



**NC Board of PT Examiners Report at the NCPTA Business Meeting
Marriott Greensboro Downtown, Greensboro, NC
October 31, 2009**

By Ben F. Massey, Jr., PT, MA, Executive Director

1. **Purpose of the Board:** Reminder, the purpose of the Board is to regulate the practice of physical therapy in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of North Carolina. The next meeting of NC Board of PT Examiners is scheduled for Thursday, December 10, 2009.
2. **Appointments to the Board:**
The 2010 Ballots for appointment of one (1) physical therapist and one (1) physical therapist assistant were mailed in early August with a return deadline of September 11, 2009. The ballots were counted at the NCPTA Headquarters on September 17, 2009 and the candidates for appointment were forwarded to Governor Beverly Purdue on October 2, 2009.
3. **Continuing Competence:** (*Background: In response to the passage of the continuing competence legislation by the North Carolina General Assembly in July, 2006, the Board developed proposed rules which were approved by the NC Rules Review Commission on November 20, 2008 for implementation on January 1, 2009.*)

A special edition of the Newsletter, which was dedicated to Continuing Competence, was mailed to all current licensees in July, 2009. Kathy Arney, Continuing Competence Consultant, has responded to more than 1,000 telephone calls and emails from licensees requesting clarification regarding the rules. To date, the Board has approved 32 courses for continuing competence, which are posted on the Board's web page.

Continuing competence reporting for licensure renewal: Licensees who were licensed prior to January 1, 2009, will be required to complete a Continuing Competence Interim Reporting Form. The Board has developed a web-based form that licensees can access online. A paper version of the form is also available.

Information regarding continuing competence can be located at the Board's web page (www.ncptboard.org).

4. **Online Renewal:** At the March, 2009 meeting of the NCBPTE, the Board passed a motion, "...to adopt an initiative that will strongly encourage licensees to renew using the online process. In 2010, in lieu of mailing standard renewal forms, staff will mail post cards with directions for the online renewal process. Licensees will still be allowed to request the standard renewal forms." To implement this initiative the following actions will be taken:
1) Postcards will be mailed on November 3, 2009 informing licensees that the renewal period will be open online from November 3, 2009 until January 31, 2010 at 12:00 a.m. (midnight) and that online renewals will require a major credit card. 3) Licensees not wanting to renew online or use a credit card will be given the option to go to the Board's website and download a personalized renewal form that can be mailed in with a check. 3) Licensees may mail or fax a written request for paper renewal to the Board. (*The Board **strongly** recommends that licensees requesting a paper renewal do so by December 31, 2009 to ensure that it will be processed and returned via US Postal Service Mail by mid January.*)

5. **Foreign Educated Physical Therapists (FEPT's):** North Carolina averages approximately 70 FEPT applicants each year and this has been fairly steady over the past few years. The Board's rules require that FEPT applicants must have their education reviewed by one of four credentialing agencies accepted by the Board using the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy's (FSBPT) "**Coursework Evaluation Tool**" (CWT). The CWT compares the FEPT applicant's education to CAPTE criteria. Currently, there are five CWT's that accommodate changes in educational requirements over the past few years, with the most recent CWT effective date for applicants who graduated after June 30, 2009. The applicant's education (*for those who apply to North Carolina*) is compared to the date of his/her graduation.
6. **Exam Cheating:** The FSBPT takes cheating on the exam very seriously (*including memorizing and sharing of test questions*). On several occasions over the past few years, the Federation has prosecuted individuals who have been involved in cheating schemes. The FSBPT has developed and implemented a process to monitor for potential cheating.

7. **Update regarding Investigations and Disciplinary Actions:**

SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS FILED IN 2009 – YTD (Oct. 30, 2009)

YEAR-TO-DATE STATISTICS

| | |
|--|----|
| Total Cases Reported and Investigated: | 44 |
| Total advertising complaints: | 07 |
| Total "other" complaints: | 27 |
| Total failure to renew | 10 |

SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS THAT WERE RESOLVED THROUGH OCT 2009

