

STATE OF LOUISIANA
LOUISIANA PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF

GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS, P.T.

LICENSE NO. 04772F

NUMBER: 2019-I-002 and 2020-I-006

**FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW
AND BOARD ORDER**

On September 24, 2020, the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board (“LPTB”) held an administrative hearing at its office in Lafayette, Louisiana, pursuant to written notice, regarding complaint numbers 2019-I-002 and 2020-I-006 against Gretchen Duplantis (“Ms. Duplantis”).

I. APPEARANCES

The following Board Members of the LPTB were present at the administrative hearing: Judith Halverson, PT, DPT, MHA, Kathryn Brittain, PT, DPT, MBA, Meredith Warner, M.D., MBA (by Zoom), Philip Page, Ph.D., PT, ATC, CSCS, FACSM, John Marius, PTA, Oday Lavergene, Jr., PT, and Tyra Mitchell, PT, DPT, MHA, CLT, CEAS.

Also present were Celia Cangelosi, prosecuting attorney for the LPTB, Michael Fiser, counsel for Ms. Duplantis, Ms. Duplantis, Bobby Odinet, hearing officer, and James Raines, general counsel to the LPTB.

At the hearing, the LPTB called Charlotte Martin, Executive Director of the LPTB to testify. Ms. Duplantis testified on her own behalf and also called Heather Duplantis to testify.

II. JURISDICTION

Jurisdiction for this hearing is vested in the LPTB pursuant to La. R.S. 37:2405 and La. R.S. 37:2420.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT

The hearing was held pursuant to an Amended Administrative Complaint filed by the LPTB.

IV. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. By mailing of August 6, 2020, GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS, P.T., 18306 Fountain Hill Blvd., Prairieville, LA 70769, was mailed by certified mail and regular mail:
 - a. Notice of Hearing in Complaint Nos. 2019-I-002 and 2020-I-006, to be heard before the Board on September 24, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.; and
 - b. Administrative Complaint in Complaint Nos. 2019-I-002 and 2020-I-006.¹
2. As depicted in Exhibit "Board 1", the certified mailing was received by GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS, and by her attorney, Michael Fiser.
3. On or about September 22, 2020, the Notice of Hearing and Administrative Complaint were both amended to correct deletions of bottom lines of text of certain pages of the original Administrative Complaint caused by copying errors.²
4. GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS accepted service of the Amended Notice of Hearing and Amended Administrative Complaint and agreed that the hearing on the Amended Administrative Complaint would be heard on September 24, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.³
5. Respondent, GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS, was licensed by the Board as a physical therapist in the State of Louisiana, on or about March 28, 2001, pursuant to the Louisiana

¹ A copy of the Notice of Hearing and Administrative Complaint were entered into evidence as "Board 1".

² A copy of the Amended Notice of Hearing and Amended Administrative Complaint were entered into evidence as "Board 2".

³ A Waiver of Service and Acceptance of Service of Amended Notice of Hearing and Amended Administrative Complaint dated September 22, 2020 was entered into evidence as "Board 3".

Physical Therapy Act, La. R.S. 37:2401-2424 et seq., as evidenced by Louisiana Physical Therapist License No. 04772F.

6. By Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and Board Order in Administrative Complaint No. 2014-I-004, signed April 29, 2016, GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS was found to have violated La. R.S. 37:2420(A)(7), as defined by Board Rule §345(B)(1) and 345(B)(10); Board Rule §373(A)(8) and (A)(11); Board Rules §341 and §345(B)(3); and La. R.S. 37:2420(A)(5), as defined by Board Rules §351(A)(2) and §345.⁴

7. In its Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and Board Order in Administrative Complaint No. 2014-I-004, the violations were found to have arisen out of but were not limited to, the following conduct by GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS:

