

**PTA Educators Annual Meeting**  
**Education Section Special Interest Group**

**CSM February 20, 2016**

**Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by Kathy Giffin at 8:02 am.

**Welcome and introductions** were made. Kathy recognized Kim Rouillier for her work and assistance as the past Chair of the PTA ESIG; introduced current officers: Kim Salyers, Vice Chair with term ending this year; Querida Maters, Secretary with term ending this year, Jennifer Jewell, Nominating Committee and running for Vice Chair; and Brad Thuringer, Nominating Committee, term continuing. Discussed Building Bridges and collaborative relationships with other entities. Introduced Lisa Stesjel from the PTA Caucus and Jennifer Jewell from CE SIG. Noted her personal involvement with the BOD Education and the APTA BOD. These activities are effective in reducing the isolation as a SIG.

**Adoption of Minutes**

Kathy noted that the minutes from ELC have been posted. Called for a motion to accept the minutes as posted. Motion and seconded; vote all in favor; 0 against; 0 abstain. Minutes accepted.

**Chair Report:**

Current Issues and Priorities of the PTAESIG/SIG activities/ELC and NEXT reports/Strategic Planning

1. Communication and awareness of issues. Kathy has regular conference calls with the SIG leadership team.
2. Extensive programming at ELS
  - a. Information session
  - b. Issues Forum
    - i. Strategy development to support PTA educators; results will be posted on ESIG page
    - ii. Mentoring session for new administrators; looking at new standards; sharing ideas
    - iii. Strategies to increase quality and quantity of CEs
  - c. Discussed the benefits of attending and/or presenting at ELC
3. Announced the call for proposals for ELC due end of March, CSM proposals due beginning of March. Encouraged attendees to consider presenting in future sessions.
4. Education Section \$10,000 grant requests due October 1.
5. CSM programming included Education Issues Forum. Approximately 80 in attendance discussed problems, solutions, and next steps. Summaries will be posted on Education Section webpage.
6. Ability to communicate with members continues to be an ongoing problem.
  - a. Current yahoo groups list serve and Facebook page not official methods of communication.
  - b. APTA staff have now identified the website problem and are in the process of developing an official list serve for PTA ESIG. This should be ready to deploy by the end of February. Kathy recommends all attendees go to the PTA Educator website in March to confirm email and sign up for the list serve. Participants must join, it is not an automatic when joining the ESIG.
7. Kathy has been very involved with other groups. Has been invited to CAPTE meetings, panel discussions at FSBPT as the chair and representative for the PTA ESIG.

8. Strategic planning for the SIG is to serve as a resource to members. Kathy shared the current purpose and SIG objectives and noted that we are doing a fair job of meeting these objectives. The group continues to work hard to learn who is who and to make networking connections.
- A: Trying hard to fix the communication issues; using Forums at ELC and CSM to communicate; posting results on Education Section website.
  - B: Faculty development is not a high priority since other groups are providing.
  - C: Offering sessions; 2 hour session at ELC focused on meeting CAPTE standards; plan to schedule again in 2016.
  - D: Continue advocating for the role of the PTA; 1 vote for PTA members; developing collaborative relationships with APTA staff, APTA BOD, and Education Section BOD.
  - E: Promoting opportunities for PTA educator representation in leadership roles; recommending new members of Education Section Membership Committee; the PTA voice is not often at the table.
  - F: Attempting to build relationships with PT program educators; attended Education Partners meeting; ACAPT is not interested.
  - G: Making strides impacting the Education Section related to PTA and PTA education by participating in the ELC Oxford Debate, ELC planning; BOD meetings, Clinical Educator SIG liaison. We need membership and we need research!
  - H: Continue to serve as a resource, responding to requests. Need better awareness of the resources available; need research.

