



## Nevada Physical Therapy Board

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### Website:

<http://ptboard.nv.gov/>

### BOARD MEMBERS

#### **Sherie Smith**

*Chairman*

#### **Brian Fearnley**

*Vice Chairman*

#### **Jim McKivigan**

*Secretary/Treasurer*

#### **Tina Baum**

*Board Member*

#### **Andrea Menicucci**

*Public Member*

### BOARD STAFF

#### **Charles Harvey**

*Executive Director*

#### **Muriel Morin-Mendes**

*Licensing Coordinator*

#### **Chelsea Venturino**

*Office Assistant*

# Nevada Physical Therapy Board Newsletter

Winter 2017

## Meet our Executive Director

It is truly an honor to have been named the new Executive Director of the Nevada Physical Therapy Board, and it is with pleasure that I send out my first message to all of you. I am delighted to have the opportunity to advance the Board's mission to protect the safety and well-being of the public consumer of physical therapy.

I bring more than 20 years of leadership in public, private and non-profit organizations. My professional experience includes public administration, organizational assessment and change management, policy and planning, pro-

ject management, licensing, regulatory and compliance enforcement, and court administration. During my tenure as executive director, I plan to advance the goals and objectives that our Board has put forth while building on the foundation laid by previous Executive Directors. I am excited to help lead this important organization into its next chapter and look forward to working with each and every one of you in the future. You are invited to be an active participant. I want to hear your ideas, issues and recommendations on how the Nevada Physical Therapy Board



can best serve the industry. With your input, participation and support, we can be assured that the Nevada Physical Therapy Board has a bright future!

*Charles Harvey*

Executive Director

## NAC Workshop...Your Input is Requested

The Nevada Physical Therapy Board will be holding another public workshop to get input on the changes being recommended to the NACs (Nevada Administrative Code). We invite any licensee or public to attend and give input. This workshop will be held via teleconference at two locations, one in Northern Nevada and one in Southern Nevada. Please attend if you are able:

**Date: March 2, 2018 starting at 1:00 pm**

### Carson City location:

**Office of the Attorney General**

**100 North Carson Street, Mock Courtroom**

**Carson City, NV 89701**

### Las Vegas location:

**Grant Sawyer Building**

**555 E. Washington Avenue, Room 4500**

**Las Vegas, NV 89101**

## Letter from the Outgoing Board Chairman.... Tina Baum, PT, DPT, MSPT, WCS, ATC, CLT

My term as a Board member and the current Chair are drawing to a close. It has been a very challenging, yet incredibly rewarding time in my career. The Nevada Physical Therapy Board has undergone a significant transformation in the past 3 years. We have striven to increase the transparency, efficiency and accountability of all Board operations. All of this would not have been possible without the countless hours and the hard

work from Board staff, interim executive staff, Board attorneys, lobbyists, engaged Board members and our executive director. Together, we have faced significant trials and tribulations while working toward our goals. I greatly value the lessons learned, friendships made and experiences gained while working with this dedicated group of people. I would hope that any challenge that the Board may face in the future, will be met with great enthusiasm and teamwork. In closing, I would like to thank



all of you for your patronage, guidance and leadership.

*-Tina Baum*

Outgoing Chairman

## Letter from the Incoming Board Chairman.... Sherise Smith, PT, MSPT, CBIS

I am honored to be the new Chairman of the Nevada Physical Therapy Board. The past three years serving on the Board as a Board member, liaison to the ACCE Committee, legislative liaison and Vice Chairman have been helpful in preparing me for this position. I am also currently serving

on the Foreign Educated Standards Committee for the FSBPT. My hope is to serve the licensees and the citizens of the state of Nevada in moving our Board forward in a progressive direction. I thank Tina Baum for her great leadership over the past 3 years and her continued

service to the Federation as well. Finally, I would like to thank all of you PTs and PTAs who practice in our state for the great work that you do every day to serve the citizens of Nevada.

*-Sherise Smith*

Incoming Chairman



## Nevada Physical Therapy Board Mission Statement

### **Mission**

**The mission of the Nevada Physical Therapy Board is to protect the safety and well-being of the public consumer of physical therapy.**

### **Who We License**

**The Nevada Physical Therapy Board licenses physical therapists and physical therapist assistants. Any person wishing to work in Nevada must obtain a Nevada license.**

## Would You Like a Free Hour of Continuing Competence? Sign Up for aPTitude...

aPTitude is a **free** continuing competence resource for physical therapist and physical therapist assistant licensees, students and pre-licensure candidates; vendors of continuing competence and continuing education (CC/CE) activities, and jurisdiction licensing boards. Licensees and students/pre-licensure candidates can use aPTitude to:

- Maintain licensure information and record of CC/CE
- Securely store CC/CE completion documents
- Stay current with all CC/CE requirements and license renewal dates
- Be reminded of license renewal and CE/CC deadlines
- Track CC/CE completion progress for one or many states
- Find CC/CE courses and activities

Click on the below link to sign up for free!

