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president's perspective

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### **Focus on Physical Therapy Licensure Compact**

*Maggie Donohue, PT*

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We've been focusing on the licensure compact since 2010, when Mississippi and Texas brought forth a motion that was passed by the Delegate Assembly. The motion recommended that the Federation explore the feasibility of establishing a licensure compact similar to what the nurses were doing. In 2013, the delegate assembly passed a motion supporting the concept.

Since then, multiple FSBPT groups have worked on this concept: the Ethics and Legislation Committee, Compact Advisory Task Force and Compact Drafting Team. APTA representatives were a part of the advisory task force and drafting team. And we had significant assistance from the Council of State Governments and colleagues from other professions who were moving forward for compacts in their profession.

We made presentations to the APTA Public Policy Advisory Committee and Chapter Presidents and by the annual meeting, will have also presented to the APTA State Policy & Payment Forum.

The draft compact language was posted on our website for stakeholder review in July 2015. You can go to the website at <https://www.fsbpt.org/FreeResources/PhysicalTherapyLicensureCompact.aspx> to view two videos on the licensure compact and get a great overview of how compacts work in general and more specifically, how the physical therapy compact will work.

The final language will be available for states to take to their legislatures this year. When 10 states have passed the licensure compact language, a Licensure Compact Commission will be established to write the rules for the legislation. Expect more presentations on this topic at the annual meeting!

Below are highlights of accomplishments in each of our Areas of Focus since the 2014 annual meeting. I encourage you to take time to read the committee reports to see in more detail how much we have accomplished this year.

***Examinations: Ensure the ongoing excellence, reliability, defensibility, security and validity of the NPTE and related examinations***

**Exam Assessment**

Following on achieving Stage 1 Accreditation for the NPTE testing program, awarded by the Buros Center for Testing at the University of Nebraska, we submitted the work we completed in 2014 for Stage 2 accreditation. Stage 1 Accreditation evaluates the appropriateness of the entire NPTE testing program, from registration to records maintenance, including all aspects of examination development, delivery, and scoring. Special attention is paid to the development of the test content outlines and cut scores implemented in 2013. The accreditation process ensures we're in line with all relevant professional standards for licensure test development. Stage 2 accreditation, which we have received, focuses on the results of the 2014 exam administrations and development of test forms for the 2015 administrations.

Assessment staff members continue to look for new ways to improve the NPTE volunteer experience. In 2015, we have taken steps to consolidate the Item Bank Review Committees and Exam Development Committees into a single committee in 2016. Combining these committees will provide us with a deeper pool of potential volunteers for each committee, provide some task variety to the committee members, eliminate the duplication of item editing efforts among the committees, and enhance committee members' understanding of the entire NPTE development process. In addition, FSBPT has been moving to a paperless exam review system that will eliminate the need to print and later shred thousands of pages of secure NPTE material. Finally, assessment staff members try to keep the volunteer process fun and lively by publishing quarterly newsletters, and creating fun meeting themes for the most demanding summer meetings.

In March, FSBPT introduced a new system for reporting NPTE results to schools. The new system incorporated suggestions from a survey of PT and PTA program directors, and addressed several of their concerns with the old school reports. The new reports also utilize the most current industry standards for graphically reporting information, and introduced a new, free report for schools that purchase the Practice Exam and Assessment Tool (PEAT) through the group purchase process.

We continue to develop new NPTE items at a high rate. This year, we hosted three item writing workshops at our offices in Alexandria, VA, and regional item writing workshops in Phoenix, AZ, Palm Beach, FL, New York, NY, Detroit, MI, Chicago, IL, San Marcos, CA, and Denver, CO. These regional workshops allow us to include professionals, generally clinicians in practice, who would otherwise be unable to travel to FSBPT to volunteer. We also hosted a special workshop to develop jurisprudence items for our Jurisprudence Assessment Modules for several jurisdictions. Developing high quality items is essential to the current and future health of the NPTE program.

**Exam Services**

The following items were completed to enhance exam services to candidates, schools and board administrators since the last annual meeting report.

### *School Website Revision for PT & PTA Programs*

The School Website (<https://school.fsbpt.net>) was completely revised based on recommendations from educators and the need to update processes to correspond to the change in the NPTE testing schedule to four times a year. Additionally, we want to enhance our partnership with schools to ensure that the pass rate information we produce for the schools is accurate.