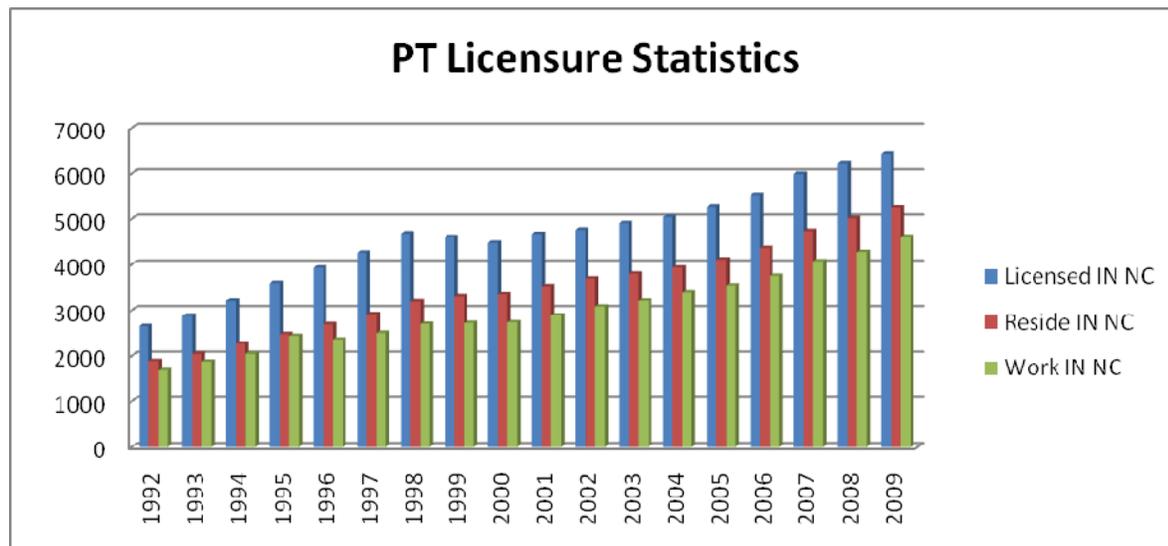
| | |
|---|---|
| Total Cases Dismissed: | 07 |
| Total Suspensions Issued: | 03 |
| Total Probations Issued: | 00 |
| Total Warnings Issued: | 02 |
| Total Surrender of Licenses: | 01 |
| Total Revoked | 01 |
| Total Reprimands Issued: | 00 |
| Total Renewals Denied | 00 |
| Total Letters of Caution written: | 13 (including 10 letters for failure to renew by deadline) |
| Total Letters sent regarding advertising: | 07 |
| Other: | 02 |
| Cases still pending: | 09 |

8. **Changes of Address:** As there is a rule that requires notification of the Board of address and name changes within **30 days**, as a friendly reminder, please keep the Board apprised of current home and work addresses, phone numbers, fax numbers, and email addresses. License renewals will be mailed the first of November.
9. **Questions and Answers:**

Physical Therapist Statistics – Fall 2009

October 2009

| DATE (March) | LICENSED IN NC | RESIDE IN NC | WORK IN NC |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|------------|
| 1992 | 2654 | 1890 | 1682 |
| 1993 | 2881 | 2046 | 1876 |
| 1994 | 3207 | 2269 | 2046 |
| 1995 | 3602 | 2482 | 2445 |
| 1996 | 3933 | 2693 | 2365 |
| 1997 | 4262 | 2916 | 2506 |
| 1998 | 4688 | 3193 | 2702 |
| 1999 | 4612 | 3301 | 2723 |
| 2000 | 4477 | 3343 | 2738 |
| 2001 | 4678 | 3533 | 2889 |
| 2002 | 4767 | 3699 | 3083 |
| 2003 | 4912 | 3802 | 3212 |
| 2004 | 5044 | 3935 | 3384 |
| 2005 | 5280 | 4113 | 3551 |
| 2006 | 5524 | 4365 | 3757 |
| 2007 | 5994 | 4741 | 4078 |
| 2008 | 6215 | 5014 | 4278 |
| 2009 | 6442 | 5265 | 4615 |



Physical Therapist Assistant Statistics – Fall 2009

October 2009

| DATE (March) | LICENSED IN NC | RESIDE IN NC | WORK IN NC |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|------------|
| 1992 | 942 | 786 | 713 |
| 1993 | 1107 | 931 | 864 |
| 1994 | 1251 | 1055 | 975 |
| 1995 | 1428 | 1179 | 1093 |
| 1996 | 1633 | 1342 | 1163 |
| 1997 | 1800 | 1490 | 1270 |
| 1998 | 1968 | 1627 | 1500 |
| 1999 | 2018 | 1711 | 1354 |
| 2000 | 2047 | 1770 | 1358 |
| 2001 | 2100 | 1830 | 1459 |
| 2002 | 2141 | 1880 | 1529 |
| 2003 | 2201 | 1951 | 1601 |
| 2004 | 2285 | 2016 | 1665 |
| 2005 | 2380 | 2090 | 1755 |
| 2006 | 2479 | 2184 | 1836 |
| 2007 | 2620 | 2288 | 1933 |
| 2008 | 2718 | 2399 | 2000 |
| 2009 | 2787 | 2480 | 2127 |

