

Wisconsin Physical Therapy Examining Board 2023 Annual Report

- **Board Members in 2023:** Shari Berry, PT (Tomah); Barbara Carter, PTA (Black River Falls); John Greany, PT (La Crosse); Todd McEldowney, Public Member (Rhineland); Steve Johnson, PT (La Crosse); Brad Bulkow, PT (Milwaukee); and Kate Brewer, PT (Milwaukee).
- **Officers in 2023:** Shari Berry (Chair, until 5/2023), John Greany (Vice Chair until 5/2023; Chair, until 8/2023), Steve Johnson (Vice Chair until 8/2023; Chair, 8/2023), Kate Brewer (Vice Chair, 8/2023), and Barbara Carter (Secretary).
- **2023 Liaison Appointments:**
 - Credentialing – Barbara Carter, Brad Bulkow (Alternate – Kate Brewer)
 - Monitoring – Todd McEldowney, Steve Johnson (Alternate – NA)
 - Education and Exams – Steve Johnson, Barbara Carter (Alternate – Brad Bulkow)
 - Legislative – Steve Johnson (Alternate – Barbara Carter)
 - Travel – Barbara Carter (Alternate – Steve Johnson)
 - Administrative Rules – Steve Johnson (Alternate – Todd McEldowney)
 - Website – Barbara Carter, Brad Bulkow (Alternate – Todd McEldowney)
 - Professional Assistance Procedure – John Greany (Alternate – Todd McEldowney)
 - Screening Panel – Todd McEldowney, Steve Johnson (Alternate – Kate Brewer)
 - Licensure Compact – Barbara Carter (Alternate – Kate Brewer)
- **Physical Therapy Licensure Compact Implementation:**
 - The Department, in coordination with the PT Compact, actively worked to implement and update Compact related operational processes.
 - The Department sends licensure data at least weekly to the FSBPT's Exam, Licensure and Disciplinary Database (ELDD), an important informational database and tool for improving the cross-jurisdictional sharing of information.
 - The Department reports discipline to the ELDD via the Online Processing System (OPS).
- **Administrative Rules:**
 - The Board requested a Scope Statement to amend Wis. Admin. Code PT 1 and 5, relating to telehealth and supervision of physical therapist assistants.
- **Conferences, Trainings and Special Meetings:**
 - Steve Johnson attended the virtual Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) Regulatory Workshop on March 10-12, 2023.
 - Steve Johnson (delegate) and Tom Ryan (Executive Director) attended the 2023 FSBPT Leadership Issues Forum (LIF) – July 15-16, 2023.
 - Steve Johnson (delegate) and Tom Ryan (Executive Director) attended the 2023 FSBPT Model Practice Act Workshop – July 17, 2023.
 - Steve Johnson (delegate) attended the 2023 FSBPT Annual Meeting and Delegate Assembly – October 19-21, 2023.
- **Licensing Update:**
 - The Department improved its professional licensing capacity on several fronts:
 - Review time for new applications dropped to three days on average.
 - Review time on applications referred for legal evaluation dropped from a six-week average processing time in 2022 to a two-week average processing time in 2023.

- Initial and renewal PTs and PTAs may now apply through LicenseE, the new, self-guided online application system.
- A public facing dashboard was created to help improve transparency around licensing and department processing capacity.
- Training opportunities were provided to schools and educators.
- Instructional resources were completed and posted online.

- **Licensing Activity:**

	PT	PTA
Applications Received	470	123
Licenses Issued	449	111
License Renewals	7118	2213

Covid Temp Permits

	PT	PTA
Bridge Licenses Issued (Act 10)	8	0

<u>Predetermination reviews</u>	0	0
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- **Enforcement Activity (PT and PTA):**

Complaints received: 8

Source of complaints received (*Note: A complaint may have more than one source*):

- Consumer: 1
- Employer: 2
- Professional Organization (Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy): 1
- Self: 1
- Wisconsin Department of Health Services: 2
- State (Arizona Board): 1

- **Number of respondents involved: 8**

- **Number of cases opened for investigation: 3** (*Note: There are 2 complaints in “Complaint Received” status as of January 22, 2024, therefore, they are not included in this answer.*)

- **Total cases/respondents closed: 5**

Note: Cases/respondents closed in 2023 may have been received in previous years.

- Closed at screening: 3
- Closed after investigation: 1
- Closed with formal action: 1

- **Cases pending as of January 2024: 8**

- **2024 Projects:**

- Continue to track and monitor Compact licensing.

- Review as necessary licensing standards and barriers relating to foreign educated PTs and PTAs.
- Explore the feasibility of launching an FSBPT ID in the Department's licensure database, the one remaining recommendation for Wisconsin in the FSBPT's Consumer Protection Rating (CPR) report.
- Focus on outreach to increase awareness of the PTEB with the public and the PT and PTA communities.
- Continue rulemaking regarding Wis. Admin. Code PT 1 and 5, relating to telehealth and supervision of PTA's.