



**NC Board of PT Examiners Report - NCPTA Business Meeting
Benton Convention Center
Winston-Salem, NC
October 13, 2017
By Kathy Arney, PT, MA, Executive Director**

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 Wednesday, December 13, 2017.

1. Appointments to the Board:

The 2018 Ballots for appointments of two (2) physical therapists and one (1) physical therapist assistant were mailed in late July, 2017. On September 20, 2017, the ballots were counted at the NCPTA Headquarters and the candidates for appointment were forwarded to Governor Roy Cooper on September 24, 2017, by the Board, at the request of J. Kyle Covington, PT, DPT, PhD, NCS, and NCPTA President and Nancy J. Garland, JD, Executive Director. These Board positions will be up for appointment by the Governor for terms beginning January 1, 2018.

The Board would like to thank Ms. JoDell F. King, PTA for her service to the Board from 1995 – 2000, 2006 - 2008, and 2015 – 2017. Ms. King also served the Board as member of the Finance and Audit Committee and Board Secretary-Treasurer in 1997 – 2000, 2007 – 2008 and 2016 – 2017. Her Board participation extended to representing North Carolina on the Education Committee of the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy for 3 years.

The Board would like to thank Ms. Angela B. Hunter, PT for her service to the Board in 1992 and from 2015 - 2017, in addition to service on both the Board's Investigative and Rules Committees from 2016 – 2017.

The Board would also like to thank Mr. Christopher F. Dunn, PT for his service to the Board from 2015 - 2017, and serving as a member of the both the Board's Rules and Finance and Audit Committees in 2016 and 2017.

Current Board members will continue to serve until appointments are made by the Governor.

Board Member	Position	Term Expires
David C. Reed, PT	Chair	2019
JoDell F. King, PTA	Secretary/Treasurer	2017
Christopher F. Dunn, PT	Member	2017
Angela B. Hunter, PT	Member	2017
Stacia H. Britton, PT	Member	2018
Crystal D. Morris, PTA	Member	2018
Paul Garcia, MD	Medical Doctor	2019
Stuart W. MacRoberts	Public Member	2019

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2. **Online Renewal:** Licensees are required to renew their licenses online. Postcards will be mailed prior to November 1, 2017 informing licensees that the renewal period will be open online from November 1, 2017 until January 31, 2018 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, 2018 to ensure timely processing. The renewal cost is \$120.00.)*

3. **Continuing Competence – Fall 2017 Update**

Continuing Competence Audits: Audits for the January 1, 2015 - January 31, 2017 reporting period are complete, including PT and PTA licensees. As a result of auditing for this reporting period, no disciplinary action was issued

4. **Board's Rules**

The Rules Committee of the Board successfully submitted and obtained approval for a fee increase for license renewals of \$20.00 per year, raising the license renewal fee for all licensees to \$120.00 per year, the statutory limit allowed by the NC PT Practice Act. Public Comments were accepted and acknowledged. The Board's Rules Committee continues its work by submitting all Board's rules for Periodic Review as required by the legislature, which will be followed by readopting those rules and making necessary changes. Other changes to Rules will be considered in 2018 in response to new exam eligibility requirements and recent legislative changes (PT Compact and Military Applications) along with other topics posed by licensees and staff. Feedback to the Board is welcome regarding all rules and may be submitted at any time. Public Comment periods are listed on the Board's website and the public is welcome to join the listserv for notifications.

5. **Newsletter:** The Newsletter will be posted on the Board's website in early December, 2017. The Newsletter will include: Letter from the Chair – Just Culture – philosophy regarding discipline of licensed healthcare professionals, PT Licensure Compact and reflections from the first year by Executive Director, Kathy O. Arney, PT, and other information and articles including Legislative updates by John M. Silverstein, Board Attorney, Foreign-Educated Standards by Leslie Kesler, PT, former Board member and the evolving philosophy of continuing competence by Debbie Ragan, PT, Deputy Director.

6. **Status of NC Acupuncture Board Lawsuit:** In September 2015, the North Carolina Acupuncture Licensing Board filed a lawsuit against the North Carolina Board of Physical Therapy Examiners. The Physical Therapy Board has retained the law firm of Ellis & Winters LLP to defend the Board in this case. The case was assigned to the North Carolina Business Court.

In April 2016, Judge Louis Bledsoe III dismissed the Acupuncture Board's complaint based on principles of sovereign immunity and failure to exhaust administrative remedies.

The Acupuncture Board then sought a declaratory ruling from the Physical Therapy Board related to dry needling. The Physical Therapy Board issued a declaratory ruling on June 27, 2016.

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NC Acupuncture Board Files Lawsuit (cont.): The Acupuncture Board then filed a petition for review of the declaratory ruling in Wake County Superior Court. On August 2, 2017, Judge Bledsoe affirmed the declaratory ruling.

On August 25, 2017, the Acupuncture Board filed a notice of appeal of the August 2 ruling. The appeal will be taken to the North Carolina Supreme Court.