### **New Business**

1. Nominations closed last night. Jennifer Jewell announced the slate of candidates.

- Secretary/Treasurer: Jonna Schengel and Frances Wedge
- Vice Chair: Frank Bates and Jennifer Jewell
- Nominating Committee: Tawny Chamberlain and Beverly Laboski

2. Motion to change the PTA ESIG purpose statement

Kathy reports that during ELC, it was noted by some that the current purpose is passive and it was proposed that the purpose should be reworked in light of the new APTA vision & strategies. The current statement was shared with the group and the proposed statement was introduced. Kathy asked for an open discussion. Minimal discussion among the group, but comments were supportive of the change. A motion was made to accept the proposed purpose, seconded. Voting concluded with all in favor; 0 against; 0 abstain. Motion passed.

New Purpose: The PTA Educators SIG serves as the advocate and expert resource for the education and role of the PTA. Members provide leadership, mentorship and expertise in teaching and learning to

support all persons concerned with education that ensures PTAs are prepared for contemporary practice.

### **Guests presenting**

*Amy Smith, PTA Caucus Chief Delegate*

Amy announced that 21 components have now passed legislation providing the PTA with a full vote. Other updates shared;

1. Important to promote the APTA and the value of membership.
2. In the process of reassessing the goals of the Caucus, including strategic planning and aligning with the APTA vision.
3. Focus on growing PTA leadership; engage and encourage students to connect with caucus reps.
4. Need ideas to increase PTA membership.
5. Discussed the Advanced Proficiency Pathway (APP) that is replacing the Recognition of Advanced Proficiency beginning in May of 2016. This is being piloted now. This process is forward moving vs. a retrospective view of the PTA career, setting a course or path with more depth and breadth than the current program.
6. Notes increased collaboration with the Orthopedic section. For the first time, the annual meeting will have education tracks specifically for the PTA.

An attendee asked what is being done to increase PTA membership or maintain membership after graduation. Amy indicated that communication will help improve and perhaps the development of a HUB for PTA educators would help. She also noted that getting the word out about the full vote for the PTA may help as well. The use of social media, such as Facebook and You Tube videos to educate/communicate would be beneficial.

Kathy added the importance of membership and the impact it has on PTAESIG resources. The Education section is growing, mostly due to ACAPT. Clinical educators can become involved in the PTA ESIG as well as the CE SIG. Currently the CE SIG is the only voice for PTA clinical education. All other task forces and groups are explicitly concerned with only PT issues.

*Sandra Wise, CAPTE Director*

Sandra informed the group that accrediting agencies are under a microscope related to student outcomes and notes legislation may change with the US Department of Education expectations. Other announcements:

1. The new standards contain very specific benchmarks related to graduation, employment, and pass rates. Encourages all review the new standards.
2. A new process is in place for any clinical placement of students outside the school's home base/state. Now need state authorization to place students. Some states have no problem with out of state student placement while other states do. Some states are charging fees. CAPTE will expect to see proof that a school is approved to place students out of their own jurisdiction. This is something new that will also be added to the AAR.
  - a. The State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) is an agreement among states that establishes guidelines for student placement out of a school's jurisdiction. The state and the college must belong to this pact. She suggests visiting the SARA website to determine if individual school is part of this compact, if it is there should be no problem.

3. Sandra notes many questions related to program length. Currently 5 semesters, 80 weeks, 104 calendar weeks, 2 consecutive calendar years. CAPTE is looking at the language and requirement and plans to discuss at the next meeting in the spring.
4. Actively recruiting to replace Doug. Also recruiting for other positions, including a new position over PTA programs.
5. The Central Panel has formed a task force to research the idea of offering an entry level bachelor degree PTA program, as a second option to the associate degree. The intent is to maintain the associate degree and add the bachelor degree as an option for those students interested.

*Maggie Donohue, FSBPT*

1. Exam processes working well.
2. Members have been appointed to the PTA task force to perform a practice analysis, completed every five years. They had a very robust pool to choose from and notes that of the 14 members, 7 are PTAs.
3. New content outline/testing blueprint will be part of the 2018 testing cycle.
4. COMPACT
  - a. Working with the APTA to continue development. There are 4 jurisdictions that have started the legislative process. We hope to have 10 jurisdictions by 2017. 10 are needed for the commission to start setting the groundwork for the next phase.
5. Coursework tool for foreign trained PTs and PTAs
  - a. Revisions based on CAPTE new standards are complete for PT and PTA education
  - b. Task force for PT and PTA, working on fine tuning process, validation hopefully before the end of the year; will be a method of providing credentialing.
6. New interface with programs and program directors to streamline the testing process for graduates. Beginning in October 2016 program directors will be responsible for confirming student eligibility to test. Should result in better efficiencies for the program and more accurate and reliable data. Notes that Jeff Rosa recently sent an email out to all program directors with updates on this process.
7. Introduced Susan Layton, COO. She indicated that program directors will be entering students into the system, which will generate an email to the students prompting them to register. This process begins early in the program. Also, links to the PEAT for those programs utilizing this tool.

