



Nevada Physical Therapy Board

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Brian Fearnley

Vice Chairman

Jennifer Nash

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Rebecca Chema

Board Member

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Charles Harvey

Executive Director

Muriel Morin-

Mendes

Licensing Coordinator

Chelsea Wilson

Administrative Assistant

Danielle Devine

Administrative Assistant

Nevada Physical Therapy Board Newsletter

Summer 2019

From our Executive Director

Welcome to the Summer 2019 Newsletter.

2019 has shaped up to be another busy yet productive year. All of the Board's efforts were focused on the mission of protecting and promoting the health and safety of Nevadans by pursuing the highest quality of physical therapy practice through education, communication, legislation, licensing, regulation, and enforcement.

During the 2019 session of the Nevada Legislature, our legislative team reviewed and monitored over 60 bills dealing with occupational and professional licensing. The Board office moved to a larger more efficient space to better serve the needs of licensees, and licensing staff continued to streamline and improve the comprehensive process of reviewing licensure and renewal applicants. We are now providing licensing and regulatory services for more than 2,750 licensees in the State of Nevada (2012 physical therapists, 740 physical therapist assistants). The Advisory Committee on Continuing Competency

reviewed and approved hundreds of courses, providing additional opportunities for professional development and lifelong learning. The Board has received 13 complaints against licensees in 2019. We continue to investigate allegations of potential violations of the Practice Act submitted by PTs, PTAs, other health care professionals, patients, family, regulatory agencies, payers, employees, and other members of the public. The Board also conducted unannounced compliance inspections on 5% of active licensees in accordance with NRS 640.050.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank outgoing Board Member Rebecca Cheema for her outstanding service as the Board's first PTA Member. We wish her well in her future endeavors as she moves to California. The Governor's Office is currently recruiting candidates for consideration for the PTA Member seat. For more information and to apply: <http://gov.nv.gov/Board/Boards/>
I hope you enjoy this



newsletter. If there are any topics you would like to see us cover in future editions, please contact the Board Office and let us know. I wish each of you a happy and safe 4th of July with family and friends.

Regards,

Charles Harvey

Executive Director

Vision Statement:

The Nevada Physical Therapy Board will be the leader in public protection, promotion of wellness, and access to care.

Mission Statement:

The Nevada Physical Therapy Board protects and promotes the health and safety of Nevadans by pursuing the highest quality of physical therapy practice through education, communication, legislation, licensing, regulation, and enforcement.

Letter from the Board Chairman....

Happy Summer Everyone! I hope you are all enjoying the summer weather. The Board has had a busy first half of the year in 2019.....we moved to a more cost effective and larger office and held a strategic planning session led by our Executive Director where we came up with some short term and long term directives. We updated the Board vision and mission statement as well. We worked to try to bring the physical therapy compact to Nevada, and although it did not pass this session, we will continue our efforts next session and work to get it through to allow increased portability for our licensees

across state borders and allow increased access to care for the citizens of Nevada. Our new continuing competence model is in the process of being implemented, which allows licensees to receive continuing competence units for being engaged in their profession in a variety of ways. The national trend in continuing competence is to not just have courses, but professional engagement be recognized. I would like to recognize the hard work of the staff in our Board office. They work hard each day to ensure that your questions are answered and that physical therapy is being delivered in a safe and effective manner in our state. Director Harvey has been instru-



mental in modernizing our processes and increasing efficiency. Finally, I would like to thank Rebecca Cheema for her service as our inaugural PTA Board member. She will be greatly missed. Please don't hesitate to reach out to the Board office with any questions you may have.

-Sherise Smith

Chairman

Change of Name or Address—Are You In Compliance?

Please keep all of your licensee information up to date with the board office. This includes:

- Name Change
- Residential Mailing Address Change
- Primary Professional Address Change
- E-mail Address Change
- Phone Number Change

Written notification of any change of employment, home address, email address or telephone number must be sent to the Board office within 30 days of the change according to NAC 640.055 and NAC 640.061.

Renewal Season Is Upon Us!

The license renewal period began June 1, 2019. Per NRS 640.150, **all licenses issued prior to October 1, 2017 expire at midnight on July 31st of each year. Licenses issued on or after October 1, 2017 expire 1 year after their date of issuance.**

RENEWAL OPTIONS:

1. Licenses may be renewed online and paid via credit card

at: <https://>

online.nvptboard.com/.

2. Renewal Forms are available for download on the Board Website <http://ptboard.nv.gov/> by selecting the MAIL IN RENEWAL FORM. The form can be completed and mailed to the Board Office along with payment.

