



**NC Board of PT Examiners Report at the NCPTA Business Meeting
Sheraton Hotel at Four Seasons
Greensboro, NC
October 11, 2014
By Kathy Arney, PT, Director of Professional Standards**

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 4, 2014.

2. **Appointments to the Board:**

The 2015 Ballots for appointments of two (2) physical therapists and one (1) physical therapist assistant were mailed in late July, 2014. On September 9, 2014, the ballots were counted at the NCPTA Headquarters and the candidates for appointment were forwarded to Governor Patrick McCrory on September 24, 2013 by C. David Edwards, DPT, NCPTA President. In addition to the aforementioned appointments, there is still an outstanding appointment (Public Member) for 2014.

The Board would like to thank Patricia S. Hodson, PT, DPT for her service to the Board from 1999-2004 and 2009-2014, and also for serving as Board Chair in 2003, 2004, 2012, 2013, and 2014. The Board would also like to thank Angela Diaz, PT, for her 3 years of service as a Board Member. A special thanks to Gloria Lewis, Public Member, who served on the Board from 1996 – 2002 and from 2008 – present. Ms. Lewis has earned the distinction of being the longest serving member to ever sit on the Board.

3. **Online Renewal:** Licensees are required to renew their licenses **online**. Postcards will be mailed prior to November 1, 2014 informing licensees that the renewal period will be open online from November 1, 2014 until January 31, 2015 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, 2015 to ensure that it will be processed.)*
4. **Proposed Rules:** The Board has proposed 20 rule changes that are scheduled to be considered by the North Carolina Rules Review Commission on January 15, 2015. These proposed rules were posted on the Board's website on July 8, 2014, email notification was sent to all licensees, and notice was placed in the **NC Register**. As required by the Office of Administrative Hearings, there was a specified period of time (July 15 – September 13, 2014) for the Board to accept Written Comments from the public. The Board received 23 comments with the large majority in favor of the proposed rules related to dry needling. The Board held a Public Hearing on September 11, 2014. Two members of the public were present with one individual speaking in favor of the proposed dry needling rules.

5. **NC Legislation – HB 74:** On August 23, 2013, the following legislation (*excerpt below*) was signed into law by Governor McCrory. This legislation could potentially have a **huge** impact on the organization, structure, and function of occupational licensure boards in North Carolina. In December, 2014, the Program Evaluation Division (PED) will present a report to the Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee with recommendations to be considered by State Legislators. The Board plans to share information from the PED Report with licensees via a blastcast email. Licensees may learn about the PED and read the Report when it is posted at the following link: <http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/PED/index.html>.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2013 SESSION LAW 2013-413
HOUSE BILL 74**

H74-v-3

AN ACT TO IMPROVE AND STREAMLINE THE REGULATORY PROCESS IN ORDER TO STIMULATE JOB CREATION, TO ELIMINATE UNNECESSARY REGULATION, TO MAKE VARIOUS OTHER STATUTORY CHANGES, AND TO AMEND CERTAIN ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES LAWS.

STUDY OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING BOARD AGENCY

SECTION 10.(a) The Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee shall include in the 2013-2014 Work Plan for the Program Evaluation Division of the General Assembly a study to evaluate the structure, organization, and operation of the various independent occupational licensing boards. For purposes of this act, the term "occupational licensing board" has the same meaning as defined in G.S. 93B-1. The Program Evaluation Division shall include the following within this study:

- (1) Consideration of the feasibility of establishing a single State agency to oversee the administration of all or some of the occupational licensing boards.
- (2) Whether greater efficiency and cost-effectiveness can be realized by combining the administrative functions of the boards while allowing the boards to continue performing the regulatory functions.
- (3) Whether the total number of boards should be reduced by combining and/or eliminating some boards.

SECTION 10.(b) The Program Evaluation Division shall submit its findings and recommendations from Section 10(a) of this act to the Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee and the Joint Legislative Administrative Procedure Oversight Committee at a date to be determined by the Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee.

6. **Newsletter:** The Newsletter will be posted on the Board's website in early November, 2014. The Newsletter will include an article by John M. Silverstein, Board Attorney, regarding the aforementioned legislation (HB 74).