*Bill Boisennault, APTA Vice President of Professional Affairs*

1. Reminded attendees about the ELI Fellowship Program. This 1 year program is an accredited program that develops leaders for PT and PTA leadership positions.
2. Announced the BOD approved the Strategic Plan for 2016.
  - a. Goals include education that prepares the PT and the PTA for contemporary practice.
3. Task force for PT education with a steering committee to drive initiatives. Three groups include ACAPT, CAPTE, and APTA Education section.
4. BOD meeting minutes available on the APTA site.
5. Best practices for Clinical Education; the focus is on PT education but PTA is a part of the discussion.
6. In the fall of 2016 there will be recommendations for three organizations; PTA educators will be at the table with a PTA educator included on the task force.

## **Education Section and Announcement from Kathy**

1. Kathy notes the Education Section is supportive of PTA education and the concerns of PTA educators.
2. Announced the availability of a new grant, funding \$10,000 for education research. Encouraged anyone interested in research to apply for funding. There is a big need for PTA research, data, and sharing of data.
3. Emerging Leader Award: Kathy described the requirements for nominees for this award and encourage attendees to nominate someone. Reminds everyone that we need to be present and participating to keep the face of the PTA out there.
4. Update and greetings from Doug Clarke. Now director of American Telemedicine Association. Announced free memberships to students.
5. ELC will be in Phoenix Arizona in October 2016. March 14 is the deadline for abstract submission. Kathy suggests putting this on the calendar and anticipates improved programming.
6. CSM will be in San Antonio Texas in February 2017. Call for proposals deadline is March 9, 2016.
7. Reminds everyone to attend the session Transforming the Role of the PTA today at 11 am.

## **Discussion/Questions**

**Q:** Is there a possibility for an online repository to share information, rubrics, etc.?

**A:** Kathy states if we can get the HUB for PTA Educators up and running, this would allow for uploading of documents. Apparently something similar was started in 2012 by Janet Crosier, but no one knows what may have happened with any work done by that group.

**Q:** Jennifer asked the group to identify programming needs for future CSM session. Also reminded attendees to talk to clinicians and to encourage them to speak at CSM; encouraged attendees to consider co-speaking with clinical instructors.

**A:** responses included professional development for educators related to cultural competence and diversity of students; tracks for PTA students; more recognition of PTA.

**Q:** Audience member ask for sessions with CAPTE to go over the new standards.

**A:** Kathy stated that these sessions are already available. CAPTE provides sessions for Self Study Workshop during the CSM, ELC, and NEXT conferences. They also offer sessions at other times/upon request for individuals and consortiums. As an aside, perhaps shorter, 2 hour sessions highlighting specific areas could be useful. She suggested that perhaps program directors could present best practice related to compliance with standards.

**Discussion:** members of the audience would like to see best practice methods that they can take back and apply to their individual programs. Topics include: admissions, curriculum, student engagement, and instructional methods that result in better retention, graduation, and pass rates.

**Discussion:** recommend letting go of old, non-contemporary content to make room for the new, instead of just adding more and more. Perhaps we need a task force to review curriculum and develop a new model. The current Normative Model is old, outdated. Not reflective of new analysis or standards. However, the APTA indicates that the PTA scope of practice has not changed. A member of the audience

representing the APTA staff indicates that this has not been a priority and that both the PTA and PT models are old.

**Discussion:** faculty development, mentoring opportunities. Use PTA ESIG purpose and objectives to guide programming.

Kathy provided closing comments and adjourned the meeting at 9:57 am.