FEES: 1. Renewal fee for a physical therapist is \$150.00.

2. Renewal fee for a physical therapist assistant is \$100.00. Please review the Continued Competency page on our website for information on continued competency requirements. Don't hesitate to contact the Board Office at (702) 876-5535 if you have any questions or experience any issues with the renewal process.

We've Moved!

The Board office relocated in the spring of 2019. Our new physical address is 3291 N. Buffalo Rd, Suite 100, Las Vegas, NV 89129. If you are ever in the area, please stop by and say hello!



Left to right: Charles Harvey, Executive Director; Sarah Bradley, Attorney; Muriel Morin-Mendez, Licensing Coordinator; Chelsea Wilson, Admin Assistant; Sherise Smith, Board Member; Brian Fearnley, Board Member; Jennifer Nash, Board Member; Debbie Dieter, Board Investigator; Eathan O'Bryant, Board Member; Rebecca Cheema, Board Member. Not pictured because she was taking the photo: Danielle Devine, Admin Assistant

What Happened to the Mandated Use of aPTitude?

The Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) recently announced the discontinuation of the aPTitude Continuing Competence System, by the end of 2019 (final date – to be determined). Effective immediately, **Nevada licensees are no longer required to utilize the aPTitude system.** We know, this is really bad timing for our Nevada licensees, as we had just implemented this new program the past year. We appreciate your understanding. After receiving notification, the Nevada Physical Therapy Board began working with the FSBPT and our software vendor on plans to help ensure a seamless transition for our licensees. Our goal is to import Nevada licensee data directly from the aPTitude system into our inLumon licensing system. This project may not be completed prior to your renewal date. Therefore, licensees should be prepared to enter continuing competence information and upload copies of course completion certificates into the licensing system when renewing their license. Individuals with aPTitude accounts still have the ability to access the aPTitude website to download their course completion certificates. The final date of this system has not been announced by the FSBPT. Please do not delay in retrieving any records that you want from aPTitude, as you will no longer have access after the system is shut down. Any questions regarding the aPTitude system should be addressed to communications@fsbpt.org.

We would like to extend our thanks to licensees who created an aPTitude account to report compliance and upload continuing competence completion records. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. The Board is working hard to ensure that the process is simplified for licensees going forward. The Board Office is available to assist with any questions related to license renewals, and may be contacted at (702) 876-5535.

Continuing Competence Model - Nevada Physical Therapy Board

There were changes to what you are able to use for continuing competence units that went into effect on August 1, 2018. Until the regulations have been ratified and put into place, we will accept either this new model or the old model as a way to count your continuing competence units. This year (year ending July 31, 2019) will be a "hybrid" year where either the new model and the old model will be accepted.

Continuing Competence Unit Requirement will now be 15 rather than 1.5 (this has changed to be more in line with the way other states calculate CCUs and to simplify things).

Starting August 1, 2018, with the **NEW MODEL**: out of the 15 CCUs at least 7 must be from **Certified Activities** and the remainder (8) can be from **Approved Activities**. There will no longer be a delineation between CLINICAL and NON-CLINICAL (8 CCUs maximum) courses, but instead the delineation will be between **CERTIFIED** and **APPROVED** (8 CCUs maximum) courses or activities.

Certified Activities: *Activities/courses that go through a ProCert or Nevada Physical Therapy Board ACCC certification process to determine if the activity meets a minimum threshold of required criteria. ProCert certified activities will have the ProCert logo on them when looking on aPTitude. Certified activities typically are higher in units than approved activities.*

Certified Activities: CCUs

Conferences: As awarded

Continuing Education Courses: As awarded

Exams & Assessments certified by ProCert (rare, like certified hand therapist assessment or APTA geriatric assessment) - you can find these on aPTitude with the ProCert certified logo.

Approved Activities: *Activities that are approved, but have not gone through a formal certification process by ProCert or the Nevada Physical Therapy Board, due to the fact that these activities would be difficult to certify. The Board has deemed these activities as appropriate to receive CCUs. Approved activities typically have a lower unit value than certified activities. You can receive a total of 8 CCUs per year in this category. See examples below.*

Approved Activities Currently in Place: CCUs

aPTitude-Sign Up: 1 CCU (this is a one-time sign up)

Attendance at NPTB or NPTA meetings: 1 CCU per meeting

Board and Committee Work (for PT Board and NPTA): >33 hour/year: 5 CCUs; 16-32 hours: 3 CCUs

