Jeff Landry
Governor

State of Louisiana
Department of Health and Hospitals

Charlotte F. Martin, M.P.A.
Executive Director

Louisiana Physical Therapy Board

AGENDA
Regular Board Meeting
September 23, 2026

Location:
214 Jefferson Street, Ste 102
Lafayette, LA 70501
Time: 9:00am

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Roll Call**
4. **Adoption of the Agenda**
5. **Public Comment**
6. **Approval of Minutes** - August 2026
7. **Executive Session**
   In accordance with La. R.S. 42:17(A)(1)(2)(4), the following matters may be discussed in executive session to address the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of a person; strategy sessions or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining, prospective litigation after formal written demand, or litigation when an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body; and investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct.
   - Motion to Enter Executive Session
   - Consent Order for 2026-I-023 Michael Fazende
   - Consent Order for 2026-I-025 Randall Russell
   - Voluntary Surrender for 2026-I-028 Phillip Thibodeaux
   - Pending Litigation: 15th Judicial District Court, Docket Number: C-20264336 I, Caitlyn Salter Stephens vs. Louisiana Physical Therapy Board.
8. **Reconvene in Open Session**
9. **Action on Items Discussed in Executive Session**
10. **Officer Reports**
    - Executive Director
11. **Unfinished Business**
    - Rules Revision: Review Proposed Changes §§103 – 123
    - Non-Renewal Analysis Report
12. **New Business**
    - Phones Update
    - Louisiana State AI Policy for Office Use
    - Licensee Inquiry: Guidance Regarding PTA Role in Middle School Injury Prevention and Sideline Support
13. **Adjourn**

Louisiana Physical Therapy Board

MINUTES
Regular Scheduled Board Meeting
September 23, 2026

APPROVED

Proceedings for the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board, taken in regular session on September 23, 2026 at 214 Jefferson Street, Lafayette, LA 70501. A quorum of Board Members was present, including Chairman Danny Lewy, Secretary/Treasurer Oday Lavergne, Claude Tremblay, Lee Rielly, Adam York, Michael Hildebrand, and Ben Gaines.

From staff, Charlotte Martin, Executive Director, Jessica Alwell, Assistant Executive Director, Stephanie Boudreaux, Compliance Officer, and Angela Green, Administrative Assistant were present. Board attorney Jim Raines was present. Members of the public present were Michael Fazende, Merritt Hebert, Jeremy Dye, Cristina Faucheux, Melanie Talley, and Amanda Brewer.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Lewy called the meeting to order at 9:00am.

ROLL CALL

Secretary/Treasurer Lavergne called Roll. A quorum of the board was present.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Chairman Lewy requested for any amendments to the agenda. As there were none, the agenda was adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No additional public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Lewy requested for any amendments to the August 2026 minutes. Secretary/Treasurer Lavergne moved to approved the minutes as presented. Lee Rielly seconded the motion. The Board voted and unanimously approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

In accordance with La. R.S. 42:17(A)(1)(4), the board may enter into executive session to address the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of a person; strategy sessions or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining, prospective litigation after formal written demand, or litigation when an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body; and investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct.

Secretary/Treasurer Lavergne moved to enter Executive Session. Lee Rielly seconded the motion. The Board voted and unanimously approved.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The Board returned from Executive Session. Chairman Lewy called the meeting back to order.

ACTION ON ITEMS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

Lee Rielly moved to approve the consent order for case 2026-I-023 licensee Michael Fazende. Claude Tremblay seconded the motion. The Board voted and unanimously approved.

Lee Rielly moved to approve the consent order for case 2026-I-025 licensee Randall Russell. Claude Tremblay seconded the motion. The Board voted and unanimously approved.

Lee Rielly moved to approve the voluntary surrender for case 2026-I-028 licensee Phillip Thibodeaux. Secretary/Treasurer Lavergne seconded the motion. The Board voted and unanimously approved.

OFFICER REPORTS

An Executive Director's reports were presented. They are included in the Minutes as an addendum.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Board reviewed the proposed changes to Rules §§103-123.

