

Joint GAC of APTA Home Health & APTA Geriatrics Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Eva Norman, Phil Goldsmith, Latoya Watkins, Justin Elliott

Absent: Ellen Shrunk, Andrew Morgan, Denise Wentzell

Feb 20, 2025

Next steps

Eva to send the joint committee proposal and recruitment email to committee members with the meeting minutes.

Latoya to confirm and inform Eva if she is a member of both Home Health and Geriatrics academies.

Eva to work with Chandler on updating the committee's website with information about their purpose and mission.

Eva and Phil to finalize and launch the two-question survey for members.

Phil to include the two-question survey in his President's Message for the next E-news.

Eva to connect with Chandler to finalize website updates and survey launch.

Latoya to write an article on PT/PTA relationship for a future monthly e-newsletter.

Eva to discuss with Beth about potentially writing an article introducing the joint committee for the quarterly report.

Eva to send out the recruitment email for a new committee member to both Home Health and Geriatrics members.

Justin to check with Knox about coordinating messaging for the Home Health Rule resolution alert.

Justin to prepare for potential meetings with Secretary Becerra and Dr. Oz or their staff.

Eva and the committee to compile a list of regulations they want to see changed or removed for future meetings with HHS leadership.

Summary

Joint Committee Proposal and Membership

Eva discussed the proposal for a joint committee between Geriatrics Home Health and Neuro, aiming to improve care and advocate for the profession. The committee will consist of nine members, with one member still to be recruited. Eva also mentioned that the budget will be shared between the two committees. Philip clarified that he is an ex-officio member of both committees, while Latoya and L were unsure of their membership status. Eva also mentioned that the committees will meet monthly and share updates and articles. Justin joined the meeting late due to Zoom issues.

Capitol Hill Update and Future Plans

Justin provided an update on the current situation on Capitol Hill, focusing on the upcoming March 15th deadline for Congress to pass a spending package. He mentioned the bipartisan support for issues like Medicare fee schedule cuts, telehealth, and prior auth, but expressed uncertainty about potential political obstacles. Justin also discussed the introduction of the Safe Act and the House Joint Resolution 58, which could influence CMS to rethink their final Home Health Rule. He mentioned the potential for cuts to Medicaid and the proposal to tax nonprofits, which could be devastating for many organizations. Justin recommended that the team follow up with an alert or info bulletin to home health members regarding the House Resolution, and that they prepare for a growing drumbeat as the March 15th deadline approaches. He also mentioned plans to meet with Dr. Oz to discuss deregulation and coordinate with AOTA on shared issues. Justin mentions that Dr. Oz has had positive

experiences with physical therapy. Lastly, he noted the team's transition to a joint committee and the potential for valuable input from members on future legislation.

Collaboration and Survey Planning Discussed

Eva, Justin, and Philip discussed the collaboration between the Special Interest Group (SIG) and the Geriatrics Academy. Justin shared that he had a call with the SIG to discuss their plans and how they could work together. He also mentioned that Rachel Miller, who works with him, had met with the SIG members at their reception. The group agreed that this collaboration was exciting and beneficial. They also discussed the possibility of sending out a survey to the membership to gather their opinions and support for their efforts. The survey would consist of two questions, with multiple choice options, and would aim to understand the changes the members would like to see. Justin emphasized the importance of keeping the survey short to increase the likelihood of it being filled out.

Survey Distribution

Philip will write a President's message for the next E-news, due out on Tuesday, and needs the messaging by Monday morning. Eva also notes that Stacey Fisher will help with their communication efforts, suggesting that Philip's article could be shared through Stacey's social media channels as well. Eva suggested that the two questions should be placed at the top of the newsletter for maximum visibility. Philip agreed to discuss this with his team.

Future Newsletter Articles and Website Content Discussion

Eva also proposed to focus more on the organization's purpose on their website, suggesting that this could be a simple copy and paste task. Eva asked Latoya if she would be interested in writing an article about the PT-PTA relationship in the near future. Latoya is interested in writing an article for the monthly e-newsletter. Eva and Philip discuss the process and expected length of the article. Philip also mentions the upcoming deadline for the quarterly report on March 12th, and Eva considers including information about the joint committee in the quarterly report. Eva plans to discuss this idea with APTA Geriatrics.

Recruitment Strategies and FAL Meetings

The group discusses recruitment strategies for their team, deciding to send job descriptions to both home health and Geriatrics members through the advocacy network rather than using APTA Engage. Eva will be sending out meeting minutes and recruitment materials. They also discussed the FAL meeting, with Justin explaining that it involves monthly calls, a hub for updates and information sharing, and preparation for Hill Day in Washington, DC. Eva emphasizes the value of the FAL meetings for learning about advocacy issues and preparing for meetings with legislators.

Respectfully submitted by Eva Norman with assistance of AI