

PHYSICAL
THERAPY
BOARD

A PERFORMANCE REVIEW
OF THE
STATE PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD

October 20, 1978

Commissioner of the Department
of Commerce and Economic
Development

H. Phillip Hubbard

Deputy Commissioner of the
Department of Commerce and
Economic Development

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Board of Physical Therapy

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Secretary
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Member
Member

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Edward T. Heuston
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STATE OF ALASKA

AUDIT DIVISION
POUCH W—ALASKA OFFICE BUILDING

THE LEGISLATURE

BUDGET AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

FINANCE DIVISION
POUCH WF—STATE CAPITOL

JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

October 20, 1978

Members of the
Legislative Budget and Audit Committee:

In accordance with the intent of Title 24 and 44 of the
Alaska Statutes, the attached report is submitted for your
review.

A PERFORMANCE REVIEW
OF THE
STATE PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD

October 20, 1978



Gerald L. Wilkerson, CPA
Legislative Auditor
Division of Legislative Audit

S T A T E O F A L A S K A



PHYSICAL THERAPISTS PRACTICE ACT

08.84

Department of Commerce
Division of Occupational Licensing
Pouch D
Juneau, Alaska 99801

CHAPTER 84. PHYSICAL THERAPISTS PRACTICE ACT

Article

1. State Physical Therapy Board (Secs 08.84.010-08.84.020)
2. Registration (Secs 08.84.030-08.84.120)
3. Unlawful Acts (Secs 08.84.130-08.84.180)
4. General Provisions (Secs 08.84.190-08.84.200)

ARTICLE 1. State Physical Therapy Board

Section

10. State Physical Therapy Board.

Section

20. Applicability of Administrative Procedure Act

Sec. 08.84.010. STATE PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD. (a) There is created the State Physical Therapy Board, which consists of five members appointed by the governor. The membership consists of one physician licensed to practice medicine in the state, three physical therapists registered in the state, and one lay person. The members shall be selected from a list of 10 persons which shall be submitted by the Alaska Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association. Members of the board shall be appointed for terms of one, two and three years, respectively; all subsequent appointments shall be made for a term of three years and until their successors are appointed. Vacancies on the board shall be filled by appointment in like manner. Board members are not entitled to a travel or per diem allowance.

(b) The Physical Therapy Board shall conduct examinations for applicants and shall control all matters pertaining to the registration of physical therapists and physical therapy assistants and the practice of physical therapy. The board shall

- (1) pass upon the qualifications of applicants;
- (2) conduct examinations;

(3) issue temporary permits and registration certificates to physical therapists and physical therapy assistants qualified under this chapter;

(4) suspend or revoke registration certificates, when necessary;

(5) keep a current register listing the name, business address, date and number of registration certificate of each physical therapist and physical therapy assistant who is registered to practice in this state;

(6) keep a record and minutes of its meetings, proceedings and hearings. (sec 15 ch 74 SLA 1957; am sec 8 ch 49 SLA 1969; am sec 1 ch 71 SLA 1974)

Sec. 08.84.020. APPLICABILITY OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT. The board shall comply with the Administrative Procedure Act (AS 44.62). (sec 4 ch 158 SLA 1960; am sec 4 ch 30 SLA 1969)

ARTICLE 2. Registration

Sections	Sections
30. Qualifications for registration	70. (Repealed)
40. Application for registration	80. Examinations
50. Fees	90. Registration
60. Registration by endorsement	100. Renewal of registration
65. Temporary permit	110. (Repealed)
	120. Refusal, revocation and suspension of registration

Sec. 08.84.030. QUALIFICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION. To be eligible for registration by the board as a physical therapist or physical therapy assistant, an applicant shall

(1) be of good moral character;

(2) have graduated from a school of physical therapy approved by the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals of the American Medical Association, or the American Physical Therapy Association;

(3) pass to the satisfaction of the board an examination from the Professional Examination Service, to determine his fitness for practice as a physical therapist or physical therapy assistant, or be entitled to registration without examination as provided in sec. 60 of this chapter. (sec 3 ch 74 SLA 1957; am secs 1, 8 ch 49 SLA 1969; am secs 1, 2 ch 26 SLA 1970; am sec 25 ch 245 SLA 1970; am sec 2 ch 71 SLA 1974)

Sec. 08.84.040. APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION. To be registered as a physical therapist or physical therapy assistant, an applicant shall apply to the board on a form prescribed by the board. An applicant shall include in his application, evidence under oath that he possesses the qualifications required by sec. 30 of this chapter. (sec 4 ch 74 SLA 1957; am sec 3 ch 71 SLA 1974)

Sec. 08.84.050. FEES. The following fees shall be imposed under this chapter when applicable:

- | | |
|---|------|
| (1) application | \$25 |
| (2) registration by examination | 25 |
| (3) registration by endorsement | 25 |
| (4) biennial renewal | 25 |
| (5) temporary permit | 10 |

(sec 4 ch 74 SLA 1957; am sec 2 ch 49 SLA 1969; am sec 3 ch 26 SLA 1970)

Sec. 08.84.060. REGISTRATION BY ENDORSEMENT The board may register without examination an applicant who is a physical

therapist or physical therapy assistant registered under the laws of another state or territory, if the requirements for registration in that state or territory were, at the date of registration, substantially equal to the requirements in this state. (sec 6 ch 74 SLA 1957; am sec 4 ch 26 SLA 1970; am sec 4 ch 71 SLA 1974)

Sec. 08.84.065. TEMPORARY PERMIT. (a) The board may issue a nonrenewable temporary permit to an applicant for registration by endorsement or by examination who meets the requirements of sec. 30(1), (2) and (3) of this chapter and pays the required fee.

(b) A temporary permit issued to an applicant for registration by endorsement is valid for eight months or until the board considers the applicant's endorsement application, whichever occurs first.

(c) A temporary permit issued to an applicant for registration by examination is valid for eight months or until the results of the first examination for which the applicant is scheduled are published, whichever occurs first. If the applicant fails to take the first examination for which he is scheduled his temporary permit lapses on the day of the examination. (sec 5 ch 26 SLA 1970; am sec 5 ch 71 SLA 1974)

Sec. 08.84.070. REGISTRATION FEE.
Repealed by sec 8 ch 49 SLA 1969.

Sec. 08.84.080. EXAMINATIONS. (a) The board shall examine applicants for registration as physical therapists or physical therapy assistants at the times and places it determines.