Certified Specialist examination thru the ABPTS-passing score: 8 CCUs

Conferences: ½ the hourly amount; ie a 16-hour conference would get 8 CCUs

Continuing Education Courses: ½ the hourly amount; i.e. a 16-hour CEU course would get 8 CCUs

Degree Coursework (per semester credit/hour): 8 CCUs

In-service (attending an in-service): 1 CCU

Jurisprudence Exam (JAM): 2 CCUs (mandatory at initial licensure and years ending in "0" & "5")

oPTion Self-Assessment Tool completion: 8 CCUs and can do it every 5 years

Primary Clinical Instructor: 3 CCUs per instance (student); 1 unit= 80 hours of CI

Publication: Peer reviewed: 8 CCUs

Non-peer reviewed: 4 CCUs

Residencies/Fellowships: 8 CCUs

Self-Study: prep for teaching: 3 CCUs maximum per year

NOTE: Per NAC 640.400(2), the Board will not approve as training for continuing education, experience acquired in fields that it determines are unrelated to the practice of physical therapy.

Below is the documentation you must upload when renewing your license online to get credit for the Approved Activities.

ACTIVITY TYPE	REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION
aPTitude-signing up for	A copy of the confirmation of sign up.
Attendance at NPTB or NPTA meetings	Copy of agenda and written documentation by an officer of the organization confirming attendance.
Board & Committee Work (for Nevada PT Board and NPTA)	Copies of meeting minutes agendas and written documentation by an officer of the organization confirming service.
Certified Specialist Examination through ABPTS-passing score	Formal score report demonstrating that the performance standard was met.
Conference	Proof of attendance (registration information, completion certificate) and schedule-of-offerings noting the sessions that were attended.
Continuing Education Course	Certificate of completion for the continuing education activity.
Degree Coursework	Copy of course syllabus and copy of score/grade report or transcript from the institution.
Inservice (attending an inservice)	Copy of the in-service program, including the name and credentials of the presenter, goals, and learning objectives; copy of the attendee list.
Jurisprudence Exam (JAM):	Copy of proof of taking the exam.
oPTion Self Assessment completion	A copy of the proof the oPTion self assessment was completed.
Primary Clinical Instructor	Documentation of the dates and times spent supervising and instructing the student to demonstrate minimum requirements met.
Publication - Peer Reviewed	<p>Documented evidence of active and significant participation in the writing and publication process of a work that relates to the field of physical therapy published by a university press or in a peer-reviewed journal as identified by a source such as Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory. Active participation may include being the primary author, co-author, investigator, editor, etc.</p> <p>Copy of the published product, a copyright page, abstract, or sign-off-of-rights agreement.</p>
Publication - Non Peer Reviewed	<p>Documented evidence of active and significant participation in the writing and publication process of a work that relates to the field of physical therapy. Active participation may include being the primary author, co-author, investigator, editor, etc.</p> <p>Copy of the published product, a copyright page, abstract, or sign-off-of-rights agreement.</p>
Residencies & Fellowships	<p>Documentation of satisfactory performance (as defined by the Program);</p> <p>OPTIONAL: Evidence of completing a written examination and actual patient/client practical examinations over the course of the curriculum.</p>
Self-study - preparation for teaching	Course description/syllabus and documentation of the date, time, and location of the presentation as well as a certification of the time spent on the preparation.

Recap of the 2019 Legislative Session....

Thank you to all who were involved during this 80th session of the Nevada Legislature. The 2019 legislative session started with an introduction of SB186 by Senator Heidi Gansert, which was initially a bill to enact the physical therapy licensure compact in the state of Nevada. Over the course of the session, this bill ended up instead being a statute that defines the practice of dry needling by physical therapists and athletic trainers in the state of Nevada. The Board would like to thank Neena Laxalt, Board lobbyist, for her hard work during the session. The Nevada Physical Therapy Association also worked hard on this bill during the legislative session.

The next step in the legislative process related to the new dry needling statute (NRS) is the rule-making (NAC) process. The Board will hold a public workshop to hear public comment and further work on proposed regulation in the upcoming months. We encourage input from licensees and the public in the process by attending this workshop. After the workshop the proposed regulations are sent to the legislative counsel bureau. There is then a final public hearing, after which the proposed regulation (NACs) will be sent to the legislative counsel bureau for ratification (to be finalized) before they are enacted as regulation. The Board will send informational emails and/or updated newsletter articles to licensees as this process further unfolds.