#### School Report Revisions

1. Educators have free online access to Basic Pass Rate Reports. They are no longer emailed.
2. The Content Area Report now includes the confidence interval of the mean and graphics to show data in an easier-to-interpret manner.
3. The Graduate Performance Report, previously called an Enhanced Report, was streamlined to remove information that was already in the Basic Pass Rate Report.
4. A new Group PEAT Report that mirrors the Content Area Report is available at no charge to schools that purchase PEAT for their students. Educators can still review individual PEAT examinations for their students.
5. FSBPT reports all known licenses for a school's candidates on the school roster page. This information is provided for free.

#### Changes to "my students" and purchasing reports

- Reports will no longer expire after 30 days; they will be available for up to five years.
- Reports will update automatically as additional students test throughout the year (no need to purchase multiple reports for the same graduating class or wait until everyone from a graduating class has tested).
- Updates will only occur after each testing date. This will allow time to review class rosters and request corrections.

### *Online Processing System (OPS) Redesign*

FSBPT's Online Processing System (OPS) is used by board administrators to manage candidate and licensee processes, and by candidates who register to take the NPTE. It has been undergoing a huge redesign. The project began with a survey of board administrators to ascertain which sections of the OPS were used and how often so that the redesign would increase the ease of use for administrators. So far, we have made major enhancements to the candidate experience and now have the ability to enforce the 2016 NPTE eligibility requirements. The enhancements to the jurisdiction interface, which is the section used by board administrators, will be released in late 2015.

### ***Membership: Enhance the Federation's value to its membership by developing and maintaining programs and services responsive to membership needs***

#### **Jurisdiction Board Member and Administrator Regulatory Training**

It is crucial for regulatory board members to understand their role in public protection. As many, if not most, board members are practitioners or licensees in the professions they are asked to regulate, it is important for such public servants to distinguish between the role of the professional association, such as the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) and the state boards.

Equally important is the role of administrators on the state boards, who do the day-to-day work of the board. Learning more about how their work supports the bigger picture of regulation for the protection of the public may be a welcome refresher.

The annual Jurisdiction Board Member and Administrator Regulatory Training provides a weekend of educational sessions intended to prepare new and veteran board members/administrators for their service to the public.

The sessions are engaging and cover a wide range of topics addressing not only the legal and practical aspects of serving on or running a physical therapy licensing board, but a detailed description of the programs and services provided by FSBPT to its membership.

**We hope that you will consider attending the 2016 session, which is scheduled for June 24-26, 2016 in Alexandria, Virginia.** Email [communications@fsbpt.org](mailto:communications@fsbpt.org) if you would like to register. Attendees are funded by the Federation.

Members can view the 2015 presentations at [www.fsbpt.org](http://www.fsbpt.org). Go to Members Login | Meeting Information | Member & Admin Training.

### **Examination, Licensure & Disciplinary Database (ELDD)**

Over the last 12 months, we have continued to focus on enhancing the Online Processing System for both Federation staff and jurisdiction staff members.

The new system has continued to improve the accuracy and speed with which Federation staff can import data submitted for inclusion in the ELDD. In 2013, we processed 96 licensure data files with an average process time of 16 days. In 2014, we processed 117 data files with an average process time of 15 days. This year (the first full year using the new system), as of 9/1/2015, 118 files have already been processed for 25 different jurisdictions with an average processing time of less than 7 days – more than half of these files were processed in 4 days or less from the time we received them.

Thanks to the tremendous efforts by our membership and staff, the amount of data available in the ELDD over the last 10 years has increased significantly. We have more than tripled the number of disciplinary actions housed by the database and almost doubled the number of licenses. The database is more complete and comprehensive than it has ever been! However we must continue to strive for perfection as we work towards 100% participation.