(b) An application for examination shall be submitted to the department at least 40 days before the examination date. (sec 7 ch 74 SLA 1957; am sec 3 ch 49 SLA 1969; am sec 6 ch 26 SLA 1970; am sec 6 ch 71 SLA 1974)

Sec. 08.84.090. REGISTRATION. The board shall register an applicant who meets the qualifications for registration under this chapter. It shall issue a certificate of registration to each person registered. A certificate of registration is prima facie evidence of the right of the person to represent himself as a registered physical therapist or registered physical therapy assistant. (sec 8 ch 74 SLA 1957; am sec 7 ch 71 SLA 1974)

Sec. 08.84.100. RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION. (a) A registered physical therapist or physical therapy assistant shall renew his registration biennially with the Department of Commerce on or before the date set by the department under AS 08.01.100(a). If the registration is not renewed on or before that date, it lapses.

(b) A penalty of \$10 shall be charged in addition to all delinquent renewal fees for reinstatement of a registration which remains lapsed for more than 60 days. If the registration remains lapsed for more than three years, the board may require the applicant to take and pass the examination given under sec 30(3) of this chapter. (sec 9 ch 74 SLA 1957; am sec 4 ch 49 SLA 1969; am sec 8 ch 71 SLA 1974)

Sec. 08.84.110. RENEWAL FEE.
Repealed by sec 8 ch 49 SLA 1969.

Sec. 08.84.120. REFUSAL, REVOCATION AND SUSPENSION OF REGISTRATION. The board may refuse to register an applicant, may refuse to renew the registration of a person, and may suspend or revoke the registration of a person who

- (1) is habitually drunk or addicted to the use of narcotic drugs;
- (2) is, in the judgment of the board, guilty of immoral or unprofessional conduct;
- (3) has been convicted of violating a state or federal narcotic law;
- (4) has been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude;
- (5) is guilty, in the judgment of the board, of gross negligence in his practice as a physical therapist;
- (6) has obtained or attempted to obtain registration by fraud or material misrepresentation;
- (7) has been declared mentally ill by a court and has not thereafter been lawfully declared sane;
- (8) has treated or attempted to treat ailments of human beings otherwise than by physical therapy, or has attempted to practice independent of the prescription and direction of a person licensed to practice medicine or osteopathy; or
- (9) as a physical therapy assistant, has attempted to practice physical therapy which has not been initiated, supervised and terminated by a registered physical therapist. (sec 10 ch 74 SLA 1957; am sec 5 ch 49 SLA 1969; am sec 9 ch 71 SLA 1974)

ARTICLE 3. Unlawful Acts

Sections	Sections
130. False claim of registration forbidden	therapists
140. Penalty for fraud in obtaining registration	160. Practice of registered physical therapist
150. Registration of physical	170. Penalty
	180. Investigation by board

Sec. 08.84.130. FALSE CLAIM OF REGISTRATION FORBIDDEN. (a) A person not registered as a physical therapist, or whose registration is suspended or revoked, or whose registration is lapsed, who uses in connection with his name the words or letters "R.P.T.," "Registered Physical Therapist," or other letters, words, or insignia indicating or implying that he is a registered physical therapist, or who in any way, orally, or in writing, directly or by implication, represents himself as a registered physical therapist is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(b) A person not registered as a physical therapy assistant, or whose registration is suspended or revoked, or whose registration is lapsed, who in any way, orally, or in writing, directly or by implication, represents himself as a registered physical therapy assistant is guilty of a misdemeanor. (sec 11 ch 74 SLA 1957; am sec 10 ch 71 SLA 1974)

Sec. 08.84.140. PENALTY FOR FRAUD IN OBTAINING REGISTRATION. A person who wilfully makes a false oath or affirmation or who obtains or attempts to obtain registration by a fraudulent representation is guilty of a misdemeanor. (sec 12 ch 74 SLA 1957)

Sec 08.84.150. REGISTRATION OF PHYSICAL THERAPISTS. (a) It is unlawful for anyone to practice physical therapy without being registered in accordance with this chapter.

(b) A person practicing physical therapy without being registered on April 27, 1969 may continue to practice for a period of six months. At the end of that period he must be registered under sec 90 of this chapter in order to continue to practice physical therapy in the state. (sec 14 ch 74 SLA 1957; am sec 6 ch 49 SLA 1969)

Sec. 08.84.160. PRACTICE OF REGISTERED PHYSICAL THERAPIST. A person registered under this chapter may not treat human ailments by physical therapy or otherwise except under the prescription and direction of a person licensed to practice medicine or osteopathy. This chapter does not authorize any person to practice medicine, osteopathy, chiropractic, or other method of healing. A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor. (sec 13 ch 74 SLA 1957; am sec 7 ch 49 SLA 1969)

Sec. 08.84.170. PENALTY. A person who violates this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction is punishable by a fine of not less than \$50 nor more than \$500, or by imprisonment for not more than 30 days. (sec 17 ch 74 SLA 1957)

Sec. 08.84.180. INVESTIGATION BY BOARD. The board shall investigate every supposed violation of this chapter coming to its notice and shall report all cases which in the judgment of the board warrant prosecution to the proper law enforcement officials. (sec 17 ch 74 SLA 1957)

ARTICLE 4. General Provisions

Section	Section
190. Definitions	200. Short title

Sec. 08.84.190. DEFINITIONS. As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires,

- (1) "board" means the State Physical Therapy Board;
- (2) "physical therapist" means a person who practices physical therapy;

(3) "physical therapy" means the treatment of a bodily or mental condition of a person by the use of the properties of heat, light, water, electricity, massage, therapeutic exercise including physical rehabilitation procedures, and physical therapy evaluation, treatment planning, instruction and consultative services; the use of roentgen rays and radium for diagnostic and therapeutic purposes, and the use of electricity for surgical purposes, including cauterization, are not included within the term "physical therapy";

(4) "physical therapy assistant" means a person who assists in the practice of physical therapy or portions of it as initiated, supervised, and terminated by a registered physical therapist; his responsibilities do not include testing or evaluation. (sec 2 ch 74 SLA 1957; am sec 11 ch 71 SLA 1974)

Sec. 08.84.200. SHORT TITLE. This chapter may be cited as the Physical Therapists Practice Act. (sec 1 ch 74 SLA 1957)

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING
POUCH D
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

PROCEDURE FOR OBTAINING REGISTRATION TO PRACTICE
PHYSICAL THERAPY IN ALASKA

It is unlawful for anyone to practice physical therapy without being registered in accordance with this chapter. (Reference: AS 08.84.150(a))

YOUR APPLICATION AND SUPPORTING CREDENTIALS WILL BE RETURNED TO YOU IF THEY ARE NOT IN PROPER FORM.

