

Texas Physical Therapy Association

Texas Sunset Commission
Public Hearing
Wednesday, June 23, 2016
Austin, Texas

Testimony Provided by:

Stacey M. Mather

Director of Payment & Policy – Texas Physical Therapy Association

- Thank you and good afternoon. My name is Stacey Mather. I am representing the Texas Physical Therapy Association, and serve as the association's Director of Payment & Policy. I am here to speak in opposition to Recommendation 3.2.
- We appreciate the opportunity to provide input on the Sunset Staff Report.
- The TPTA has worked in collaboration with the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners for 16 years to administer the Continuing Competence Approval Program, also known as CCAP. During that time, we have processed over 27,000 course applications, utilizing teams of highly educated and specialized licensees who review the applications in a triple-blind, redacted format, based on their respective specialty area. The program has served thousands of licensed PTs and PTAs, who receive CC credit either through a sponsor, who may offer the course an unlimited number of times during their approval period, or by submitting an individual application.
- Prior to the PT Board's assignment of CCAP to the TPTA, an administrative clerk with no relevant education approved all continuing education courses, which resulted in some courses being approved that did not meet relevant clinical standards. The CCAP program is administered by TPTA on behalf of the Board and is run with their oversight and approval. Courses are blindly reviewed by three licensees from a pool of 109 expert reviewers in 22 specialty areas, ensuring that courses meet Board-designated standards. By doing so, CCAP provides for public protection by ensuring that licensees' knowledge and clinical skills are kept current with professional standards.

- The Sunset Staff Report criticized the PT Board for having “inappropriately delegated continuing education approvals” to a “sole approval authority,” in this case, TPTA. This statement fails to recognize the history, oversight, and rationale of the CCAP program. This program was designed to meet the specific needs of the PT Board and their licensees, and was reviewed and approved by the Texas Attorney General’s office prior to finalizing and implementing the program. Currently, we are the only organization that meets the standards set by the Board.
- TPTA believes strongly in transparency, and provides quarterly written and oral reports on the status of the program, in addition to being available to answer any question the Board or their staff may have at any time.
- I have provided direct oversight of the CCAP program for six years, and during that time I was not aware of any complaints that were filed. We would be open to working with the Commission and the Board to develop ways to maintain transparency, such as including a requirement that the Board issue an RFP to the entire professional community on a periodic basis. We administer this program to serve the profession and patients. Thank you, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.