At the 2013 Annual Meeting we piloted a new metric that we refer to as the ELDD Participation Level (the star ratings). This tool has increased transparency and given us a simple way to communicate which jurisdictions are actively participating in the ELDD. This scoreboard has helped Federation staff members work closely with multiple jurisdictions to both articulate what is needed to be considered an active participant and to help jurisdictions do the work needed to improve their ratings (and the

reliability of their data in the ELDD). This tool considers over 25 data points at a given point-in-time before assigning a rating between 1 star (lowest participation level) and 5 stars (highest participation level) for each jurisdiction. When this was piloted in 2013, only 5 jurisdictions held 5-star ratings and 14 jurisdictions held 4-star ratings. As of July 1, 2015, 14 jurisdictions hold 5-star ratings and 8 jurisdictions hold 4-star ratings. Please log in to the Members area of the fsbpt.org website to see your jurisdiction's rating along with all other jurisdictions' ratings. Email ELDD@fsbpt.org if you have any questions regarding the participation levels or would like to know what your jurisdictions can do to improve their rating.

***States' Rights, States' Responsibilities and Professional Standards: Identify and promote effective regulation in physical therapy that ensures the delivery of safe and competent physical therapy care, while respecting states' rights and responsibilities***

This area of focus deals with providing tools and resources to improve the regulatory processes for member jurisdictions. The following has been accomplished since the 2014 annual meeting.

- Article published in Forum pertaining to Billing as a Regulatory Issue
- Collaborating with APTA on resources for consumers, students, boards, and licensees regarding recognizing poor care, fraud and abuse
- Copyrighted the Supervised Clinical Practice Performance Evaluation Tool (SCP PET).
- Continued partnership with Virginia to collect data on the SCP PET.
- Reviewed and updated the 2008 FSBPT study on Ethics Remediation Resources, which can be found at <https://www.fsbpt.org/FreeResources/RegulatoryResources.aspx>. Look for "Remediation Resources."
- Currently working to review and update the Basis for Action Document and exploring the development of model disciplinary guidelines.
- Publication of *Telehealth in Physical Therapy: Policy Recommendations for Appropriate Regulation* at <https://www.fsbpt.org/FreeResources/RegulatoryResources.aspx>.
- Collaborated to develop an educational module on the U. S. healthcare system specifically designed for foreign educated PTs to a reality. The module is currently in development by Duke University.
- Dry Needling Competencies report published at <https://www.fsbpt.org/FreeResources/RegulatoryResources.aspx>.

**Continuing Competence**

Since the September 2015 annual meeting, we successfully launched two online jurisprudence assessment modules (for New Jersey and New Hampshire) with the planned launch of a third before the end of 2015.

- Surpassed 20,000 registered users of aPTitude by mid-2015.
- Certified over 2,500 activities through the ProCert program to date with 23 jurisdictions accepting ProCert's certifications.

***Education: Provide and promote educational programs and products for board members, administrators, the public, and other stakeholders***

### **Webinars**

Since the last annual meeting, FSBPT has presented webinars on Fixed Date Testing & Relevant Research; aPTitude and ProCert; and the NPTE Eligibility Appeals Process. Members can review the presentations on the Members Area under Meetings & Events.

### **INPTRA Webcasts & INPTRA International Meeting**

The International Network of Physiotherapy Regulatory Authorities (INPTRA) has continued to host educational sessions for physical therapy regulators around the world. Go to the Leadership Area of Focus to learn more.

### **News Briefs**

FSBPT News Briefs are emailed to members and educators on a monthly basis. The news briefs brim with timely FSBPT-specific updates as well noteworthy news items regarding healthcare regulation in the United States.

### **Jurisdiction Board Member and Administrator Regulatory Training**

Each year, more board members and administrators request to attend this annual regulatory training. No wonder! It provides some of the most comprehensive and entertaining (yes!) training on regulatory matters that can be found. And FSBPT funds participants' attendance. Look under the Membership Area of Focus for more information.

### **2015 Annual Meeting: Another great meeting!**

Our Education Committee has outdone itself again. We had both national and international speakers presenting on topics such as the White House report on state licensure, legislative strategies for the physical therapy licensure compact, anti-competition v. public protection, dry needling competencies, international collaboration and telehealth, just to name a few.

### **NPTE Workshop for Educators**

This item-writing workshop for PT and PTA educators continues to attract attendees given the high value of the information provided for preparing candidates for the NPTE. Psychometricians and physical therapists who have developed questions for the high-stakes NPTE share the theory and mechanics of developing valid and reliable questions for PT and PTA courses and attendees practice writing sample questions during the workshop. In addition, attendees are given an overview of the NPTE development and administration process, which we hope gives educators a better understanding of the NPTE and its relation to both their curricula and professional standard in physical therapy.