REGISTRATION BY EXAMINATION: Alaska offers the P.E.S. examination twice yearly. Applications must be completed and on file 40 days in advance of the scheduled examination date. The applicant is responsible for assuring that the following items have been submitted to the Alaska State Physical Therapy Board before being considered for examination;

1. Completed application form.
2. Official transcript from your school of physical therapy, sent directly from the school to Juneau (above address).
3. Fee of \$50.00 - includes \$25.00 application fee and \$25.00 examination fee.

Your application for permanent license will be considered by the Board after successful completion of the P.E.S. examination.

REGISTRATION BY ENDORSEMENT: If you hold a current license obtained by written examination from a state or territory whose requirements at the time of your registration were substantially equal to those currently in effect in Alaska, you are eligible for registration by endorsement. The applicant is responsible for assuring that the following items have been submitted to the Alaska State Physical Therapy Board before being considered for endorsement:

1. Completed application form.
2. Fee of \$50.00 - includes \$25.00 application fee and \$25.00 endorsement fee.
3. A report of the scores you obtained in the P.E.S. examination. THESE SCORES MUST BE REPORTED FROM THE INTERSTATE REPORTING SERVICE OF THE PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATION SERVICE, 475 RIVERSIDE DR., NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10027.
4. Official transcript from your school of physical therapy, sent

directly from the school to Juneau (above address).

5. Verification form completed by all the states where you have been licensed (verification forms enclosed). The license of the other state or territory upon which endorsement is to be based must be current.

TEMPORARY PERMIT: Any member of the Physical Therapy Board may issue you a temporary permit if you are applying for permanent registration by examination or endorsement. The temporary permit allows you to practice while you are awaiting the next examination, or while you are completing application for registration by endorsement. A list of board members is attached. You must be graduated from a school of physical therapy approved by the American Physical Therapy Association in order to obtain a temporary permit. Foreign trained therapists are not eligible for temporary permits but may apply directly for permanent licensure.

The following items must be submitted to the board member before a permit will be issued:

1. Completed application form.
2. Official transcript from your school of physical therapy (sent directly from the school) or a notarized copy of your school diploma.
3. If licensure is by endorsement, a notarized copy of your current state license or a verification form completed by the state where you are licensed (verification form enclosed).
4. Non-refundable fee of \$10.00.
5. An interview with a board member will be requested, but is not mandatory.

A temporary permit is valid for 8 months. Your application will be reviewed by the board and, if accepted, a permanent license will be issued. A temporary permit expires upon receipt of a failing grade on the applicant's examination. An applicant failing an examination may not be granted a second temporary permit. A permanent license may later be issued upon subsequently passing the P.E.S. exam.

You will be notified within 6 months after being issued a temporary permit whether or not your application is complete, and reminded of your temporary permit expiration date.

MAIL DIRECTLY TO:
STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
STATE PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD
POUCH "D"
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
Phone: (907) 465-2547

Picture
2" x 2"

APPLICATION FOR: (Check One)

- Physical Therapist
- Physical Therapy Assistant
- Temporary Permit - \$10.00

- BY: Endorsement - \$50.00
 Examination - \$50.00

1. NAME _____ S.S. NO. _____
Last First Middle Maiden

2. DOB _____ PLACE _____ HEIGHT _____ WEIGHT _____ SEX _____ EYES _____ HAIR _____
Mo. Day Year City State

3. MAILING ADDRESS _____
Street or Box City State Zip Code

4. EDUCATION (Beginning with High School):

NAME OF SCHOOL	LOCATION	Mo./Yr.	Mo./Yr.	DEGREE AWARDED OR NUMBER OF HOURS
_____	_____	FROM _____	TO _____	_____
_____	_____	FROM _____	TO _____	_____
_____	_____	FROM _____	TO _____	_____

5. POST GRADUATE COURSE ATTENDED:

6. APPLICATION BY EXAMINATION:
1. Have you ever taken the Professional Examination for Physical Therapist or for Physical Therapy Assistant before? Yes () No ()
Examination date _____ Place administered _____

7. PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE LAST 10 YEARS:

NAME AND ADDRESS OF EMPLOYMENT	POSITION HELD	DATES
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

(Attach Separate Sheet)

8. EXPECTED PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT IN ALASKA _____

9. LICENSING BACKGROUND:

(a) States and countries in which you have been licensed:

_____	DATES _____	CURRENT? _____
_____	DATES _____	CURRENT? _____
_____	DATES _____	CURRENT? _____
_____	DATES _____	CURRENT? _____

(b) Have you ever been denied a license, or had a license revoked or suspended? If yes, explain _____

(c) State upon which endorsement is based _____

(d) License No. _____ Date Issued _____ Is license current? _____

(e) If endorsement is not approved by the board, do you wish to take the Professional Examination Service exam in order to be licensed in Alaska? _____

10. GENERAL INFORMATION:

- | | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| | YES | NO |
| 1. Have you ever been called before or notified by any state board or physical therapy society concerning a violation of the physical therapist practice act, or unethical conduct? | () | () |
| 2. Have you ever been denied a certificate by, or the privilege of taking an examination before any state board? | () | () |
| 3. Have you ever been charged or convicted of a violation of a Federal or State statute, excluding minor traffic violations? | () | () |
| 4. Have you ever been addicted to or excessively used alcohol, narcotics, barbiturates or habit forming drugs? | () | () |
| 5. Are you now or have you ever been emotionally or mentally ill? | () | () |
| 6. Have you ever been treated for mental or emotional illness, drug addiction or inebriety? | () | () |
| 7. Have you ever been discharged or forced to resign from any position as a physical therapist or physical therapy assistant? | () | () |
| 8. Have you any physical handicap, chronic disease, or other disability? | () | () |

If "yes" to any of the above, please explain in full on a separate sheet. If "yes" to #7 above, please give employer's name and address, and date of resignation.

I hereby certify that this information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any false or misleading information may result in failure to obtain licensure or subsequent revocation of my license.

Signature of Applicant _____ Title _____

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN before me this _____ day of _____, 19____.

My Commission Expires _____ NOTARY PUBLIC _____

(Seal)

VERIFICATION OF LICENSURE

Sir:

I am applying for a license to practice physical therapy in the state of Alaska. The State Physical Therapy Board requires that this form be completed by each jurisdiction in which I hold or have held licenses. Please complete the form and return it to:

Alaska State Physical Therapy Board
Pouch D
Juneau, Alaska 99811

PLEASE DO NOT DETACH

.....

State of _____

Name of Licensee _____

Graduate of _____

License No. _____ issued effective _____

By reciprocity/endorsement _____ by examination _____

License is current _____ lapsed _____

Has the applicant's license ever been suspended or revoked? _____. If so,
for what reason? _____

Derogatory information, if any _____

Comments, if any _____

Signed _____

[BOARD SEAL]

Title _____

State Board _____

Date _____

VERIFICATION OF LICENSURE

Sir:

I am applying for a license to practice physical therapy in the state of Alaska. The State Physical Therapy Board requires that this form be completed by each jurisdiction in which I hold or have held licenses. Please complete the form and return it to:

Alaska State Physical Therapy Board
Pouch D
Juneau, Alaska 99811

PLEASE DO NOT DETACH

.....

