

Board of Physical Therapy Newsletter



Fall 2008

A Regulatory Agency of the State of Tennessee

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The mission of the Department of Health is to promote, protect, and improve the health of persons living in, working in, or visiting the state of Tennessee.

Tennessee Physical Therapy Board Address - 227 French Landing, Suite 300, Heritage Place MetroCenter, Nashville, TN 37243- Local (615) 532-5132 or Toll Free 1-800-778-4123 - Fax: (615) 253-8724 - Website - <http://www.tennessee.gov/health>
Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Central Time (except State and Federal holidays)



Elizabeth "Libby" Miller

**Health Related Boards
Director**

Elizabeth (Libby) Miller has been appointed as the new Director of Health Related Boards. Ms. Miller is a licensed attorney. As of January 1, 2008, she moved to the Department of Health from the Department of Revenue where she served as senior tax counsel. Prior thereto, she was a partner at Blackburn and McCune in downtown Nashville where she managed the firm's largest client and was responsible for a staff of attorneys.

Ms. Miller is not new to health related law, having spent a large portion of her career in the federal sector at the Office of Hearings and Appeals of the Social Security Administration where administrative appeals of disability cases are heard. She started her law career as a litigator, but she chose to make a change when her children were young. Her daughter is now preparing to enter law school, and her son is living in Munich, where she hopes to visit soon.

Board of Physical Therapy 2009 Board Meeting Schedule

February 13, 2009 – 9 a.m.

May 15, 2009 – 9 a.m.

August 21, 2009 – 9 a.m.

**Iris Conference Room
227 French Landing, Ground Floor**

Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota on September 11 through September 15, 2008.

The FSBPT is an organization through which member licensing authorities work together to promote and protect the health, welfare and safety of the American public. Boards of all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands are represented. The Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators and the Ordre des Physiotherapeutes du Quebec are affiliate members. The Tennessee Board of Physical Therapy was represented by Lisa

Fortner, a member of the Board, and by Marva Swann the Board's Director.

The vision of the Federation is to achieve a high level of public protection through a strong foundation of laws and regulatory standards in physical therapy, effective tools and systems to assess entry-level and continuing competence, and public and professional awareness of resources for public protection. Two particular areas of focus this year were the development of the Practice Review Tool (PRT) and an update of the current Coursework Tool (CWT) for foreign educated physical therapists.

The PRT is a new initiative created by the FSBPT to allow PTs to compare their knowledge, skills and abilities to current entry-level practice. It is also an opportunity to review PT fundamentals.

The CWT was developed to evaluate the credentials of foreign educated PTs to ensure that they meet the requirements of the jurisdiction for which they are seeking licensure. It reflects the educational program required of a physical therapist at the time of their graduation. With each significant change in the educational program over the years, a new Coursework Tool is developed to reflect that change. There are currently four Coursework Tools. The fifth will go into effect July 1, 2009. CWT 1 uses criteria of the educational program of a physical therapist who graduated prior to 1978 while the CWT 5 reflects the educational program of a physical therapist who graduated under 2006 criteria.

Visit the FSBPT Web site at www.fsbpt.org for more detailed information.

REGULATING THE PROFESSION

The Tennessee Department of Health is charged with the responsibility of regulating health care professionals to

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protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of this state.

Regulation is accomplished through 35 health related boards that set qualifications for the licensure and continued competency of each regulated health professional. Each board sets standards for professional practice and is responsible for the discipline of those health professionals found guilty of violations of laws and regulations.

These measures are accomplished by three offices in the Department of Health working in tandem. The offices are:

- **Division of Health Related Boards (HRB)** – This division provides administrative services for the boards.
- **Office of Investigations** – This office is responsible for investigating complaints against any licensee. Investigations are usually based on complaints received from the public.
- **Office of General Counsel (OGC)** – This office provides legal advice to the entire Department of Health. OGC represents the Department in administrative hearings.

ETHICS AND JURISPRUDENCE COURSES

You can view the Ethics and Jurisprudence courses that the Board has approved on the website at <http://health.state.tn.us/Boards/PT/continuing.htm>

Rule 1150-1-12 (4), Four (4) of the hours required in parts (3) (a) 1. must be ethics and jurisprudence education courses. These four (4) hours are required every other two (2) calendar year period, which means they are to be obtained every four (4) years.

CODE OF ETHICS

The Code of Ethics adopted by the Board of Physical Therapy can be viewed at:
<http://health.state.tn.us/Boards/PT/index.htm>

CHANGE OF NAME

Rule 1150-1-.17 (2) Change of Name. An individual registered with the Board shall notify the Board in writing within thirty (30) days of a name change. The notice shall provide both the old and new name, a notarized photocopy of the official document involved, and must reference the individual's profession and license number.

DUPLICATE (REPLACEMENT) LICENSE

Rule 1150-1-.16 (1) & (2) Duplicate Replacement License. A license holder whose "artistically designed" license and the renewal certificate has been lost or destroyed may be issued a new license or certificate upon receipt of a written request in the Board's administrative office. Such request shall be accompanied by an affidavit (signed and notarized) stating the facts concerning the loss or destruction of the original document, accompanied by a recent photograph, signed and notarized, and the required fee pursuant to Rule 1150-1-.06, twenty-five (\$25.00) fee for each.

Continuing Education Audit January 2008 thru July 2008

Physical Therapist

Licensees Audited – 45
Licensees Compliance – 38
Licensees Non Compliance – 7

Physical Therapy Assistants

Licensees Audited – 28
Licensees Compliance – 23
Licensees Non Compliance - 5

Statistical Licensure Status Report As of November 30, 2008

Physical Therapists

Active – 3965

Physical Therapy Assistants

Active – 2416

CHANGE OF MAILING & WORK ADDRESS

Rule 1150-1-.17(1) Change of Address. Each person holding a license who has had a change of address for home or place of employment, shall file in writing with the board the current address. Such requests shall be sent to the Board's administrative office no later than thirty (30) days after such change is effective and must reference the individual's name, profession, and license number. A form is available on the board's website at: <http://health.state.tn.us/Downloads/g6099194.pdf>

227 French Landing, Suite 300
Heritage Place, MetroCenter
Nashville, TN 37243



Tennessee Department of Health
Division of Health Related Boards
Attn: Board of Physical Therapy
227 French Landing, Suite 300
Heritage Place, MetroCenter
Nashville, TN 37243

Tennessee Board of Physical Therapy Board Members

J. Randy Walker
Signal Mtn, TN
Physical Therapist
Board Member

Michael L. Voight
Nashville, TN
Physical Therapist
Board Member

Lisa C. Fortner
McKenzie, TN
Physical Therapist Assistant
Board Member

Brigina T. Wilkerson
Knoxville, TN
Physical Therapist
Chair

Board Staff

Karen S. Robinson
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Madeline Snoodly
Licensing Tech

Marva Swann
Unit Director