- a. Repeatedly billing for physical therapy services GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS did not provide, including:
 - (1) Billed Medicare for physical therapy services that were not provided to patient M.R.G. on 30 dates in 2013;
 - (2) Fraudulently billed patient B.R. and/or B.R.'s insurance for physical therapy services that were not provided on 22 dates in 2013; and
 - (3) Fraudulently billed patient C.R.'s insurance company for physical therapy services that were not provided on 48 dates in 2013; and
- b. GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS disclosed that she did not possess and could not produce the physical therapy records for the 36 patients who received physical therapy services;
- c. Physical Therapy Records produced by Ms. Duplantis were incomplete and below standard;
- d. GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS instructed physical therapy technicians to falsify physical therapy records by utilizing billing records, schedules, or dates provided by GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS to create patient records weeks after treatment. GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS instructed technicians to copy the last page in the physical therapy record for each date added to the physical therapy record;
- e. GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS was first treated for drug addiction, specifically opioid dependence, in 2002 at Palmetto Addiction Recovery Center. Following treatment, she successfully remained sober for nine years. Respondent relapsed on sedatives in 2011. She sought treatment at Sierra Tucson, located in Tucson, AZ, and remained sober for one year. In 2012, GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS began abusing Xanax,

⁴ A copy of the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in case No. 2014-I-004 was entered into evidence as "Board 3".

Oxycodone, and Adderall. From May 2, 2014 through July 15, 2014, GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS received intensive inpatient treatment at Palmetto Addiction Recovery Center (“PARC”).

- f. Ms. Duplantis treated numerous patients while under the influence of mood altering substances;
- g. During this time, GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS, the supervising physical therapist of record, failed to manage the care of her patients, failed to train and keep required documentation for the physical therapy technicians under her supervision, and frequently instructed physical therapy technicians to treat patients while she was not on the premises; and
- h. GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS failed to treat patients as is dictated by the physical therapy standard of care and failed to exercise sound professional judgment.

8. The April 26, 2016 Order in Administrative Complaint No. 2014-I-004, specifically found the following violations:

- a. By deliberately and repetitively billing patients and/or patient insurance companies for physical therapy services that were not provided, GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS violated Board Rule §373(A)(8) and Board Rule §373(A)(11). Furthermore, in billing fraudulently, Respondent engaged in unprofessional conduct as specified in La. R.S. 37:2420(A)(7), defined by Board Rule §345(B)(1) as failing to conform to the minimal standards of acceptable and prevailing physical therapy practice in Louisiana or the Code of Ethics and related documents of the APTA, including the commission of acts contrary to honesty, justice and good morals; and as further defined by Board Rule §345(B)(10) by "making or participating in any communication [...] which is false, fraudulent, deceptive, misleading or unfair in violation of Board rules or which contain false, fraudulent, deceptive, misleading or unfair statement or claim..."
- b. GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS violated Board Rule §341 and Board Rule §345(B)(3) in failing to possess numerous patient physical therapy records and by failing to maintain physical therapy records in accordance with the required documentation standards.
- c. In abusing and illegally using prescription medications, GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS violated La. R.S. 37:2420(A)(5), “been habitually intemperate”, as further defined by Board Rule §351(A)(2), “the ingestion, self administration, or other use of legally controlled substances or medications which affect the central nervous system, other than pursuant to and used in accordance with a lawful prescription and/or medical advice.”
- d. GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS intentionally falsified her 2002 renewal application providing false information in violation of Board Rule §345(B)(1), acts “contrary to honesty” and unprofessional. When engaging in this act GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS “depart[ed] from, [and] fail[ed] to conform to, the Minimal Standards of Acceptable and Prevailing Physical Therapy Practice in the State of Louisiana” and the APTA Code of Ethics. Furthermore, in falsifying multiple license renewal applications, GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS obtained a license by fraud or misrepresentation in violation of La. R.S. 37:2420(A)(4).