State of _____

Name of Licensee _____

Graduate of _____

License No. _____ issued effective _____

By reciprocity/endorsement _____ by examination _____

License is current _____ lapsed _____

Has the applicant's license ever been suspended or revoked? _____. If so,
for what reason? _____

Derogatory information, if any _____

Comments, if any _____

Signed _____

[BOARD SEAL]

Title _____

State Board _____

Date _____

ALASKA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCE

Sir:

I am applying for a license to practice physical therapy in the state of Alaska. The State Physical Therapy Board requires that this form be completed and mailed to:

State of Alaska
Division of Occupational Licensing
Pouch D
Juneau, Alaska 99811

.....

I do certify that I was professionally associated with _____
_____ from _____, 19____ to _____
_____, 19____. I recommend the applicant as being

professionally capable, reliable, of good moral character, and worthy of confidence.

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

Signature

Title

Institution

Address

Date

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN before me, a Notary Public, in and for the State of _____, this _____ day of _____, 19____.

NOTARY SEAL

Notary Public

My Commission expires

ALASKA STATE PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD

C. Patricia Mc Cabe, R.P.T., Chairman
3710 E. 20th Ave.
Anchorage, Alaska 99504

Richard W. Allsop, R.P.T.
211 Eureka
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

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3710 E. 20th Ave.
Anchorage, Alaska 99504

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Star Route Box 6014
Eagle River, Alaska 99577

J. Michael James, M.D.
3710 E. 20th Ave.
Anchorage, Alaska 99504

Division of Occupational Licensing
Department of Commerce
Pouch D
Juneau, Alaska 99801

(Phone: 907-465-2544)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Purpose and Scope of the Review.	3
Organization and Function.	5
Report Conclusion.	7
Findings and Recommendations:	
State Physical Therapy Board.	8
Division of Occupational Licensing.	11
Analysis of Public Need.	12
Appendixes:	
A. State Physical Therapy Board Revenues Compared with Expenditures	16
B. Administrative Statistics.	17
C. Questionnaire Sent to Board Members.	18
D. Questionnaire Sent to Physical Therapists and Physical Therapy Assistants.	20
Responses:	
Office of the Governor	23 (a)
Department of Commerce and Economic Development	24 (a)
Board Response	25 (a)

PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE REVIEW

Purpose

In accordance with the intent of Alaska Statutes 24.20.271(1) and 44.66.050 (sunset legislation), a review of the State Physical Therapy Board was conducted to review Board activities and accomplishments to determine if the Board has operated in an effective, efficient and economical manner.

As required by legislative intent, this report shall be considered during the legislative oversight function in determining whether the State Physical Therapy Board should be reestablished. The law currently specifies that this Board will terminate on June 30, 1979, but will continue until June 30, 1980, for the purpose of concluding its affairs.

Scope

The major areas reviewed were the Board's operations and its licensing, examination, administration, complaint and affirmative action functions. Our review consisted of analyzing and evaluating the following:

- (1) . Applicable statutes and Board regulations;
- (2) Interviews with Board members and questionnaires sent to the Board members;
- (3) Interviews with professional associations;
- (4) Tests of records and documents of the Board and the Division of Occupational Licensing (OL), Department of Commerce and Economic Development;
- (5) Interviews with OL employees;
- (6) Complaints filed with OL, the Ombudsman's Office, Consumer Affairs Agency, the Human Rights Commission, and the Equal Employment Opportunity Office;
- (7) Questionnaires sent to state licensed physical therapists and physical therapist assistants; and
- (8) Other states' licensing requirements.

Scope Constraints

This review was hampered by the following constraints:

- (1) The Board has not established and reported financial and program plans as required by AS 37.07.050 nor has it developed and reported performance information regarding its effectiveness and accomplishments as required by AS 37.07.090.
- (2) OL has not adequately collected, recorded or maintained pertinent files and statistics relating to the Board to effectively and efficiently carry out its responsibilities.
- (3) The Physical Therapy Board, at the time of this review, had four members. Only one member was responsive during this review.

ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTION

As of September 1, 1957, physical therapists (PT's) were required to be registered by the territorial government. They were registered at that time by the Territorial Medical Board, under the authority of Chapter 74, SLA 57.

In 1974 the State Physical Therapy Board was created by Chapter 71, SLA 1974. At this time, physical therapy assistants (PTA's) were also required to be licensed. The difference between a PT and a PTA is that a four-year degree is required for a PT and a two-year associate degree is required for a PTA.

AS 08.84.010 states that the Board shall be made up of three PTs, one medical doctor, and one lay person. The purpose of the Board is to control all matters pertaining to the registration of PTs and PTAs and the practice of physical therapy.

The major duties of the Board are to pass on the qualifications of applicants, conduct examinations, issue temporary permits and registration certificates to qualified PTs and PTAs, suspend or revoke licenses, when necessary, keep a current register of licensed PTs and PTAs and keep a record of its meetings, proceedings and hearings. The Board is assisted in these duties by the Division of Occupational Licensing (OL). OL processes applications, maintains files, answers correspondence dealing with the Board and provides other administrative support as needed by the Board. In addition, OL's Investigations Unit investigates any complaints made involving PTs or PTAs.

Qualifications for licensure include educational requirements and a passing score on an examination. The examination is given on a nation-wide basis and is prepared and graded by a national organization (Professional Examination Service).

If a PT or PTA has taken the examination in another state and has been licensed by that state as a PT or PTA, they may be licensed in Alaska by endorsement without retaking the examination. The licensing requirements in the other state must be substantially equal to Alaska's requirements.

To get a PT or PTA license renewed, a licensee must submit an application with a fee by June 30 every even numbered year.

Physical therapy is the treatment of illness and injury by physical means. The goal of the PT is to help the patient function normally via rehabilitation. Although the PT may

spend time in consultation, research, teaching and administering, in general the PT's job is to give supervision and direction of care of the patients assigned to him or her.

A doctor must, by statute, refer a patient to a PT and during treatment, the PT must keep the doctor informed of the patient's progress during the treatment.

REPORT CONCLUSION

Policy Issues

This review contains policy issues raised as a result of our evaluation of various Board practices. The final policy decisions affecting these practices are not within the scope of this review but require legislative oversight consideration. In debating these decisions, the legislative oversight committees should take into consideration the findings and alternatives presented in this report, so that the potential impact of policy changes can be evaluated.