### **Faculty Newsletter**

We continue to provide PT and PTA program directors and educators with information pertinent to the NPTE and other subjects that might be of interest to the physical therapy schools. The newsletter distribution is open to all educators. Those who would like to receive the newsletter should contact [communications@fsbpt.org](mailto:communications@fsbpt.org).

***Leadership: Broaden the Federation's leadership role and recognition within the regulatory, professional and related communities***

**Leadership Issues Forum**

The 2015 Leadership Issues Forum (LIF) was held August 1-2, 2015 in Alexandria, Virginia. The purpose of the meeting is to:

- Share information and data on important issues that impact the regulation of physical therapy
- Discuss issues and get input from FSBPT leadership on these issues
- Gather input for the FSBPT Board of Directors for decision making
- Provide information that participants can take back to their boards

Seventy people, comprising delegates/board representatives, board administrators, the board of directors, APTA, ACAPT, CAPTE, the National Center for Interstate Compacts (Council of State Governments) and committee chairs attended.

The meeting focused on issues including the physical therapy licensure compact, NPTE eligibility requirements, the Coursework Tool, the minimum data set, dry needling competencies and public awareness initiatives.

**Healthcare Regulatory CEO Group**

We organized the first face-to-face Healthcare Regulatory CEO group meeting in 2014 to include representatives from medicine, nursing, occupational therapy, social work, physical therapy, psychology and pharmacy. The CEO's group met twice in 2015 to share their respective initiatives and through webinars, to expand the participation to others in their organizations. They have scheduled two meetings in 2016.

**International Network of Physiotherapy Regulatory Authorities (INPTRA)**

We continue to act as Secretariat for INPTRA and their board of directors. Since FSBPT's last annual meeting, INPTRA has conducted three webcasts on international regulation: the first on Regulation in Australia and New Zealand and the next two webcasts on telehealth. Another webcast on scope of practice is scheduled in September 2015. Invitations are sent via email to all FSBPT members.

INPTRA's board of directors hosted over 50 attendees at INPTRA 2015 in Singapore April 29-30 2015. Learning how other countries regulate physiotherapy was fascinating. For instance, some countries only protect the title and do not include scope of practice. Presentations from INPTRA 2015 are posted on the INPTRA website at [www.fsbpt.org](http://www.fsbpt.org).

***Organizational and Financial Stability: Ensure the long-term organizational and financial stability and viability of the Federation***

**Financials**

I would refer you to the Treasurer's Report for the details on the operations for 2014. However, I would like to reiterate from that report that we continue to be in a financially strong position and have maintained our reserves.

**King-West**

Operations for King-West have steadily improved since the wholly-owned subsidiary was incorporated to own and operate the building which houses the Federation offices, along with other tenants. We have enjoyed a 100% occupancy rate for the past three years when the average for the area is 80%.

Some of the other tenant leases will expire in 2015, which will prove to be perfect timing to enable the Federation to expand to meet its growing needs.

**Updating Policies and Budgets**

The Board continues to review, update and approve the Policies, Salary Administration Manual and NPTE Policies, operating budget, capital budget and reserve funding each year in December.

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President Maggie Donohue, PT received her physical therapy education from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. She initially worked in a large trauma hospital and now is a partner in Foothills Physical Therapy.

Maggie served on the Advisory Committee to the New Hampshire Board of Medicine. She was a member of the legislative committee to create an independent PT board then served as Chair of the Physical Therapy Governing Board and President of the New Hampshire Board of Allied Health Professionals from 1998-2006. During her time on the board, she worked to pass legislation to improve direct access in New Hampshire.

Maggie has served as a Federation Delegate, attended the 1999 Summit and was a member of and then chaired the Ethics and Legislation Committee. In 2006, she was elected to the FSBPT Board and now serves as President.

Maggie's general background includes a history of participation in several organizations including: APTA member: 1984-present; member, committee to create legislation for an independent PT board in New Hampshire; liaison for the PT governing board and NHAPTA government affairs committee; liaison, private practice organization and insurers in New Hampshire; and presenter for FSBPT, APTA and NHAPTA.