7. Legislative Updates

During the 2017 NC General Assembly Legislative Session NCBPTE worked in collaboration with NCPTA on proposing and passage of HB57: Physical Therapy Licensure Compact. This bill will be codified in the North Carolina General Statutes as part of the **NC PT Practice Act**. Significant efforts were made by the Chapter and Chapter Lobbyist Alex Miller to promote this regulatory legislation designed to increase access to physical therapy services to the public, improve licensure portability, enhance public protection and safety through enhanced interstate data exchange and support relocating military members and spouses. The bill was signed into law by Governor Roy Cooper on June 8, 2017.

a. Physical Therapy Licensure Compact

The PT Compact Commission is composed of 14 states that enacted the Compact legislation by the end of the 2017 legislative sessions. North Carolina is represented in the PT Compact Commission by a delegate appointed by the Board. Kathy O. Arney currently serves as both NC delegate and elected Vice-Chair of the Commission. The Commission is currently developing operational policy and procedure for issuing privileges to qualified applicants. The first full Commission meeting will be held on November 5, 2017 to adopt bylaws and rules that will govern the Commission. Privileges are expected to be issued no sooner than mid-2018. For additional information go to: ptcompact.org.

b. Military Members – Applications for Licensure

An amendment to HB57 was included prior to its passage entitled: Licensure for individuals with military training and experience; proficiency examination; licensure by endorsement for military spouses; temporary license. This facilitates licensure for military members, their spouses and qualified military trained individuals in addition to waiving licensure application fees. The Board already has an expedited process in place.

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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? Email karney@ncptboard.org**

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10. Update regarding Investigations and Disciplinary Actions:

SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS FILED IN 2017 – YTD (October 1, 2017)

YEAR-TO-DATE STATISTICS

Total Cases Reported and Investigated:	24
Total advertising complaints:	03
Total “other” complaints:	18
Total failure to renew	03
Total cont comp complaints	00

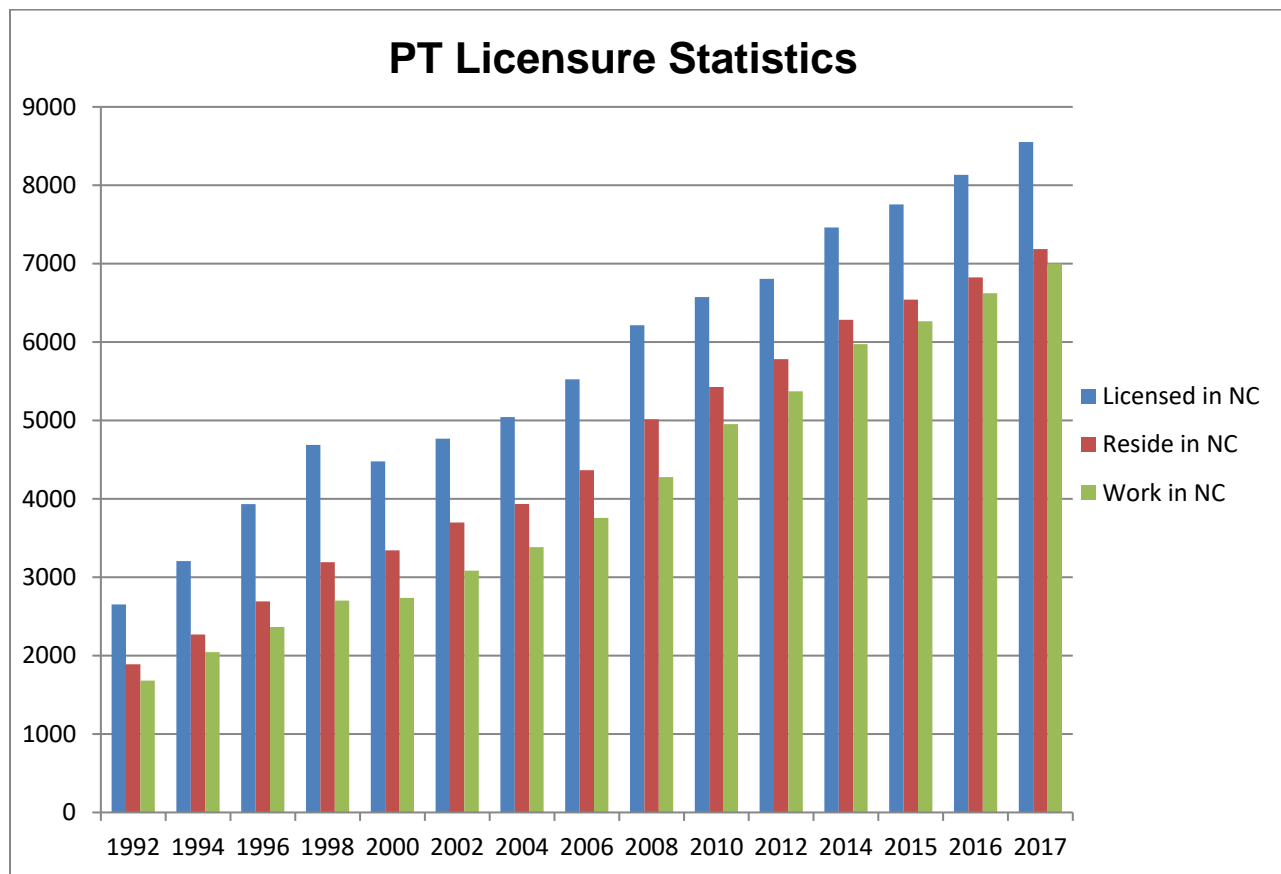
SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS THAT WERE RESOLVED THROUGH Sept. 30, 2017

Total Cases Dismissed:	11
Total Suspensions Issued:	00
Total Probations Issued:	00
Total Warnings Issued:	01
Total Surrender of Licenses:	00
Total Revoked	00
Total Renewals Denied	00
Total Advisory Letters written:	04 (including 3 letters for failure to renew by deadline)
Total Letters sent regarding advertising:	00
Completed audit, no action required	00
Other: including invalid complaints-no name	00
Cases still pending:	08

Physical Therapist Statistics - Fall 2017

October 2017

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
2015	7755	6542	6266
2016	8134	6826	6623
2017	8551	7187	7003



Physical Therapist Assistant Statistics - Fall 2017

October 2017

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
2015	3511	3106	2898
2016	3674	3269	3103
2017	3856	3412	3271