Report Conclusion

In our opinion, the State Physical Therapy Board should continue to regulate and license the physical therapy (PT) profession in order to protect the public's health, safety and welfare.

However, the Physical Therapy Board needs to assure continued competence of licensed PTs. We are recommending that continuing education be required for license renewal (see Recommendation No. 2).

The Board is doing a good job of licensing qualified PTs. However, we are recommending that they improve licensing procedures for the use of temporary permits, in order to prevent unqualified persons from obtaining temporary permits (see Recommendation No. 3).

We found three statutory problems:

- 1) The Board does not have the authority to promulgate regulations (see Recommendation No. 1).
- 2) Qualified foreign-trained PTs may not be licensed in this state (see Recommendation No. 4).
- 3) The statutes in establishing illegal acts relating to the practice of PT do not define such terms as "unprofessional conduct" and "moral turpitude" (see Recommendation No. 5).

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations No. 1 through No. 5 are addressed to the State Physical Therapy Board. Recommendations 6 and 7 are addressed to the Division of Occupational Licensing (OL) and should be read in conjunction with "A Performance Review of the Division of Occupational Licensing, Department of Commerce and Economic Development, October 30, 1978", issued under separate cover.

Recommendation No. 1

The State Physical Therapy Board should be allowed to promulgate regulations.

Alaska Statute 08.84, which is the statute creating the State Physical Therapy Board, does not grant the Board the authority to promulgate administrative regulations, according to the Attorney General's Office. The Board has formalized policies; however, these policies do not have the effect of law. The Board feels that lack of regulation-making power has been detrimental to the Board's operations.

We recommend that a section be added to the Physical Therapy Board's statutes which will give the Board authority to promulgate regulations. Otherwise the Board does not have the authority to establish professional standards, and enforce compliance of such standards.

Recommendation No. 2

The State Physical Therapy Board should require physical therapists and physical therapy assistants to obtain continuing education in order to get their licenses renewed.

To obtain an initial physical therapist's license in Alaska, an applicant is required to possess a bachelor's degree in physical therapy and pass a national examination. Renewal of licenses is required every two years. Presently, licensees do not have to demonstrate continued competency to maintain their license.

Once a professional is granted a license to practice an occupation they have an implied obligation to maintain that minimum competence. Quality health care is dependent upon competent performance of the professional. Continuing education is one means by which professionals gain knowledge and skill so they can maintain and improve their performance.

In response to our questionnaires, 47% of the PTs and 37% of the PTAs believed continuing education should be required, and 70% stated that they were aware of continuing education courses or seminars in their areas (see Appendix D).

The Board should have discretionary latitude in requiring continuing education requirements. For example, by requiring continuing education, an undue hardship might be placed on a PT practicing in rural areas. Rather than deny re-licensure and reduce the health care in these areas, the Board should be allowed to waive this requirement in special cases.

Recommendation No. 3

Controls over temporary licenses should be improved.

Alaska Statute 08.84.065 allows the Board to issue nonrenewable temporary permits to applicants who are awaiting permanent licensure by examination or endorsement. The temporary permits are valid either until the examination results are received or all the documents for licensure by endorsement are received, or for eight months, whichever occurs first.

We noted two problems with temporary permits:

- 1) An applicant may receive a temporary permit by submitting his credentials to a Board member. The Board member may then issue a temporary permit without consulting the rest of the Board. As a result, temporary licenses could be issued to unqualified persons. We found that temporary licenses were issued to applicants before documentation of their qualifications was received by the Board or licensing examiner.
- 2) In testing the individual licensing files, we found cases where temporary licenses had lapsed, because of the eight-month limitation, before permanent licenses were issued. The PTs were in violation of the statute which requires that PTs must be licensed in order to practice.

We recommend the following to combat these problems: documentation required for temporary licensure should go to the licensing examiner in all cases. Then, upon notification by the licensing examiner that the applicant has filed all necessary documents, a Board member can decide if a temporary license should be issued.

Also, the Board should take all steps possible to ensure that applicants are issued their permanent licenses before their temporary permits expire.

Recommendation No. 4

Statutory changes should be made to allow qualified foreign-trained physical therapists to practice physical therapy in Alaska.

To be licensed as a physical therapist in Alaska, an applicant must have graduated from a college of physical therapy which is approved either by the American Physical Therapy Association or the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals of the American Medical Association. However, neither of these two groups approve foreign schools. A foreign-trained PT thus may not be licensed to practice physical therapy in Alaska. An exception to this has been made in an Attorney General's opinion which states that if foreign-trained PTs have been licensed in another state, they may be licensed in Alaska. However, any foreign-trained physical therapist who has not been licensed in other states is denied licensure in Alaska.

Twenty-eight other states license foreign-trained PTs on the basis of evaluations done on an applicants education by a Credential Evaluation Service. The Service evaluates an applicant's credentials by comparing them with American standards. If they are found to be substantially equal, the applicant may be licensed. This service is endorsed by the American Physical Therapy Association.

We recommend that the statutes be amended to allow persons, whose foreign education is found to be substantially equal to an American's by this credentialing Service, to be licensed in Alaska.

Recommendation No. 5

The State Physical Therapy Board in conjunction with the Attorney General, should compose formal regulations which define and list examples of licensing violations.

Alaska Statute 08.84.120 lists violations which are grounds for denial, suspension and revocation of a license. The list includes vague terms such as "moral turpitude" and "unprofessional conduct" which many physical therapists probably would not be able to understand without the advice of a lawyer. The Board should clarify and give examples of these terms.

Physical therapists and the public would be better informed and protected if they had guidance as to what actions by a physical therapist are illegal. An example of unprofessional conduct would be the commission of a fraudulent act while practicing physical therapy.

Recommendation No. 6

The State Physical Therapy Board should establish formal goals, objectives and quantifiable measures which should be included in the Division of Occupational Licensing (OL) budget documents.

Objectives describe what an agency or Board is seeking to accomplish during a specific year. Well formulated objectives are capable of measurement and should include numerical targets so that actual accomplishments can be compared with stated targets. Without goals and objectives, the Board's performance cannot be adequately evaluated and analyzed.

OL established its own budget goals and objectives. However, the budget documents do not include any goals or measures for individual boards. Without the Board's goals and measures being identified or measured, both the Governor's Office and the Legislature cannot evaluate the Board's performance (see the OL Performance Audit Report).

Recommendation No. 7

The Division of Occupational Licensing should collect, record and maintain for five years files and statistics of license and testing applicants and related workload of the licensing examiner.