7. Continuing Competence:

I. 2015 Renewals and Continuing Competence:

- a. Information about Continuing Competence and License renewal is updated on the Board website, Continuing Competence links.
 - 1. Reporting period January 1, 2013 - January 31, 2015 is closing at the end of renewals; licensees assigned to this reporting period must have continuing competence reports and Jurisprudence Exercises complete prior to renewing their licenses for 2015.
 - 2. Over 8000 licensees are assigned to the 2013-2015 reporting period and it is recommended that completion of a Jurisprudence Exercise and reporting of continuing competence be completed by January 15, to avoid any unnecessary delays for license renewal.
- b. Licensees may report continuing competence activities at anytime. If reporting is complete at the time of renewal, the online renewal process will be more efficient.
- c. Documentation should be kept for 4 years after the reporting period for which an activity is reported. Well organized documentation allows licensees to promptly and completely respond to audit requests from the Board.

II. Continuing Competence Rules changes: Proposed changes to continuing

competence rules (proposed effective date February 1, 2015) are posted on the website for review. Important changes include:

- a. **Continuing Competence Activities:** Completion of continuing education - study group activities may also be completed in a live, real-time electronic media format.
- b. **Evidence of Compliance :** Licensees may now be notified by electronic communication or US Postal Service of continuing competence deficiencies.
- c. **Other Edits:** In Section 21 NCAC 48G .0100, Licensure Renewal, has grammatical edits, wording and continuing competence documentation clarifications throughout the section.

III. Audits: Audits of the 2012- 2014 reporting period are completed. As with prior reporting periods most licensees complete their activities and audits in a timely manner. Referrals to the Investigative Committee and resulting disciplinary actions are due primarily to failure to complete the audit, complete the mandatory Jurisprudence Exercise during the reporting period or respond to the Board’s requests for information in a timely manner. Licensees failing to keep all contact information updated place themselves at risk of disciplinary action. Updates to contact information can be made on the Board website, www.ncptboard.org under the “Online Services” link, “Licensee Change of Address”.

IV. Director of Professional Standards:

On July 1, 2014 the Executive Director hired Kathy O. Arney, PT, MA as Director of Professional Standards for the Board. Responsibilities include all aspects of the continuing competence requirements for license renewal and revival, continuing competence audits, reporting tools in conjunction with the IT Director, continuing competence website updates and appointment as Rulemaking Coordinator for the North Carolina Board of Physical Therapy Examiners.

Update regarding Investigations and Disciplinary Actions:

SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS FILED IN 2014 – YTD (Oct. 1, 2014)

YEAR-TO-DATE STATISTICS

Total Cases Reported and Investigated:	47
Total advertising complaints:	05
Total “other” complaints:	24
Total failure to renew	01
Total cont comp complaints	17

SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS THAT WERE RESOLVED THROUGH OCT 3, 2014