The Board reviewed a non-renewal analysis report.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board was given an update regarding issues related to the Board office's main phoneline which is provided by the State, including the plan to remediate the problem as well as the associated costs.

The Board reviewed the Louisiana State AI Policy for office use by Board staff.

Lee Rielly moved to adopt the Louisiana State AI Policy for office use. Secretary/Treasurer Lavergne seconded the motion. The Board voted and unanimously approved.

The Board reviewed an inquiry from a licensee regarding a PTA's role in middle school injury prevention and sideline support. The questions from the licensee and approved responses are as follows:

> *Pursuant to La R.S. 37:2407(A)(3)(2025), "Physical therapist assistant" includes equally physical therapist assistant, physiotherapist assistant, and P.T.A., and is a person who is a graduate of an accredited school of physical therapist assisting, which school, at the time of graduation, was approved by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education or the board. A physical therapist assistant assists in the practice of physical therapy in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter, and works under the supervision of a physical therapist by performing such patient-related activities assigned by a physical therapist which are commensurate with the physical therapist assistant's education, training, and experience.*
>
> **Can a PTA independently be present on the sidelines at athletic practices and competitions as an injury-prevention and rehabilitation support resource?**
>
> *No. Pursuant to La R.S. 37:2418(F)(1)(2025), a person licensed pursuant to this Chapter as a physical therapist assistant shall perform treatments only under the direction and supervision of a licensed*

physical therapist. The duties assigned to the physical therapist assistant shall be commensurate with the physical therapist assistant's education, training, and experience.

Can a PTA independently assist coaches and athletes with warm-ups, mobility, strengthening, balance, movement mechanics, and other injury-prevention activities?

No. Pursuant to La R.S. 37:2418(F)(1)(2025), a person licensed pursuant to this Chapter as a physical therapist assistant shall perform treatments only under the direction and supervision of a licensed physical therapist. The duties assigned to the physical therapist assistant shall be commensurate with the physical therapist assistant's education, training, and experience.

Can a PTA independently provide general education regarding injury prevention, recovery, and safe athletic participation?

No. Pursuant to La R.S. 37:2418(F)(1)(2025), a person licensed pursuant to this Chapter as a physical therapist assistant shall perform treatments only under the direction and supervision of a licensed physical therapist. The duties assigned to the physical therapist assistant shall be commensurate with the physical therapist assistant's education, training, and experience.

Can a PTA independently observe an athlete who reports pain or sustains an injury and communicate concerns to the coach, parent/guardian, school nurse, athletic trainer, or appropriate healthcare provider?

No. Pursuant to La R.S. 37:2418(F)(2)(d)(2025), a physical therapist assistant's duties shall not include interpretation or implementation of referrals or prescriptions, performance of evaluations, or the determination or major modification of treatment programs.

Can a PTA independently assist with following the school's established injury response procedures?

No. Pursuant to La R.S. 37:2418(F)(1)(2025), a person licensed pursuant to this Chapter as a physical therapist assistant shall perform treatments only under the direction and supervision of a licensed physical therapist. The duties assigned to the physical therapist assistant shall be commensurate with the physical therapist assistant's education, training, and experience.

Can a PTA independently coordinate communication between the school, family, and the athlete's healthcare providers?

No. Pursuant to La R.S. 37:2418(F)(1)(2025), a person licensed pursuant to this Chapter as a physical therapist assistant shall perform treatments only under the direction and supervision of a licensed physical therapist. The duties assigned to the physical therapist assistant shall be commensurate with the physical therapist assistant's education, training, and experience.

Can a PTA assist with rehabilitation exercises or other physical therapy interventions when the athlete has an established physical therapy plan of care and I am working under the direction and supervision of a licensed physical therapist?

Yes. Pursuant to La R.S. 37:2418(F)(1)(2025), a person licensed pursuant to this Chapter as a physical therapist assistant shall perform treatments only under the direction and supervision of a licensed physical therapist. The duties assigned to the physical therapist assistant shall be commensurate with the physical therapist assistant's education, training, and experience.

