



**NC Board of PT Examiners Report at the NCPTA Business Meeting
Sheraton Greensboro Hotel at Four Seasons/ Joseph S. Koury Convention Center
Greensboro, North Carolina
October 22, 2011
By Ben F. Massey, Jr., PT, MA, Executive Director**

1. **Purpose of the Board:** 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 8, 2011.

2. **Appointments to the Board:**

The 2012 Ballots for appointment of two (2) physical therapists and one (1) physical therapist assistant were mailed in late July, 2011. The ballots were counted at the NCPTA Headquarters on September 6, 2011 and the candidates for appointment were forwarded to Governor Beverly Purdue on September 27, 2011.

3. **Continuing Competence:** The first 2-year Continuing Competence Reporting Period ended on December 31, 2010. There were 9,509 licensees in the First Reporting Period and 8,750 renewed by the January 31, 2011 deadline (92.02%). The large majority of the licensees who failed to renew were out-of-state licensees or retirees.

Approximately 300 licensees who renewed failed to complete their continuing competence activities by the December 31, 2010 deadline; however, they did complete the requirements by January 31, 2011. As these licensees failed to complete the continuing competence by the December 31, 2010 deadline, the Board determined that it would issue these licensees an Advisory Letter and also audit their continuing competence activities for the First Reporting Period. Kathy Arney, PT, Continuing Competence Consultant has begun the process of conducting these audits. The first 109 audits have been performed. To date, the Board has issued 7 Warnings for failing to complete continuing competence by the December 31st deadline with 2 recommendations pending. Five licensees were sent Advisory Letters. The Investigative Committee will continue with its audit of the remaining 200+ licensees who failed to renew by the December 31st deadline.

4. **Online Renewal:** Licensees are required to renew their licenses **online**. Postcards will be mailed prior to November 1, 2011 informing licensees that the renewal period will be open online from November 1, 2011 until January 31, 2012 at 12:00 a.m. (midnight) and that online renewals will require a major credit card. Licensees not wanting to use a credit card will be given the option to renew online, but pay by check or money order. *(The Board **strongly** recommends that licensees renew online by January 15, 2012 to ensure that it will be processed.)*

5. **Fixed Date Testing for National Physical Therapy Exam (NPTE)**: In response to the FSBPT mandated change from open date to fixed date testing for licensure exams, at its meeting on September 8, 2011, the Board voted to amend the rule to allow applicants who were assured of completing all requirements for graduation to take the NPTE exam before they have actually graduated, as defined by the Board. (See definition below) This was done in an effort to minimize the delay that could occur between the completion of all requirements for graduation and graduation prior to a scheduled examination date.

21 NCAC 48A .0105 DEFINITIONS

The following definitions and the definitions in G.S. 90-270.24 will apply throughout Chapter 48:

- (4) "Graduated" or "graduation" means the completion of all requirements, including clinical experience, from an accredited program for physical therapists or physical therapist assistants. If an educational program certifies that the degree is assured and will be conferred at a later date, an applicant will be considered to have been graduated.

Action taken by the Board staff: Prior to filing the rule amendment, the advice of one of the Rules Review Commission's attorneys was sought with regard to the propriety of filing the amendment as a temporary or emergency rule. While the attorney did not feel the amendment was required to protect the public in an emergency situation, it was also his opinion that an amendment was not necessary to accomplish what the Board intended. Based on that opinion, the Board has revised its previous policy regarding eligibility to take the licensure examination.

Outcome: Applicants will now be allowed to sit for the examination before actual graduation, so long as the program certifies that graduation is assured. Therefore, the burden is shifted to the programs to advise the Board that the conferring of the degree is certain to occur. This change in policy is simply an accommodation triggered by a change in scheduling the examinations. It is not an invitation for applicants to sit for the examination well before completing all requirements for graduation, and it is important to emphasize that the actual license will not be conferred until a second certification is received from the program advising that the applicant has actually graduated. The Board hopes this change in policy will allow applicants to avoid significant delays before an examination can be scheduled.