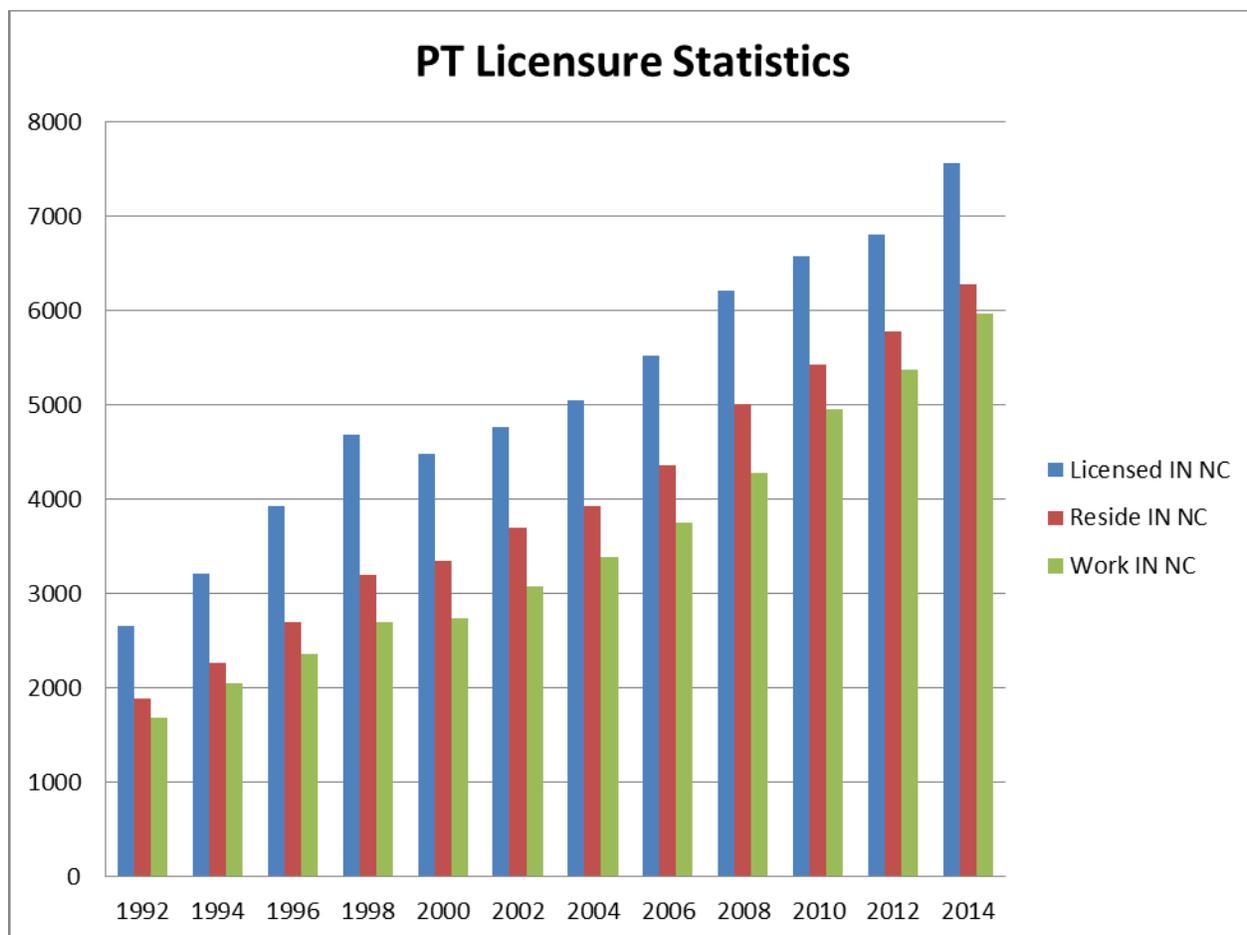
Total Cases Dismissed:	07
Total Suspensions Issued:	01
Total Probations Issued:	00
Total Warnings Issued:	03
Total Surrender of Licenses:	00
Total Revoked	00
Total Renewals Denied	00
Total Advisory Letters written:	10 (including 1 letter for failure to renew by deadline)
Total Letters sent regarding advertising:	05
Completed audit, no action required	03
Other:	01
Cases still pending:	17

8. **Changes of Address:** As there is a rule that requires notification to the Board of address and name changes within **30 days**, 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 2014

October 2014

DATE (Oct)	LICENSED IN NC	RESIDE IN NC	WORK IN NC
1992	2654	1890	1682
1994	3207	2269	2046
1996	3933	2693	2365
1998	4688	3193	2702
2000	4477	3343	2738
2002	4767	3699	3083
2004	5044	3935	3384
2006	5524	4365	3757
2008	6215	5014	4278
2010	6574	5426	4953
2012	6807	5782	5371
2014	7461	6285	5974



Physical Therapist Assistant Statistics - Fall 2014

October 2014

DATE (Oct)	LICENSED IN NC	RESIDE IN NC	WORK IN NC
1992	942	786	713
1994	1251	1055	975
1996	1633	1342	1163
1998	1968	1627	1500
2000	2047	1770	1358
2002	2141	1880	1529
2004	2285	2016	1665
2006	2479	2184	1836
2008	2718	2399	2000
2010	2836	2521	2237
2012	3033	2695	2419
2014	3327	2959	2750

