further observance of the Thanksgiving Season by the same proclamation. (3)</i>		
◆ April	Confederate Memorial Day	Last Monday	◆ December	Christmas Day	25th Day
◆ May	National Memorial Day/ Jefferson Davis Birthday	Last Monday	<i>In addition to Christmas Day, any day (s) designated, for the observance of the Christmas Season are fixed by proclamation by the Governor. (1)(2)(3)</i>		
◆ July	Independence Day (July 4th)	4th Day			

- NOTE:**
1. Section 25-1-97, Mississippi Code of 1972, Provides that holidays which fall on Saturday or Sunday may be observed by state agencies on the following Monday.
 2. Section 25-1-99, Mississippi Code of 1972, Provides that county courthouses may be closed on Friday in observance of state holidays which fall on Saturday, or closed on Monday for holidays which fall on Sunday. (Amended, effective July 1, 1988.)
 3. All other state holiday notices are posted by the Secretary of State.

Physical Therapy Technicians or Aides

The use of “techs” or “aides” in the practice of physical therapy generates frequent telephone calls and emails to the Board’s office. Techs and aides are not covered under the physical therapist enabling statute and are, therefore, not governable under the Board’s jurisdiction except as covered by Section 73-23-35 of the Mississippi Code.

Section 73-23-35 states that it is unlawful for any person, corporation or association to represent himself or itself as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant without a valid, current license, and it is unlawful to provide any physical therapy services without a valid, current license. The same section states that it is unlawful to employ unlicensed persons to perform physical therapy services. The definitions and scope of physical therapy services are discussed under Section 1-3 of the regulations.

Employers who are uncertain about the use of techs or aides should study the applicable statute and applicable section of the regulations for guidance.

License Identification Card and License Certificate Replacement Fees

The schedule of fees listed in Section 12-2 of the *Regulations Governing Licensure of Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants* includes a fee of \$35.00 for replacement of a license certificate and a fee of \$25.00 for the replacement of a license identification card. The fees exist to help cover the administrative and material costs for these services.

These fees, however, apply only when replacement necessity is due to the certificate or ID card being lost, stolen or

destroyed, or if duplicate licenses are needed for multiple work sites.

The Board charges no fee for replacement of the certificate and ID card when requested due to legal name change. Requests for name change on licensure records must be in writing and accompanied by a notarized copy of a legal document attesting the change (marriage license, driver’s license, social security card, divorce decree or other court decree). The Board should be notified within 30 days following change of name.

Change of Home Address, Worksite or Name

It is the responsibility of licensees to provide the Board with written notification of address changes (home or work) no later than 30 days after such change is effective according to Section 3-8. For a name change, a notarized copy of the legal document must accompany the request. 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 # _____

OLD NAME _____

OLD ADDRESS (City, State, Zip) _____ COUNTY _____

NEW ADDRESS (City, State, Zip) _____ COUNTY _____

PHONE NUMBER _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____

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) 939-5246.

Attention!

Look what’s available on our website at www.msbpt.state.ms.us.

Please visit the website frequently for updated information.

You can find:

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

Board Duties and Responsibilities

The Board's most important duty is to regulate the practice of physical therapy for the protection of the public. The Mississippi Board of Physical Therapy regulates the practice of physical therapists and physical therapist assistants and licenses all qualified licensed physical therapists and physical therapist assistants; adopts rules and regulations necessary for the regulation of physical therapy; establishes scope of practice within guidelines of the law; conducts investigation and disciplinary hearings relevant to violations of the Physical Therapy Practice Law; renews licenses; maintains licensure files.

Board Personnel

Board Administrator

Many of you have asked to know a little about me as your Board Administrator. I live in Clinton, Mississippi with my husband Gregg. Gregg is a self-employed contractor. I attended Hinds Community College and graduated from Mississippi College.

I was employed by the Professional Licensure Branch of the Mississippi State Department of Health prior to assuming the position of Board Administrator in October 2004. One of my duties at the Mississippi State Department of Health was physical therapist licensure; therefore, I have 8 years experience in

licensure and regulation of physical therapists.