Can a PTA be physically present on the sideline without a supervising PT physically present, provided that the PTA is not independently evaluating, diagnosing, treating, or clearing athletes and is instead functioning within an injury-prevention, education, communication, and rehabilitation-support role?

No. Pursuant to La R.S. 37:2418(F)(1)(2025), a person licensed pursuant to this Chapter as a physical therapist assistant shall perform treatments only under the direction and supervision of a licensed physical therapist. The duties assigned to the physical therapist assistant shall be commensurate with the physical therapist assistant's education, training, and experience.

What level of PT direction and supervision would be required when the supervising PT is not physically present at the school or athletic event?

Pursuant to La R.S. 37:2418(F)(2)(b)(2025), a supervising physical therapist is responsible for and shall participate in the patient's care.

Pursuant to LAC 46:LIV.333(B)(2)(a)(2021), a supervising physical therapist shall perform an initial physical therapy evaluation and create the plan of care on each patient prior to delegation of treatment.

Pursuant to La R.S. 37:2418(F)(2)(c)(2025), a supervising physical therapist shall be readily accessible by telecommunication and available to the patient by the next scheduled treatment session upon request of the patient or physical therapist assistant.

Pursuant to La R.S. 37:2418(F)(2)(e)(2025), a supervising physical therapist shall treat and reassess the patient at least every twelfth treatment day or every thirty days, and for his final treatment session, when feasible.

Does holding a recognized sports medicine certification change or affect any aspect of what a PTA may perform in this setting, or whether all activities remain subject to the same PTA scope-of-practice requirements?

No. Pursuant to La R.S. 37:2418(F)(1)(2025), a person licensed pursuant to this Chapter as a physical therapist assistant shall perform treatments only under the direction and supervision of a licensed physical therapist. The duties assigned to the physical therapist assistant shall be commensurate with the physical therapist assistant's education, training, and experience.

Pursuant to LAC 46:LIV.333(B)(1)(2021), the level of responsibility assigned to a PTA is at the discretion of the supervising PT of record who is ultimately responsible for the care provided by this PTA.

ADJOURN

Secretary/Treasurer Lavergne moved to adjourn the meeting. Ben Gaines seconded the motion. The Board voted and unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45am.

Jeff Landry
Governor

State of Louisiana
Department of Health and Hospitals

Charlotte F. Martin, M.P.A.
Executive Director

Louisiana Physical Therapy Board

September 23, 2026

Executive Director's Report
Charlotte F. Martin, Executive Director

Complaint Summary – from 08/13/2026 – 09/15/2026

Currently Open (Licensees) 96
Violation Type

- Boundaries – 0
- Fraud/Billing/Documentation – 4
- Substance Abuse – 0
- Malpractice Claim – 2
- Arrest/Criminal Conviction – 15
- Previous Disciplinary Action – 0
- Practice Related Issues – 3
- Unprofessional Conduct – 72
  (70 related to same licensee)

Currently Open (Non-Licensees) – 0
Complaints Received - 1
Informal Conference Conducted – 1
Hearings Scheduled/Suspension Notices Sent – 1
Appeals – 1
Proposed Consent Orders Issued to Respondents – 3

Closed Cases – 7

- Letter of Concern – 0
- Consent Orders/Board Orders – 1
- Dismissed – 6
- CRPTP – 0

Total Open Investigations –
70 related to same licensee

RPTP Report
Enrolled in RPTP – 11 (2 CRPTP)
Pending enrollment – 0

Licensure Report

License Applications Approved from August 12, 2026 to September 17, 2026

Physical Therapist
Initial License – 5
Reciprocity Licenses – 4
Reinstatement Licenses – 3
Provisional Licenses – 4
Total PT's licensed – 16

Physical Therapist Assistant
Initial Licenses – 1
Reciprocity Licenses – 2
Reinstatement Licenses – 0
Provisional Licenses – 10
Total PTA's licensed – 13

Overall Total – 29

Compact Report

Compact Privileges Purchased from August 14, 2026 to September 17, 2026

Initial PT – 19
Initial PTA – 3
Total Initial – 22

Renewal PT – 7
Renewal PTA – 1
Total Renewal – 8

Overall Total – 30