The Division needs relevant facts and statistics for evaluating the performance of their personnel and Board activity. Many past records have not been collected and maintained, such as:

1. Number of physical therapists and physical therapy assistants licensed each year and total number of licensed physical therapists and physical therapy assistants;
2. Records of those applicants failing the examination;
3. Number of applicants denied the chance to take the examination due to lack of qualifications;
4. Number of complaints and criticisms about the performance of the Board and its staff;
5. Correspondence workload of license examiners;
6. Number of persons requesting applications.

It is to the advantage of the Division to keep these records in order to support their budget request, evaluate their personnel and keep the Board informed as to their progress. Also, feedback from the Board and the public should be encouraged so as to determine whether staff performance is adequate (see the OL Performance Audit Report).

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC NEED

Limited Analysis

The following analyses indicate both positive and negative attainments as Board activities relate to the public need factors defined in the "Sunset" law. These analyses are not intended to be comprehensive in nature, but address those areas we were able to cover within the scope of our review.

- I. The extent to which the board, commission or program has operated in the public interest.
 1. In testing the individual licensing files, we found that the Board is conscientious in the licensing of PTs, except for the problems with temporary licenses as noted in Recommendation No. 3.

- II. The extent to which the operation of the board, commission, or agency program has been impeded or enhanced by existing statutes, procedures, and practices which it has adopted, and any other matter, including budgetary, resource, and personnel matters.
 1. The Board's statutes do not give the Board the authority to promulgate regulations - the Board has written policies, but they do not have the effect of law (see Recommendation No. 1).
 2. The statutes do not allow the Board to license foreign-trained PTs (see Recommendation No. 4).
 3. The Board feels its operations are seriously hampered by the inefficient handling of complaints by the Investigations Unit within OL (see the OL Performance Audit Report).
 4. The turnover of the licensing examiners in OL has caused some inefficiency in the Board's operations.
 5. One member of the State Physical Therapy Board has attended only 44 per cent of the meetings. The Board is not getting the benefit of having a full Board (see the OL Performance Audit Report).
 6. The terms of three Board members had been lapsed for approximately a year before the Office of the Governor reappointed the Board members (see the OL Performance Audit Report).

- III. The extent to which the board, commission or agency has recommended statutory changes which are generally of benefit to the public interest.
1. Since 1974, when the PT Board was created, only minor language changes have been made; except for the amendment to allow the PT Board members to receive per diem and travel allowances. These changes were initiated by the Department of Commerce and Economic Development and the Office of the Governor.
 2. No changes have been recommended by the Board.
- IV. The extent to which the board, commission or agency has encouraged interested persons to report to it concerning the effect of its regulations and decisions on the effectiveness of service, economy of service, and availability of service which it has provided.
1. The public is invited to attend Board meetings to give their opinions about Board proceedings. Board meetings and examinations are advertised one time only in each of four newspapers throughout the state (see the OL Performance Audit Report).
- V. The extent to which the board, commission or agency has encouraged public participation in the making of its regulations and decisions.
1. As noted in IV, the public is invited to attend Board meetings via newspaper advertisements. We found no other evidence that the Board has encouraged public participation
 2. Since 1974, only three persons have attended board meetings.
- VI. The efficiency with which public inquiries or complaints regarding the activities of the board, commission or agency filed with it, with the department to which a board or commission is administratively assigned, or with the office of the ombudsman have been processed and resolved.
1. Since its inception, the Board has requested the Investigations Unit in OL investigate two complaints - no action has been taken on the complaints (see the OL Performance Audit Report).
 2. One complaint involving the Board of Physical Therapy was made to the Ombudsman Office. The complaint, which involved a foreign-trained PT, was satisfactorily resolved as a result of an Attorney General's Opinion.

VII. The extent to which a board or commission which regulates entry into an occupation or profession has presented qualified applicants to serve the public.

1. The Board requires an applicant to have the following credentials to be licensed as a PT: a degree from a physical therapy school (which includes a 9-month internship program) and a passing score on a national written examination.
2. Since the Physical Therapy Board took over in 1974, it has licensed approximately 60 PTs.
3. The Board does not require continuing education for PTs to ensure continued competence (see Recommendation No. 2).

VIII. The extent to which state personnel practices, including affirmative action requirements, have been complied with by the board, commission or agency to its own activities and the area of activity or interest.

1. The application for licensure contains questions which could lead to discrimination on the Board's part against an applicant (see the OL Performance Audit Report).
2. The statutes do not allow foreign-trained physical therapists to be licensed to practice in Alaska (see Recommendation No. 4).

IX. The extent to which statutory, regulatory, budgeting or other changes are necessary to enable the agency, board or commission to better serve the interests of the public and to comply with the factors enumerated in this subsection.

1. The PT Board should be added to the list of Boards which are under the jurisdiction of the Administrative Procedures Act (AS 44.62.330).
2. Please refer also to the previous section, Findings and Recommendations.

APPENDIXES

APPENDIX A

STATE PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD
REVENUES COMPARED WITH EXPENDITURES
Fiscal Year 1978
(UNAUDITED)

Revenues (see Schedule 1 and Note 1)	\$ 2,300
Expenditures (see Note 2)	<u>11,700</u>
Excess of Expenditures Over Revenues	<u><u>\$(9,400)</u></u>

Schedule 1
Types of Revenues

<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Collection Time</u>
Application Fee	\$25	With application for licensure
Registration by Examination Fee	25	With taking examination
Registration by Endorsement Fee	25	When registered
Biennial Renewal Fee	25	Biennially
Temporary Permit Fee	10	When permit is applied for
Late Fee Fine	10	With late payment

Note 1

This revenue figure includes application and examination fees plus renewal fees. Since the renewal fees are collected once every two years, they cause the revenues in one year to be much greater than the revenues collected in the next year. Therefore, we calculated and reported an average of the revenues collected in fiscal years 1977 and 1978 in order to obtain an accurate representation of collected revenues.

Note 2

Expenditures include those made by Board members, such as travel and per diem, and an allocated percentage (estimated) of total administrative expenses of OL. They do not include expenditures for efforts that other departments, such as the Department of Law, may have incurred in assisting the Board and OL.

APPENDIX B

ADMINISTRATIVE STATISTICS

<u>Licensed Physical Therapists and Licensed Physical Therapy Assistants</u>	As of <u>October 20, 1978</u>
Licensed Physical Therapists	92
Licensed Physical Therapy Assistants	3
<u>Board Meetings in Calendar Years 1976-1978</u>	7 meetings
Average number of meetings per calendar year (excluding telephone conferences)	2 meetings
Number of examinations given	9 exams

<u>Calendar Year</u>	<u>Passes</u>	<u>Fails</u>
1976	2	0
1977	3	1
1978	1	2

APPENDIX C

QUESTIONNAIRE SENT TO BOARD MEMBERS
(see Note 1)

1. Why do you think physical therapists should be registered by a State agency?

To use the law for enforcement of policies.