Licensing Investigator

A little biography on myself: I have been with the Board for almost two years as Licensing Investigator. Prior to that, I was employed by the Professional Licensure division of the Mississippi State Department of Health as a licensing officer. I have law enforcement experience, having been employed by the Copiah County Sheriff's Department for nearly ten years. My husband, Eddie, and I live in Crystal Springs. Eddie is also a retired law enforcement officer.

National Trends and Changes

In the health care area consumers and public officials are requiring more accountability of health care providers especially with regard to quality of care and safety of treatment methods. As a result, there are several actions being taken by US Licensure Boards in an effort to promote safe, competent practice. First, more and more boards are requiring periodic ethics courses for license renewal. Some jurisdictions are requiring either a jurisprudence exam or a course as well. Secondly, there are many conversations and some pilot projects addressing the issue of continuing competency. Jurisdictions across the country will be looking at methods in addition to continuing education as ways of fulfilling the commitment to ensure the currency and competency of licensee practice skills.

Texas and Massachusetts presently license outpatient physical therapy facilities in much the same way as pharmacy, chiropractic and funeral homes boards do in Mississippi. Should these facilities have state oversight? This is another issue that is just beginning to be discussed in other states.

How to evaluate practitioner qualifications as physical therapists more frequently move from country to country in our global economy is a topic that was initially addressed at the World Confederation of Physical Therapy Congress in 2002. Since then a meeting was convened in Toronto to further investigate the issue and a steering committee formed to determine the feasibility of forming an international organization. A meeting has been scheduled in Vancouver just prior to the June 2007 WCPT Congress. The US is represented on the steering committee by William Hatherill, executive director of the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy.

Advice for Licensees

It is in each licensee's best interest that you become familiar with both the regulations and the practice act. Our advice is that you download the regulations from the Board's website and keep the copy in a convenient place for easy referral. You should also become familiar with the American Physical Therapy Association's Code of Ethics and Guide for Professional Conduct. You may download these from the APTA website.

Frequently, a licensee is completely exonerated by an investigation, so please don't assume that the investigator's only job is to "get you." We're here to help you provide lawful and safe services. Please feel free to call the Board's office at any time with your concerns or comments. The Board and its staff strive to assist you in a courteous and professional manner.



Therapist Corner

In future newsletters we will include a section called Therapist Corner. We invite physical therapists or physical therapist assistants who may have ideas or input they wish to share with fellow therapists about their particular area of expertise to send us articles. Please submit your article by September 10, 2007 for inclusion in the Fall 2007 newsletter. Please keep your comments short and to the point and try not to utilize more than half of an 8 X 11 sheet of paper.

Due to space constraints we may not be able to include all articles sent to the Board. Please do not be offended if your article is not published. It may be included in future newsletters if possible.

Board Member Resignation

Edwin E. Searcy, MD of Cleveland resigned with deep regret from the Board effective September 19, 2006. He was one of the original Board members appointed to the Board by the former Governor Musgrove. Dr. Searcy's term began April 22, 2003 and expired June 30, 2004. He continued to serve as a Board member even though his term had expired until other serious obligations interfered with his ability to serve on the Board. The Board would like to thank Dr. Searcy for all his contributions and commitment during his service to the Board.

Continuing Education Reminder

All CEU's must be approved by one of the approved providers listed in Section 7-4 of the regulations or by one of the Prior Approved CEU Providers listed on the Board's website to insure CEU approval for licensure renewal. Remember, the required 24 contact hours or 2.4 CEU's must be accrued

during the licensure period (July 1 - June 30) of your licensure renewal period. No carry over of continuing education hours from one licensure period to another shall be allowed.

Scheduled Board Meetings

The Mississippi State Board of Physical Therapy meets quarterly in the office of the Mississippi State Board of Physical Therapy in Flowood, MS. The meetings are open to the public except for executive sessions in which complaints or personnel matters are discussed. The meeting dates are posted on the Board's website at www.msbt.state.ms.us.

Address Changes

All address and employment changes must be submitted in writing to the Board no later than thirty (30) days after such change is effective. The address-name change form is located on the website under forms. Failure to notify the Board's administrative office within the specified time, the cost of resending any correspondence or materials will be borne by the licensee.

**Mississippi State Board
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