- e. By treating patients under the influence of drugs or other controlled substances, GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS violated Board Rule §373(A)(2)(a), which prohibits the practice of physical therapy while under the influence of a mood-altering substance.
 - f. In repeatedly allowing physical therapy technicians to treat patients without on-premises supervision, GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS violated Board Rule §373(A)(5) prohibiting delegation of “physical therapy functions or responsibilities to an individual lacking the license[,] ability or knowledge to perform the function or responsibility involved,” Board Rule §345(B)(2)(a) and Board Rule § 345(B)(2)(b) relating to improper delegation and supervision, and Board Rule §335(A)(1) requiring “in-person supervision of the physical therapy technician.” By allowing physical therapy technicians to treat patients without oversight and supervision, GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS violated La. R.S. 37:2418(A), which establishes a physical therapist is responsible for managing all aspects of a physical therapy patient’s care, further defined by Board Rule §303(B).
 - g. In failing to maintain physical therapy technician files with documentation of education or in-service training completed by the physical therapy technician, GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS violated Board Rule §335(A).
 - h. In fraudulently billing patients, failing to maintain lawful physical therapy records, instructing technicians to falsify physical therapy records, treating patients under the influence of mood altering substances, intentionally providing false and misleading information on four license renewal applications, failing to train and supervise physical therapy technicians, failing to treat patients as is dictated by the physical therapy standard of care, and failure to exercise sound professional judgment, Respondent violated La. R.S. 37:2420(A)(1), “practiced physical therapy in violation of the provisions of this Chapter, the rules of the board, or standards of practice.”
 - i. In intentionally providing the Investigative Committee with false and misleading information at the Informal Conference, GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS violated Board Rule §383(A)(2), failure to cooperate with the Board by attempting to influence with falsehoods.
9. In the 2016 Board Order in Administrative Complaint No. 2014-I-004, the following sanctions were imposed:
- a. GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS’ license as a Physical Therapist was suspended for a period of three years, beginning on March 10, 2014. For the entirety of the suspension period, Respondent shall not participate in any physical therapy patient care services.
 - b. Following the three year suspension of license, which ended on March, 2017, GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS’ physical therapy license was placed on probation for a period of five years, beginning March 30, 2017, the date of the Board’s reinstatement of GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS’ PT license.
 - c. The probationary period is extended for any period of time in which the GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS is not employed as a Physical Therapist within the State of Louisiana and regularly working at least twenty (20) hours each week as such.
 - d. During the three year suspension of license and the following probationary period, GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS shall abstain from the use and ingestion by any means of

- any controlled dangerous substance as defined by Louisiana and federal laws, including, but not limited to alcohol, all as more fully set forth in the 2016 Order.
- e. During the probationary period, GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS shall participate in the Recovering Physical Therapy Program (RPTP), all as more fully set forth in the 2016 Order.
 - f. GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS shall regularly attend meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous and/or Narcotics Anonymous, all as more fully set forth in the 2016 Order.
 - g. GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS shall meet with the Board, or with the Board's representative, whenever requested during the probationary period, and shall fully cooperate in providing information and documents requested in such meeting.
 - h. During the three year suspension of license and the following probationary period, GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS shall promptly comply, as directed, with Board requests for random drug tests, all as set forth in the 2016 Order.
 - i. During the probationary period, GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS shall provide a copy of the Board's Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law to her employer(s) and immediate supervisor(s) before providing services to that employer and shall have the employer(s) notify the Executive Director in writing that she has received and reviewed a copy of the Board's Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law; GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS shall do this also with any new or subsequent employer(s) during the probationary period.
 - j. During the probationary period, GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS shall not seek or accept work in a setting that has not been approved in advance by the Executive Director and shall notify the Executive Director in writing of all employment and/or contractual service arrangements which she has to work as a Physical Therapist and shall update the Executive Director in writing within five days of any and all changes in such arrangements.
 - k. During the probationary period, GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS shall fully cooperate with the Board representatives making random unannounced monitoring visits to her work sites and shall provide complete access to patient treatment records, and all other documentation, and shall reimburse the Board \$150 for each such monitoring visit.
 - l. During the probationary period, Respondent's practice of physical therapy must be under continuous supervision as defined by Board Rule §123.
 - m. GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS shall, during each year of probation, complete traditional, on-site continuing education courses in Professional Ethics (4 hours), Documentation course related to Fraud (2 hours) and Live Jurisprudence (2 hours) in addition to the 30 hours of Board-approved continuing education courses or activities required in the biannual renewal period under Rule §194. The above specified courses shall be approved in writing by the Executive Director. GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS shall provide documentation of course completion to the Executive Director within five (5) days of receipt of such documentation.
 - n. GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS shall be responsible for all costs associated with the administrative hearing and investigation expenses.