2. What do you believe to be the goals and objectives of the State Physical Therapy Board?

1. *To provide optimum physical therapy care to the public and protect them from fraud.*
2. *To ensure that licensure is of qualified therapists.*
3. *To handle any complaints concerning the practice of physical therapy.*

3. Do you feel that the Board is achieving its goals as you perceive them in question number 2?

Yes.

4. Do you feel more emphasis should be places on some goals and less on others? Please describe any areas you feel would be applicable.

No.

However, more support and better service for investigating complaints is needed from investigators of the Division.

5. What evidence exists demonstrating that the absence of regulations governing the practice of physical therapy and/or the Board would be detrimental to the public's best interest?

One individual is advertising as providing "physical therapy". She is not trained in any way as a therapist, but the public does not know so. Even with the law this occurs. Without the law it could occur very frequently.

6. Is the staff of Occupational Licensing and/or other State agencies adequate to handle the administrative and enforcement needs of the Board? What staff support services are provided adequately? Inadequately?

6. (cont'd.)

Need more enforcement help.

At times, administrative needs are not met.

Licensing Examiners are very busy. For a time, we had a new one every few months and nothing was done as it needed to be.

7. Are there any statutes or regulations that you believe are too obsolete, vague, unduly restrictive and/or inadequate to allow the Board to carry out its purposes? Please cite specific statutes and their weaknesses.

The statute stating Physical Therapists must be graduated from a school approved by the APTA restricts us in licensing foreign-trained therapists.

8. What changes could be made to the Board which would improve its service to the public?

No comment.

9. Any other comments?

No comment.

Note 1

At the time this questionnaire was mailed from the Division of Legislative Audit, there were only four members on the State Physical Therapy Board. Each of the four Board members was sent a questionnaire and Legislative Audit received one response which is summarized above.

APPENDIX D

QUESTIONNAIRE SENT TO PHYSICAL THERAPISTS AND
PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANTS

		% Responses (see Note 1)		
		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
1.	Do you feel that it should be necessary for the following to be licensed by the State:			
	Physical Therapists	97%	0%	3%
	Physical Therapist Assistants	90%	5%	5%
	Why or why not?			
2.	Do you feel that the absence of the Board would be detrimental to the public's best interests?	88%	5%	7%
	Please discuss:			
3.	Do you believe that the State Physical Therapy Board is operating in the public's best interest?	81%	2%	17%
4.	Do you believe Alaska's licensing requirements for permanent licenses are adequate and effective in ensuring that the public is protected?	85%	3%	12%
	If no, please explain:			
5.	Do you feel that temporary permits are in the best interests of the public?	85%	7%	8%
6.	Do you feel that the examination given by Professional Examination Service (PES), which is required for licensure as a physical therapist in Alaska, is a fair and reasonable test of a physical therapist's professional knowledge and ability?	83%	7%	10%
7.	Do you feel that continuing education should be required before the following licenses are renewed:			
	Physical Therapists	47%	47%	6%
	Physical Therapist Assistants	37%	53%	10%

	% Responses (see Note 1)		
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
8. Do you know of any classes, workshops, and/or seminars that have been offered in your area which relate to physical therapy and would qualify for continuing education?	70%	27%	3%
9. Do you believe that the current reciprocity (endorsement) policies of the State Physical Therapy Board are fairly and consistently applied?	76%	10%	14%
If no, please comment:			
10. Are you aware of any discriminatory practices involving licensing of minority groups?	0%	97%	3%
11. Do you think the State Physical Therapy Board should be made up of:			3%
A. a majority of physical therapists?	61%		
B. an equal number of physical therapists and public members?	36%		
C. a majority of public members?	0%		
Please circle one.			
12. Do you feel it is advantageous to have a medical doctor on the Board?	68%	27%	5%
13. Have you had any contact with the State Physical Therapy Board?	44%	53%	3%
Please specify:			
14. Do you have any complaints concerning the service provided by the staff support of the Division of Occupational Licensing, Department of Commerce and Economic Development?	34%	63%	3%
Please discuss:			

Note 1

Number of questionnaires sent to licensed physical therapists and physical therapy assistants	<u>88</u>
Number of physical therapists and physical therapy assistants who responded	<u>59</u>
Response Rate	<u>67%</u>

RECEIVED

STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

JAN 11 AM.

LEGISLATIVE
AUDIT

January 9, 1979

Mr. Gerald Wilkerson
Legislative Auditor
Division of Legislative Audit
Pouch W
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Mr. Wilkerson:

We have reviewed your preliminary reports as shown below:

1. Board of Examiners in Optometry
2. Board of Dispensing Opticians
3. Board of Psychologist and Psychological Associate Examiners
4. Board of Chiropractic Examiners
5. Alaska State Medical Board
6. Board of Veterinary Examiners
7. State Physical Therapy Board
8. Board of Pharmacy
9. Board of Nursing
10. Board of Nursing Home Administrators
11. Board of Dental Examiners
12. Alaska Transportation Commission

We view these reviews of agency programs and activities which are specifically subject to termination in a manner different from those made of State departments or agencies. Usually we in the Executive Branch endeavor to respond directly to each finding and recommendation. However, in regard to the Boards and Commissions, the Executive Branch agency during a public hearing shall demonstrate a public need for its continued existence or the discontinuation of the program, and the extent to which any change in the manner of exercise of its functions or activities may increase efficiency of administration or operation consistent with the public interest.

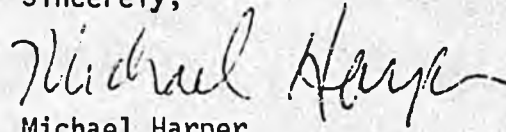
The Executive Branch of Alaska Government has made an extensive study of the above Boards and the Alaska Transportation Commission. We are continuing to study those entities, their origin, their present and future potential, and other related subjects in conjunction with Alaska statutes 24 and 44 (Sunset Legislation). As prescribed in AS 44.66.050 one or more legislative hearings are to be held to receive testimony from the public, the Commissioner of the department having administrative responsibility for each, and the members of the Boards or Commission involved. During those hearings we will present our findings and recommendations affecting each of the foregoing Boards and the Alaska Transportation Commission.

Mr. Gerald Wilkerson
Page 2

January 9, 1979

Accordingly, we are presenting this in addition to the responses from the Department of Commerce, Department of Law, and the individual Board or Commission members and others on an interim basis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Harper". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Michael Harper
Administrative Assistant
to the Governor

STATE OF ALASKA

JAY S. HAMMOND, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING

December 15, 1978

POUCH D

JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

RECEIVED

JAN 11 AM.