The purpose of this change is to allow applicants who are just a few weeks from graduation, and whose completion of all requirements for graduation is assured, to sit for the exam. It is not intended for applicants who are in the midst of completing their requirements as the more time there is between the exam and graduation, the greater the opportunities for unanticipated events to prevent or delay completing the requirements for graduation.

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

SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS FILED IN 2011 – YTD (Oct. 17, 2011)

YEAR-TO-DATE STATISTICS

Total Cases Reported and Investigated:	67
Total advertising complaints:	08
Total “other” complaints:	35
Total failure to renew	10
Total cont comp complaints	18

SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS THAT WERE RESOLVED THROUGH OCT 17, 2011

Total Cases Dismissed:	14
Total Suspensions Issued:	01
Total Probations Issued:	00
Total Warnings Issued:	09
Total Surrender of Licenses:	00
Total Revoked	00
Total Renewals Denied	00
Total Advisory Letters written:	20 (including 09 letters for failure to renew by deadline)
Total Letters sent regarding advertising:	05
Other:	02
Cases still pending:	20

***** Three-hundred (300) Advisory Letters were sent to licensees who failed to complete their continuing competence requirements by the December 31, 2010 deadline.**

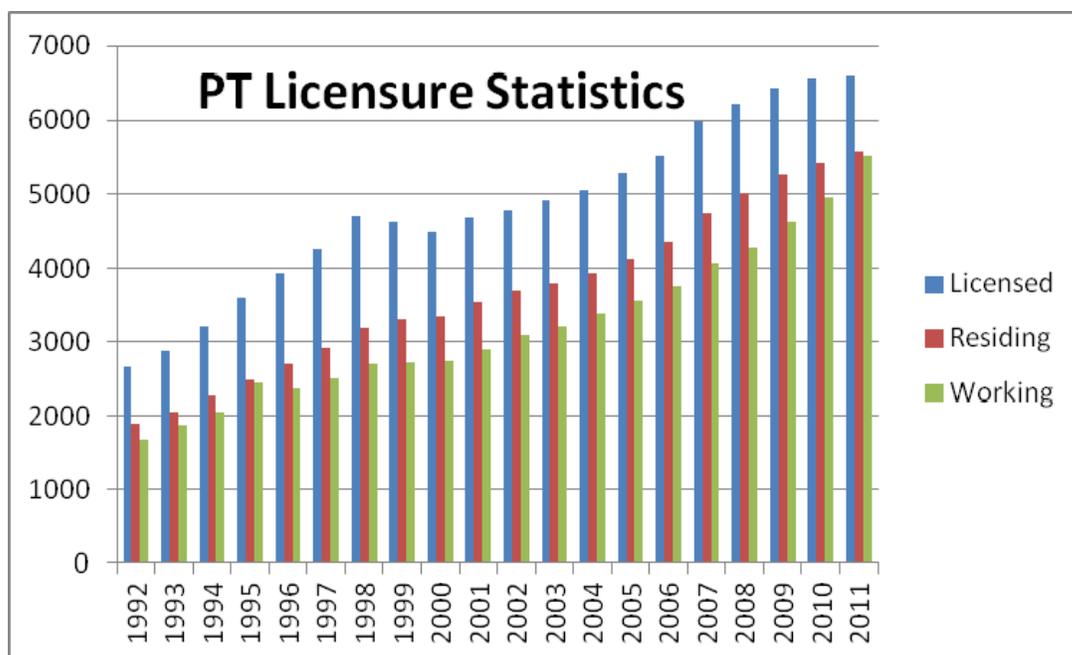
7. **Changes of Address:** As there is a rule that requires notification of the Board of address and name changes within **30 days**, as a friendly reminder, please keep the Board apprised of current home and work addresses, phone numbers, fax numbers, and email addresses. License renewals will be mailed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

8. **Questions and Answers:**

Physical Therapist Statistics – Fall 2011

October 2011

DATE (Oct)	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	4133	3551
2006	5524	4365	3757
2007	5994	4741	4078
2008	6215	5014	4278
2009	6442	5265	4615
2010	6574	5426	4953
2011	6607	5567	5516



Physical Therapist Assistant Statistics – Fall 2011

October 2011

DATE (Oct)	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
2010	2836	2521	2237
2011	2869	2565	2317