[https://pt.fsbpt.net/aPTitude/  
public/info/home](https://pt.fsbpt.net/aPTitude/public/info/home)

Tracking continuing competence with aPTitude is as easy as 1, 2, 3!

	<b>Enter your license into aPTitude</b>
	<b>Record Continuing Competence Activities that you have completed</b>
	<b>Track the number of CCU's that you have earned towards renewal</b>

## Moving Toward Modernization of Continuing Competence....

At the November 14, 2017 Board meeting, it was voted on that the following continuing competence activities are now accepted by the Nevada Physical Therapy Board as non-clinical for the stated amounts:

- Being a Clinical Instructor for a student for a 6 week or longer clinical: 3 hours of CCUs for a maximum of 8 hours of CCUs for any given year (must have written confirmation of being a CI)
- Signing up for aPTitude: 1 hour of CCU (one time only)  
<https://pt.fsbpt.net/aPTitude>
- Signing up and taking the oPTion self assessment: 8 hours of CCUs (can be done every 5 years)  
<https://www.fsbpt.org/SecondaryPages/Licensees/ContinuingCompetence/oPTion.aspx>

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

Many licensees are unaware that the Nevada Physical Therapy Board (NPTB) is separate and unrelated to the Nevada Physical Therapy Association (NPTA). 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 (NPTA) is voluntary. If you would like more information regarding the NPTA, they can be reached at [www.nvapta.org](http://www.nvapta.org). The NPTA is the local of the national professional organization, the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA).

## Legislative Update.....

As you may know, NRS 640 was updated this past legislative session and there are some new updates to the physical therapy practice act that **took effect on October 1, 2017**. To view the changes in their entirety, please click on the link below, or see the summary of changes outlined below. Also of note is that NAC changes are currently being worked on. We have had one public workshop and will be having another where we are seeking input into these changes. Please see page one of this newsletter for details of the date and time of that workshop. Thank you!

[https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/79th2017/Bills/SB/SB437\\_EN.pd](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/79th2017/Bills/SB/SB437_EN.pd)

### **Summary of NRS Changes 2017**

Changes the name of the Board to the Nevada Physical Therapy Board.

Requires that PTs and PTAs use a certain designation:

A person who is licensed as a physical therapist will use the words or letters "PT" or "physical therapist" immediately following his/her name when representing him/herself as a PT.

A person who is licensed as a physical therapist assistant will use the words or letters "PTA" or "physical therapist assistant" immediately following his/her name when representing him/herself as a PTA.

Supervision of PT techs: requires the Board to adopt regulations in NAC prescribing the activities that a PT tech can perform under the immediate supervision of a PT. Also clarifies that a PT supervising a PT tech must be present and on-site. (The NACs are currently being worked on and another workshop will be held where input will be sought on this).

Adds that a business entity that holds itself out as providing services constituting the practice of physical therapy is guilty of a misdemeanor unless those services are provided by or under the supervision of a physical therapist. Authorizes the Board to impose certain penalties on a person who violates this provision, including without limitation, an administrative penalty of not more than \$5,000.

Authorizes the Board to issue citations for certain violations (display of license, address change, supervision ratios). This will allow a streamlined process and the licensee will be able to pay the citation on the spot or he/she may also contest the citation and ask for a hearing.

Revises the make up of the Board to be changed to include 3 PTs, 1 PTA and 1 public member (previously was 4 PTs and 1 public member).

Authorizes the Board to appoint nonvoting advisory members to the Board.

Changes the term "continuing education" to "continuing competence".

Authorizes the licensure by endorsement of PTAs (wasn't previously in our NRS).

Removes the provision that the Board administers an exam for licensure (new language states the exam is an exam designated by the Board).

Combines PT and PTA provisions together to be for conciseness and clarity.

## 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 process is costly to the licensee. The licensee incurs 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. The citations will not go through the hearing process and in turn, will not be reported as a discipline to the Occupational Licensing Board Report. All Administrative Fines are to be turned over to the General Fund, and all Administrative Fees by the Board to recoup expenses.

## Would You Like to Serve on the ACCE Committee?

The Advisory Committee on Continuing Education is seeking three new members for the committee. The committee works to have representation from all areas of practice. Currently, the committee has members representing pediatrics, outpatient orthopedics, acute care and geriatrics. If you are interested in knowing more about what being on the committee entails or applying for the committee, please click on the link below and go to "Other Forms". It is the first form listed, "ACCE Member Recruitment Application". Thank you!