10. The costs due the Board by GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS as a result of Complaint No. 2014-I-004 were \$29,450.00. The entire costs have not been paid. The balance of \$21,800.00 remains due.

11. On or about January 27, 2015, in Criminal Action No. 15-9-JJB-SCR, in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana, in the matter of “United States of America v. Gretchen Duplantis”, GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS was charged with two counts of health care fraud.⁵

12. On August 16, 2018, GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS pled guilty to two felony counts of health care fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. 1347 in the matter of *U.S. v. Gretchen Duplantis*, Criminal Docket No. 15-00009, United States District Court, Middle District of Louisiana.⁶ The guilty plea has been assigned Complaint No. 2019-I-002.

13. The guilty plea resulted from a Plea Agreement signed by GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS on November 26, 2014.⁷

14. According to the Plea Agreement, the guilty plea was based on the following factual basis:

Throughout the relevant period, Spine and Body, LLC (“Spine and Body”) was a physical therapy clinic located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and, as of 2011, was registered as a Louisiana Limited Company. Specifically, Spine and Body purportedly offered one-on-one treatment to individual patients consisting of manual therapy designed to develop strength and endurance, range of motion, flexibility, balance, coordination, kinesthetic sense, and posture and proprioception for sitting and standing activities. GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS, a resident of Prairieville, Louisiana, was the owner, operator, and managing employee of Spine and Body, and was the sole physical therapist in its employ.

Beginning in or around March 2012 and continuing through in or around March 2014, DUPLANTIS, through Spine and Body, submitted fraudulent claims to Medicare and

⁵ A copy of the Bill of Information for Health Care Fraud and Forfeiture Allegation was introduced into evidence as Exhibit “Board 4”.

⁶ A copy of the Judgment in a Criminal Case was introduced into Evidence as Exhibit “Board 5”. The docket sheet from the federal suit indicated the guilty plea, which was introduced as Exhibit “Board 12”.

⁷ A copy of the Plea Agreement was introduced into Evidence as Exhibit “Board 6”.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana (BCBSLA) for physical therapy treatments she purportedly provided to individuals at the clinic. Specifically, DUPLANTIS (1) billed Medicare and BCBSLA for therapy sessions purportedly performed on current patients where the patients received no such treatment; (2) billed BCBSLA for therapy sessions purportedly performed on employees of Spine and Body who received no such therapy; and (3) failed to personally provide one-on-one therapy to patients as billed to Medicare and BCBSLA, instead directing unlicensed employees to provide the physical therapy treatments to patients.

For instance, on or about May 23, 2013, DUPLANTIS submitted claim number ending in 9800 to Medicare, totaling approximately \$770, purporting to have provided numerous physical therapy services to patient M.G., when in fact services had not been provided as billed. Similarly, on November 22, 2013, DUPLANTIS submitted claim number ending in 2400 to BCBSLA, totaling approximately \$675, purporting to have provided numerous physical therapy services to patient T.P., when in fact no such services had been provided.

Moreover, in order to support the fraudulent claims submitted to Medicare and BCBSLA, DUPLANTIS instructed Spine and Body employees to create false treatment notes for the alleged therapy sessions by duplicating existing treatment notes in the patients' files. From March 2012 and continuing through March 2014, DUPLANTIS, through Spine and Body, submitted approximately \$1,666,918 in claims to Medicare and BCBSLA and was paid \$471,629.36 based on such claims. During this time period, no less than \$200,000 in claims submitted to Medicare and BCBSLA was fraudulent.