LEGISLATIVE
AUDIT

Gerald L. Wilkerson, CPA
Legislative Auditor
Division of Legislative Audit
Pouch W
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Mr. Wilkerson:

The following comments are in response to the Performance Review of the State Physical Therapy Board, as submitted by the Division of Legislative Audit.

Recommendation No. 1. Agreed. The lack of authority to promulgate regulations is a detriment to efficient board operations. Pending the outcome of Sunset Review, the division will propose legislation to grant this authority.

Recommendation No. 2. Agreed. Continuing education is one method of maintaining and improving quality care in the health care fields. We also agree that special consideration should be given to those licensees practicing and residing in rural areas where availability of educational courses is nonexistent, however, we would not advocate that they be exempt.

Recommendation No. 3. Agreed. Discussions will be held with the board and through cooperative efforts this recommendation should be complied with in the near future.

Recommendation No. 4. Foreign trained physical therapists should be licensed to practice in Alaska, if fully qualified. The division will discuss this issue and your recommendation with the board at its next meeting.

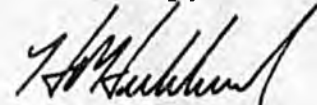
Recommendation No. 5. Agreed. Licensing violations should be as clearly defined as possible, as long as care is taken where the definition could not be interpreted as all-inclusive.

Recommendation No. 6. Agreed. This board, as well as all boards, will be contacted in March or April, 1979 for input into the division's budget for FY 1981. This input will address the board's goals, objectives, and financial needs.

Recommendation No. 7. Agreed. Complete reorganization of files and procedures within the agency are expected to be accomplished by the end of calendar year 1979. Some changes have recently been initiated by the agency.

I appreciate the time and efforts expended by your staff.

Yours truly,



H. Phillip Hubbard
Commissioner

STATE OF ALASKA

JAY S. HAMMOND, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING

POUCH D - JUNEAU 99011

RECEIVED

JAN 11 A.M.

PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD

LEGISLATIVE
AUDIT

RESPONSE TO LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE

The following are the Board's responses to the recommendations in the preliminary performance review of the State Physical Therapy Board, dated October 20, 1978, from the Division of Legislative Audit.

Recommendation No. 1

The State Physical Therapy Board should be allowed to promulgate regulations.

The Board agrees with this recommendation and is making appropriate suggested changes for the statutes. Amendments will be submitted during the next Legislative Session to provide for the Board to make rules and regulations.

Recommendation No. 2

The State Physical Therapy Board should require physical therapists and physical therapy assistants to obtain continuing education in order to get their licenses renewed.

The Board agrees with the importance of and the idea behind continuing education. However, the Board does not feel it is ready to handle mandatory continuing education at this time because of:

1. Difficulty in getting quality courses in Alaska due to the expense of "importing" instructors.
2. Great distances and costs involved for rural therapists to attend inservice courses.
3. Lack of standards determining the quality of continuing education courses. There is no professional Physical Therapy School in Alaska to offer continuing education. The local chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association does an excellent job of providing education seminars; however most of these are given by local physical therapists, and uniform standards have not been set.

The Board will be setting up a task force to study and make recommendations for the problems of providing continuing education in Alaska. February 1979.

As there have been no complaints from the public regarding degree of professionalism (knowledge, skills, services) of physical therapists, the Board feels lack of required continuing education is not an urgent problem.

Recommendation No. 3

Controls over temporary licenses should be improved.

It is the responsibility of all Board members to know the qualifications for licensure. Therefore the premise in the first paragraph under recommendation No. 3 is incorrect. We question whether one Occupational Licensing Examiner knows the qualifications for licensure better than one Board member. As it is the responsibility of the Board member to issue temporary permits, at least copies of the documents should be seen by the issuing member. The current Board members are not aware of any instance where an applicant was issued a temporary permit before documentation of their qualifications was received by either the Board member or Licensing Examiner.

The temporary licenses which lapsed before permit licenses were issued occurred when there were several rapid changes of the licensing examiners, and when the State was requiring financial disclosure of all Board members, as several physical therapy members resigned causing lack of a quorum. The Board has since made a policy (which hopefully will become a regulation) that the Licensing Examiner shall notify all applicants two months prior to expiration of their temporary permit, if their application is not complete and ready for permanent licensure. In the past year, since this policy, it is believed that there has been no problems.

The Board disagrees that the licensing examiner must first receive all documents for a temporary permit. An applicant may present all documents personally to a Board member and receive a temporary permit. Documents will then be sent to Juneau by certified mail. It is the responsibility of the Board to pass on the qualifications of the applicant rather than the licensing examiner.

The Board agrees with the last statement of this recommendation and is attempting to do so.

Recommendation No. 4

Statutory changes should be made to allow qualified foreign-trained physical therapists to practice physical therapy in Alaska.

The Board agrees with this recommendation and is proposing statute changes accordingly.

Recommendation No. 5

The State Physical Therapy Board in conjunction with the Attorney General, should compose formal regulations which define and list examples of licensing violations.

The Board agrees, but first must receive the authority to make regulations. The Board is recommending statute changes in order to make rules and regulations, and has already made a partial list of violations.

Recommendation No. 6

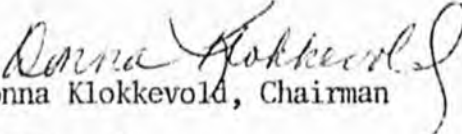
The State Physical Therapy Board should establish formal goals, objectives and quantifiable measures which should be included in the Division of Occupational Licensing (OL) budget documents.

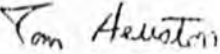
This has been done for the past year, 1978, by the Board and was sent to the Division of Occupational Licensing. The Division was to write up the report in final format. Report items sent to Juneau Oct. 78.

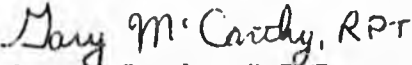
Recommendation No. 7

The Division of Occupational Licensing should collect, record and maintain for five years files and statistics of license and testing applicants and related workload of the licensing examiner.

The Board agrees.


Donna Klokkevold, Chairman


Tom Heuston, Secretary


Gary McCarthy, R.P.T.

P.O. Box 8032
Anchorage, AK
99508

W.E. Bradley
P.O. Drawer 8-Q
Anchorage
99508

Mr. Bradley:

This letter is written to show my concern with you to reinstate the Physical Therapist Practice Act. As a licensed Physical Therapist this is an important matter to me in order for us to maintain our quality care.

A copy of the proposed changes is enclosed for your review.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Mary Pomeroy, R.P.T.

ALASKA PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION, INC.
P.O. BOX 4-908
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99509