To review the final text of this bill, please click on the below link:

<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/80th2019/Bill/6314/Text>

Glossary of Legislative Terms:

NRS 640=Nevada Revised Statutes. This is the statute or law that governs the profession of physical therapy in the state of Nevada. These were updated and passed by the legislature in the 2017 legislative session and are currently effective. They have not yet been codified by the LCB (put in their final form for print). The new dry needling statute passed in this past 2019 legislature session will go into effect in October of this year. Please see the Board website for a link to the current NRSs.

NAC 640= Nevada Administrative Code. This is the regulation or rules that further define and explain the statutes.

We know the legislative process can be confusing. If you have any questions related to the new dry needling statute, which becomes effective in October 2019, or the upcoming rule making process, don't hesitate to call Director Harvey in the Board office.

What is the Difference Between the PT Board and PT Association?

Many licensees are unaware that the Nevada Physical Therapy Board is separate and unrelated to the Nevada Physical Therapy Association (NVPTA). All licenses in the state of Nevada are regulated and subject to the jurisdiction of the Board based on state legislation and regulation. Membership in your professional association (NVPTA) is voluntary, but a great way for you to stay connected to your profession and what is going on. If you would like more information regarding the NVPTA, they can be reached at www.nvpta.org. The NVPTA is the local chapter of the national professional organization, the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA). For more information about the NVPTA, visit www.nvpta.org.

What Does Citation Mean?

One of the things outlined in our updated statutes is the ability of the Board to more efficiently handle some of the infractions of the NRS and NAC that Board investigators often encounter when doing inspections out in the field.

If you are found to be in violation of one of the proposed areas, the investigator will write you a citation on the spot, which you can take care of immediately without having to go through further proceedings with the Board. This will cut

down on attorneys needing to be involved in some of the more basic violations (display of license, change of address, supervision ratios), and allow you to settle the violation in an expedited fashion.

Currently, the process of discipline is the same for a minor infraction as a major infraction and is as follows:

1. Complaint
2. Investigation
3. Hearing

This current process is more costly to the licensee. The licensee in-

curs the cost of the investigation, legal fees, and hearing costs.

The Board's ability to utilize an administrative citation will reduce the cost incurred by the licensee. The Board will set a uniform administrative fine and fee by regulation. All administrative fines are to be turned over to the state general fund, and all administrative fees are retained by the Board to recoup expenses incurred for that particular inspection.

Upcoming Board Meetings:

July 19, 2019

September 6, 2019

November 15, 2019

**see the board website for location and agenda prior to each meeting*

Continuing Competence Audit

The Nevada Physical Therapy Board randomly audits a minimum of 5% of physical therapists and physical therapist assistants after the online renewal process to determine whether continued competency requirements were satisfied. Should you be randomly selected, you will be contacted and asked to provide proof of attendance for the continuing courses submitted during your renewal.

How Many Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants are Currently Licensed in Nevada?

2,012

PTs

740

PTAs

2,752

**TOTAL
LICENSEES**

Meet Your Board....

The Nevada Physical Therapy Board is made up of 5 members: this includes three physical therapists, one physical therapist assistant (for the first time in Board history!) and one public member.

Currently, our Chairman is Sherise Smith. She practices neurologic rehabilitation in the home and community setting. She is serving in her fifth year on the Board.



Our Vice Chairman is Brian Fearnley. He practices in outpatient orthopedics. He is serving in his fourth year on the Board.



Our Secretary/Treasurer and legislative liaison is Jen Nash. She teaches in UNLVPT program and practices neurologic rehab in home and outpatient settings. She is serving in her first year on the Board.



Rebecca Cheema is our PTA member. She Practices in the education realm, as a PTA Program Director in Las Vegas. She is serving in her second year on the Board and is the first ever PTA member on the Board.



Our public member is Eathan O'Bryant. He played basketball at the University of Nevada from 1993-1995 and was on the Harlem Globetrotters for 11 years. He is the owner and executive director of Nevada Basketball Academy.



Your Board is working hard to ensure the protection of our public in the delivery of physical therapy in the state of Nevada. We thank you for your continued involvement and support!

Posting Your License....

When you renew your license, remember that you must post it all locations where you work. There is no longer an "original" license that must be placed at your primary location. Just post a copy of it at each location where you work to be in compliance. Remember if you change places of employment during the year to notify the Board if it is a change of your primary professional address **within 30 days** and make sure your license is then posted at any new place of employment. Thanks!

MAKE SURE THAT YOU GIVE US YOUR CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS WHEN YOU RENEW YOUR LICENSE SO WE ARE ABLE TO GET INFORMATION TO YOU. THANK YOU!