15. As a result of the Plea Agreement, the Department of Justice agreed to bring no additional criminal charges related to the violations contained in the Bill of Information.⁸

16. The sentence imposed by the federal court for the criminal convictions was imprisonment for a total term of nine (9) months on Counts 1 and 2, to run concurrently; with supervised release for two (2) years on Counts 1 and 2, to run concurrently; in addition to assessment in the amount of \$200.00 and restitution in the amount of \$73,301.75.⁹

17. GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS was incarcerated from January 14, 2019 to October 11, 2019. GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS is under supervised release as a result of the federal criminal conviction for two (2) years following October 11, 2019.

⁸ Exhibit "Board 6", p. 1.

⁹ Exhibit "Board 5".

18. As shown in Exhibit “Board 3”, the facts underlying the guilty pleas and felony conviction for health care fraud in Complaint No. 2019-I-002 were, in a limited fashion, included as part of the factual allegations considered in the hearing before the LPTB, which resulted in the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in Administrative Complaint No. 2014-I-004, signed on April 26, 2016. However, the 2016 Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law only concerned fraudulent activity and related violations that occurred in 2013. In the Plea Agreement (“Board 6”), which the LPTB did not have at its hearing in 2016, Ms. Duplantis admitted to fraudulent billing and related crimes over a two year period, from March 2012 to March 2014. The 2016 Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law also concerned other professional violations and habitual intemperance.

19. The following violations against Ms. Duplantis were set forth in the Amended Administrative Complaint (“Board 2”) with respect to the guilty pleas (Complaint 2019-I-002):

- a. La. R.S. 37:2420(A)(4): Been convicted of a felony in the courts of any state, district, territory, or country. Conviction, as used in this Paragraph, shall include a plea or verdict of guilty, an admission or finding of guilt, or a plea of nolo contendere; and
- b. LAC 46:LIV §345B(7): conviction of any crime or entry of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to any criminal charge arising out of or related to the practice of physical therapy or which constitutes behavior which could put the person or property of patients at risk of harm from a treating licensee, or failing to notify the board of the same within seven days of conviction or entry of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere.

The above violations are separate and distinct offenses from those adjudicated by the LPTB that resulted in the April 2016 Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in Administrative Complaint No. 2014-1-004.

20. Due to her incarceration, GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS ceased employment as a physical therapist in Louisiana on January 11, 2019, and did not resume such employment until December 2, 2019, which employment ceased again on March 20, 2020. Therefore, GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS' probation as a physical therapist arising from Complaint No. 2014-I-004 currently has no discernable termination date.

21. By letter dated October 15, 2019, GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS was offered the opportunity to participate in an informal hearing conference scheduled for November 5, 2019, regarding the allegations addressed in Complaint No. 2019-I-002.¹⁰ By letter dated October 28, 2019, GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS was offered the opportunity to participate in an informal hearing conference on November 7, 2019.¹¹ GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS attended the informal conference on November 7, 2019, with her attorney, Michael Fiser.

22. By letter dated February 28, 2020, from the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General, Gretchen Duplantis was notified that she was to be excluded from participation in any capacity in Medicare, Medicaid, and all Federal Health care programs as defined in Section 1128B(f) of the Social Security Act, effective 20 days from February 28, 2020, as a result of Gretchen Duplantis' felony conviction in the United States District Court, Middle District of Louisiana.¹² A complaint related to said notice was initiated and assigned Complaint No. 2020-I-006.

¹⁰ Exhibit "Board 7".

¹¹ Exhibit "Board 8".

¹² Exhibit "Board 9".

23. The expulsion from all Federal health care programs addressed in Complaint No. 2020-I-006 is the result of the felony conviction that is the subject of Complaint No. 2019-I-002.

24. After serving her sentence of incarceration, GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS returned to employment as a physical therapist on December 2, 2019. That employment ceased on March 20, 2020, as a result of her exclusion from participation in federal healthcare programs under the Social Security Act.

25. By letter dated June 15, 2020, Gretchen Duplantis was given the opportunity to participate in an informal hearing conference scheduled for July 7, 2020, in Complaint No. 2020-I-006.¹³ Gretchen Duplantis attended the informal conference on July 7, 2020 with her attorney, Michael Fiser.

