

Draft

AR State Board of Physical Therapy ELIZABETH ATKINSON HEARING MINUTES September 18, 2003

Thursday, September 18, 2003

9 Shackleford Plaza, Suite 1, Little Rock, AR

Physical Therapy Board Members Attending: Seth Coulter; Jennifer Parks and Todd Burton. Board Member Jennie Gregory was present but did not participate in the hearing.

Representative from Attorney General's Office: Warren Readnour

Staff Attending: Alice Ryan and Nancy Worthen.

Others present: Elizabeth Atkinson, Paul Groce, attorney for Atkinson, Tanya Johnson, Lori Jones, and Anneliese Maus, witnesses for the Board.

CALL TO ORDER

- Chairman Seth Coulter called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

- On May 31, 2002 a letter of complaint was written to the Board stating that Elizabeth Atkinson does not follow Physician's orders and is unable to practice in a safe and appropriate manner. Ms. Atkinson, in the presence of other professionals and patient was heard talking to persons not present. Ms. Atkinson appeared at work with the odor of alcohol on her breath. Subsequently, the Board was informed that Ms. Atkinson was undergoing a court ordered mental commitment and was not practicing physical therapy. On February 28, 2003, the Board received a complaint following a court ordered mental commitment for treatment, that Ms. Atkinson was again practicing physical therapy. She is currently employed as a physical therapist in El Dorado, Arkansas. Ms. Atkinson has failed on multiple occasions to follow specific Physician orders pertaining to patient treatment and/or safety. She has exhibited behavior, including substance abuse that is a danger to patients.

Following review and consideration of the information presented, including Ms. Atkinson's testimony and three witnesses, the Board found Ms. Atkinson guilty of violating Ark. Code Ann. §17-93-308(a)(3) and § 17-93-308(a)(5). Items one (1) through two (2) and four (4) through ten (10) were confirmed as stated in the Order and Notice of Hearing. It is therefore ordered that Ms. Atkinson's license be restricted and placed on supervised probation status until she completes 1500 hours of physical therapy under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist who has not been sanctioned by the Board. She is prohibited from engaging in the practice of physical therapy outside the presence of the supervising physical therapist. The supervising physical therapist must maintain line of sight supervision during the 1500 hours. Ms. Atkinson must provide the name of the supervising physical therapist to the Executive Director of the Board prior to beginning the supervised physical therapy. The hours of supervision completed each month shall be submitted by Ms. Atkinson to the Executive Director of the Board on or before the 15th of the following month. Ms. Atkinson is ordered to pay a civil penalty in the amount of \$1,000. The penalty must be paid in full on or before March 18, 2004.

- The hearing adjourned at 3:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Worthen, Assistant Director