

East Texas District Minutes  
February 17, 2022

The East Texas District met via Zoom.

Craig Tounget, the executive director of TPTA, gave an update on the upcoming make up of the Texas legislature:

\*25/150 members of the House will not return, including Rep. Menjases of San Antonio who carried the direct access bill. She is running for county judge of Bexar County. 5 Senators are not returning, so there will be many new lawmakers to educate about physical therapy. Unfortunately one of the best ways to educate is with PAC money, and there is a TPTA PAC advocacy button available on the TPTA website.

\*We will be asking to expand direct access to thirty days. So far, direct access has worked very well, despite early misgivings from the orthopedists. As we predicted, their referrals from PTs have increased, so they are friendlier. We will continue to push for unfettered direct access.

\*Fair co-pay bill: With direct access PT is the point of first contact for patients, and therefore are primary providers, not specialists. The co-pay should be the same as for primary care providers, which will save money for our patients. Lower co-pay will encourage patients to complete a course of PT. The bill almost passed in the last legislature.

\*Worker's compensation: The treating physician could include PT, and therefore the patients could skip a referral from a non-PT, with a greater likelihood of quicker return to the workforce. The term treating physician does not necessarily mean MD. It includes chiropractors.

\*The PTA differential is a federal issue and APTA is working on it. Members are encouraged to speak out.

\*TPTA will plan a legislative day in the first or second week of March 2023. A large turnout of PTs/PTAs makes an impression on the legislators.

Shaunda updated us on membership: 212 members in ETD, PTs, students, PTAs (about 1/3). There was a 5% drop in membership. There is a need to engage current members and increase membership.

Financially the state operating was low because of lower expenses. LaShawna was able to get us out of the Kalahari contract in Round Rock for Annual Conference without a fee, partly by negotiating for a future conference at Kalahari.

The new PT liaison on the board of examiners is Kristi Trammel.

TPTA course offerings have been declining, so a suggestion box will be added to the website.

ETD meetings reflecting changes coming up:

April 21, 2022: Denise Gobert, at Mt.Pleasant, Denise will present about the TomWaugh leadership development program.

May large course has been re-scheduled to October to take advantage PT month.

September 15, 2022: Rupal Patel will present about diversity, equity and inclusion at TJC.

October 2022: long course for 6-8 CCUs topics were presented, and Shaunda will send a survey to help determine which topics are of most interest. Topics mentioned were: hand surgeon, hippotherapy, functional medicine, PT/PTA utilization, Big and Loud for Parkinson's, pediatrics, taping, lymphatic massage, myofascial release, pelvic health, dry needling.

Several members attended CSM which was very worthwhile

Amanda will work with social media and email blasts to advertise our meetings and try to obtain better participation. Shaunda will have the survey open the week before and the week after the April meeting, so we can plan the October long course. The survey will include a link for members to send to nonmembers, a question about whether an employer might be interested in helping sponsor a meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully,  
Ann Huffstetter, PTA  
District Secretary