26. In Exhibit “Board 10”, GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS was notified that due to her expulsion from all federal health care programs, she may have violated the following statute:

La. R.S. 37:2420A(6): Had his license to practice physical therapy revoked or suspended, or had other disciplinary action taken against him, or had his application for a license refused, revoked, or suspended, by the authorities of another state, district, territory, or country.

27. GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS voluntarily underwent a one-day addictive disease evaluation at Palmetto Addictive Recovery Center (“PARC”) on February 19, 2020, which included a physical examination, an addiction medicine assessment, psychiatric evaluation, laboratory testing, and psychological testing and evaluation. Such evaluation reported that she is in remission of severe opioid dependence. The report references her six years of documented sobriety and current monitoring by both her federal parole officer and the LPTB, both of which do random urine drug screens, all of which have been negative. The urine drug screen, hair test

¹³ Exhibit “Board 10”.

and routine laboratory test completed during the one-day evaluation at Palmetto Addictive Recovery Center were unremarkable.¹⁴

28. The PARC multidisciplinary team stated in the report that they believe that GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS could continue to practice physical therapy with skill and safety at this time without further treatment for substance use disorders provided the following conditions are met:

- (a) Continue the current monitoring program with the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board with any violations of contract or positive drug screens to result in further inpatient evaluation; and
- (b) Continue participation in the program of Alcoholics Anonymous and sponsorship in that program, and attend a minimum of three AA meetings per week with regular contact with her sponsor.¹⁵

V. PROPOSED CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The activities of Respondent, GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS, noted above violate the following provisions of the Physical Therapy Practice Act and the rules and regulations adopted thereunder in the following particulars:

1. La. R.S. 37:2420(A)(4): Been convicted of a felony in the courts of any state, district, territory, or country. Conviction, as used in this Paragraph, shall include a plea or verdict of guilty, an admission or finding of guilt, or a plea of nolo contendere (Complaint No. 2019-I-002); and
2. LAC 46:LIV §345B(7): Conviction of any crime or entry of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to any criminal charge arising out of or related to the practice of physical therapy or which constitutes behavior which could put the person or property of patients at risk of harm from a treating licensee, or failing to notify the board of the same within seven days of conviction or entry of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere (Complaint No. 2019-I-002).

Such violations constitute sufficient cause for the revocation and/or suspension or other sanction of the physical therapist license of Respondent, GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS, as a physical therapist in the State of Louisiana.

¹⁴ The report from PARC was entered into evidence as Exhibit "Board 11".

¹⁵ Exhibit "Board 11".

VI. BOARD ORDER

After the presentation of evidence at the hearing on September 24, 2020, upon motion, the LPTB went into executive session in order to deliberate its ruling in this matter. After conducting deliberations, voted to come out of executive session and pursuant to motion, the LPTB affirmed, by a unanimous vote of those present at the hearing, the following Order:

IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that pursuant to the evidence presented related to Complaint 2019-I-002, the Louisiana Physical Therapist License issued to GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS (License No. 04772F) is suspended for one (1) year, after which suspension the physical therapist license of GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS shall remain on probation for the completion of the current probationary period ordered in Administrative Complaint No. 2014-I-004, as set forth in the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law signed on April 26, 2016, with the probation to be continued for an additional six (6) month period in addition to the probation period set forth in said Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law signed on April 26, 2016, and subject to the same terms and conditions set forth in the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law signed on April 26, 2016.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the above suspension shall be effective as of November 19, 2020, and shall not run concurrent with any other discipline.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that no further discipline will be rendered to GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS based upon the evidence presented relative to Complaint No. 2020-I-006.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS shall pay all costs for the investigation and proceeding in Complaint No. 2019-I-002, and the costs remaining due set forth in the Board Order in Complaint No. 2014-I-004.

Date: 11-20-2020


Judith Halverson, PT, DPT, MHA
Chairman