



Alaska Board of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board Meeting May 16, 2025 Minutes

Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
5/16/2025 12:00 PM AKDT
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Alaska Board of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy board meeting was called to order on Friday, May 16, 2025 by Chair Valerie Phelps at 12:01 pm.

A. Roll Call

Board members:

- Valerie Phelps, Chair
- Victoria "Tori" Daugherty, Secretary
- Rebecca Dean, Public Member
- Jonathan Gates
- Michelle Scott-Weber

Staff members:

- Reid Bowman, Program Coordinator 2
- Shane Bannarbie, Program Coordinator I
- Sheri Ryan, Licensing Examiner 3

Alaska State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Mission Statement

The mission of the Alaska State Physical and Occupational Therapy Board is to promote healthy, independent, productive Alaskans. The board strives to do this by:

1. Adopting regulations necessary for the safe and efficient practice of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy in the State of Alaska.
2. Reviewing and approving the qualification of applicants to ensure a competent and effective work force of therapists and assistants.
3. Issuing temporary permits and licenses to qualified persons.
4. Monitoring compliance with continuing education requirements.
5. Reviewing and acting on any report or documentation of any unsafe, unethical or unlawful actions of a licensee.

Roll call taken.

Board members present: Valerie Phelps, Chair; Tori Daugherty, Secretary; Rebecca Dean, Jonathan Gates, and Michelle Scott-Weber.

Staff present: Reid Bowman, Program Coordinator 2; Shane Bannarbie, Program Coordinator 2; and Sheri Ryan, License Examiner

Guest: Sarah Trent-McCarroll

B. Ethics Reporting

No conflicts of interest reported by any board member present.

C. Review/Approval Agenda

Rebecca Dean motioned to accept the amended agenda as discussed. Motion seconded by Tori Daugherty. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.

2. Public Comment

No public comment given.

3. Administrative Business

A. Tabled Applications

i. Sarah Trent-McCarroll - PTA by Credentials

STATEMENT

The PT OT Licensing Board for the State of Alaska has thoroughly considered and discussed the PTA Application by Credentials of Sarah Trent-McCarroll. Under AS 08.84.060 and under paragraph (4) of 12 AAC 54.100 the board establishes substantial equivalency via the following:

1. 20+ years of practice in the profession as PTA
2. Holding a license in good standing in one state for over 10 years
3. Having an additional license in another state in good standing
4. Having an additional education in rehabilitation sciences, a 4-year Bachelor of Science, during which testing would cover materials in the PTA NPTE

The board realizes that paragraph (2) of 12 AAC 54.100 is problematic in this instance because the regulations state: "the application "must" be submitted "with" a report of the NPTE test scores." The board recognizes that it cannot dispense with that requirement in every case without a regulation amendment, but it does recognize the impossibility or the futility of allowing that to be a barrier for an otherwise qualified person to benefit Alaskans in this field, with no perceptible risk to public health.

MOTION

The board determines that Sarah Trent-McCarroll's record of practice and her educational accomplishments add up to qualifications that are equivalent to the state of Alaska. Specifically, the reason for excusing the NPTE exam requirement in *this, and only this or some similar highly unusual case*, is based upon:

1. Her specific academic training in earning a Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation Sciences, which essentially covers all the areas that would be tested and then some,
2. Her 20+ years of unblemished practice in two other states that demonstrates her ability to practice with competence and safety.
3. The PT OT Licensing Board of the State of Alaska has the testing requirements under 12 AAC 54.100, (2) as a method to evaluate breadth of knowledge — which the board is not excusing. In this case only, the board finds that the goal of this regulation has been met by the education and testing Sarah Trent-McCarroll underwent when earning the Bachelor's degree in Rehabilitation Sciences that is a more advanced educational accomplishment than the Associate's degree in a Physical Therapy Assistant program, as well as her long unblemished practice.

For this reason, I, Rebecca Dean, move to accept the PTA application by credentials of Sarah Trent-McCarroll. Motion seconded by Jonathan Gates.

Roll call vote:

Rebecca Dean = Yes

Michelle Scott-Weber = Yes

Jonathan Gates = Yes

Tori Daugherty = Yes

Valerie Phelps = Yes

Motion passes unanimously.

Licensing examiner Sheri Ryan pointed out that Ms. Trent-McCarroll's background reports had not been received yet.

Rebecca Dean amended her motion to conditionally approve the PTA application by credentials of Sarah Trent-McCarroll pending receipt of clear background reports. Amended motion seconded by Jonathan

Gates. All in favor; none opposed. Amended motion passes unanimously.

ii. Diane Sampson - PTA by Credentials

I, [name], motion to conditionally approve PTA application by credentials #225371 for Diane Sampson pending receipt of the \$130 license fee.

Diane Sampson's application was added to the board packet instead of being put into OnBoard for electronic vote as it it just became completed and is days away from becoming stale - past one year old. The board took a 10 minute break to review the application.

Motion by Tori Daugherty to conditionally approve PTA application by credentials #225371 for Diane Sampson pending receipt of the \$130 license fee. Michelle Scott-Weber seconded the motion. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.

4. Industrial Hemp and Intoxicating Hemp Products FAQ for Professional Licensees

Board members review the Industrial Hemp and Intoxicating Hemp Products FAQ for Professional Licensees posted to all healthcare websites by the Division. Discussed how to best communicate the information to licensees. Should be sent to Educational institutions in AK, state associations, and out via opt-in PHY listserv. Need to ensure messaging is sterile with contact pointing to the Division of Agriculture and not the PT/OT Board for questions. Use verbiage on website for listserv blast.

Motion made by Jonathan Gates directing staff to distribute information to all physical therapy and occupational therapy licensees as discussed. Motion seconded by Michelle Scott-Weber. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.

5. FSBPT Leadership Issues Forum - July Mtg. (Presenters: Rebecca Sue Dean)

Rebecca Dean gathered topics to present at FSBPT Leadership Issues Forum in July, 2025. Requested board members to consider and email potential topics to staff through June, 2025.

All board members requiring legislative confirmation were confirmed at the joint Legislative session on May 14.

6. Meeting Summary - Action Items

- All board members to email staff by end of June, 2025 with any potential topics for delegate Rebecca Dean to present at FSBPT LIF.
- Staff to distribute information on Industrial Hemp per board discussion.

7. Adjourn

The Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board meeting was adjourned at 1:01 pm on Friday, May 16, 2025.

Next board meeting scheduled for October 2-3, 2025 at 9:00 am to possibly be held at the Atwood Building, 550 W. 7th Ave, Suite 1535, Anchorage, AK if the travel restrictions of AO358 are lifted. Otherwise, the meeting will be held virtually via Zoom.

These minutes were approved by the board in accordance with PL-12/online voting 06/23/2025.