<http://ptboard.nv.gov/Forms/Home/>

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

1,770

**PTs**

635

**PTAs**

2,405

**TOTAL  
LICENSEES**



## Survey Results....

Thank you to those of you who participated in the survey regarding the use of PT techs that was emailed out. Although it was a while ago, we wanted to share the results now that we are doing regular newsletters. We had 485 physical therapists who took part in the survey and 132 PTAs who participated.

Below are some of the results of the survey: 36% of PTs who responded to the survey work in outpatient private practice and 25% of PTAs who responded do. The other settings were also represented as well, but outpatient was the most heavily represented.

For the PTs who utilize techs, it was evenly divided between PTA and PT Tech as to who the PT supervises the most to assist in patient care. As far as activities delegated to a PT tech the following were listed in order of highest to lowest response:

cleaning of equipment (63%). Escort of patients (53%), assist with exercise set up (51%), modalities set up-ice/heat (47%), monitoring of exercise programs delegated by PT (41%), administration of modalities (26%), assistance don-doffing braces, orthotics, etc. (8%), gait or balance training (5%), massage (1%). It was nearly evenly divided as to "are you concerned about the way PT techs are being utilized with patient care?": 52% of physical therapists answered no and 48% answered yes. 56% of PTs answered no to whether or not they had concerns regarding the use of techs as it relates to the safety and welfare of patients.

74% of PTAs who responded to the survey felt that the 2000 hours of required "on premise" supervision is helpful when first receiving their license as a physical therapist assistant. 52% also thought that eliminating this 2000 hour requirement would compromise the health safety and welfare of patients. 37% of PTAs work

under the supervision of two PTs, 29% work under the supervision of one PT, 14% under three PTs and 11% under five or more.

73% of PTAs did not feel that having supervision from more than one PT compromises the safety or welfare of patients. Verbal on-site communication was by far (76%) the most common mode of communication between the PTA and his/her supervising PT. 98% of PTAs stated they feel that they receive the type of feedback and assistance needed with patients when they communicate with their supervising PT.

73% of PTAs surveyed reported they do not feel that PT techs are participating in treatment activities that may compromise the safety and welfare of patients. 62% are not concerned about the way PT techs are being utilized in patient care in our state.

## APTA & FSBPT Collaboration

### Moving forward together

FSBPT (Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy) and the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) each have unique missions, purposes and roles to play in the physical therapy profession.

Below you'll find overview information for each organization and some topics that have been of interest to both organizations:

#### Missions:

##### FSBPT

To protect the public by providing service and leadership that promote safe and competent physical therapy practice. *(FSBPT is a membership organization of 53 jurisdictions or states)*

##### APTA

To improve the health and quality of life of individuals in society by advancing physical therapist practice, education and research, and by increasing the awareness and understanding of physical therapy's role in the nation's health care system. *(APTA is a membership organization of more than 90,000 physical therapists, physical therapist assistants and students)*

## Meet Your Board....

The Nevada Physical Therapy Board is made up of 5 members: currently this includes four physical therapists and one public member. There are currently two openings on the Board: an opening for a PTA and an opening for a public member. Please contact the Governor's office if you are interested. You can find more information by clicking on the link below: [http://gov.nv.gov/Boards/Boards\(1\)/](http://gov.nv.gov/Boards/Boards(1)/)

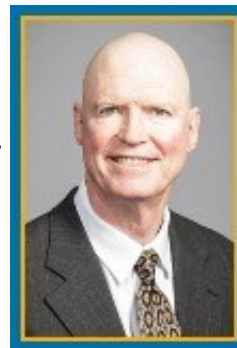
Currently, our Chairman is Sherise Smith. She practices neurologic rehabilitation in the home and community setting. She is serving in her fourth year on the Board.



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



Our Secretary/Treasurer is Jim McKivigan. He practices both in the education realm and acute hospital setting. He is serving in his sixth year on the Board.



Tina Baum is our fourth physical therapist member. She practices women's health in private practice. She has just completed her sixth year on the Board.



Our public member is Andrea Menicucci. She is a speech pathologist with a wide array of healthcare experience. She has served her six years on the Board. The public member position is currently open.



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!

## CCUs for attending PT Board Meetings?

Did you know that you can now earn one hour of non-clinical CCU (continuing competence unit) for attending a PT Board Meeting? As you know, you can earn up to 8 hours of non-clinical CCUs per year out of the 15 required hours. The Board greatly encourages licensees to attend meetings to see what is happening. There will be a sheet available for you to take with you that is a certificate of your attendance of that meeting for continuing competence. You will also note the change in "lingo" from CEU to CCU. The modernized terminology is in keeping in step with continuing competence around the country. You will also start to see a shift in terminology from the current terminology of 1.5 CEUs required yearly to 15 CCUs required yearly as is going to be requested in our NACs as they are updated, which both reflect 15 hours or equivalent of education or activity.