

Joint Government Affairs Committee (JGAC)

APTA Home Health & APTA Geriatrics

Meeting Minutes

Date: January 15, 2026

Time: 8:30–9:30 PM Eastern

Location: Zoom

Agenda: Attached

JGAC Meeting Agenda 01-15-2026

Attendance

Members Present:

- Eva Norman, PT, DPT (Co-Chair)
- Beth Black
- Phil Goldsmith
- Jamie Kuettel
- Steven Osovsky
- Denise Wentzell
- Amy Hedrick

Members Absent:

- Justin Elliott
- Sharon West
- Ellen Strunk
- Silke Mildenerberger
- Andrew Morgan

Note: Justin Elliott's Congressional & Regulatory Briefing Memo was not distributed in advance of the meeting as is customary and was received the following weekend. As a result, completion of these minutes was delayed.

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks

Eva Norman called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees. She acknowledged the absence of Justin Elliott, Sharon West, Ellen Strunk, and Silke Mildenerberger. No formal Congressional &

Regulatory update was delivered during the meeting due to the absence of Justin Elliott and Sharon West.

2. Meeting Logistics Confirmation

- The committee confirmed its regular meeting cadence as the **second Thursday of each month at 8:30 PM Eastern**, with adjustments as needed for national meetings.
- It was noted that **February's meeting will be held on Thursday, February 19 at 8:30 PM Eastern** due to CSM scheduling.
- Jamie Kuettel shared that the **Chief Delegates Council (CDC) meeting time may shift to 8:00–9:00 PM Eastern**, which could conflict with JGAC meetings. Possible solutions discussed included shifting JGAC meetings earlier if conflicts arise.

Action Item:

- *Jamie Kuettel* to notify the committee of any confirmed CDC schedule changes.
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3. Congressional & Regulatory Update

This agenda item was deferred. The committee noted that no live update was provided and that the written briefing memo was received after the meeting.

Action Item:

- *Eva Norman* to share legislative updates, memos, or urgent regulatory communications from Justin Elliott/APTA with the committee as they become available.
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4. JGAC Mission, Scope & Responsibilities

The committee reviewed the JGAC charge, including Discovery & Advocacy, Education & Communication, Collaboration & Recruitment, and Mentorship & Succession Planning.

Key discussion points included:

- Reinforcing **payment reform** as a major advocacy priority for 2026.
- Interest in increased **webinars, articles, and conference presentations** to better communicate advocacy work.
- Phil Goldsmith noted the committee would be welcome to present at a **Home Health business meeting**, with an anticipated **5-minute time limit**.

5. Taskforce Reports

Telehealth & Digital Care Policy Taskforce

- Ongoing work includes legislative and regulatory tracking related to telehealth and digital health policy.
- Discussion included collaboration opportunities with AOTA and broader digital health advocacy efforts.

Action Items:

- *Eva Norman* to ask Justin Elliott to connect the telehealth/digital care taskforce with AOTA's congressional team.
- *Jamie Kuettel* to share Google Drive resources and motion-development materials related to telehealth/digital health.

Payment Reform & Value-Based Care Taskforce

- Amy Hedrick reported plans to begin interviews with industry leaders to inform the taskforce's value-based care proposal.

Identified interview candidates included:

Roger Herr, Matt Janes, Bud Langham, Michael Johnson, and Sabrina McCarley.

Action Items:

- *Amy Hedrick* to begin interviews.
- *Phil Goldsmith* to send Matt Janes' contact information to Amy.
- *Eva Norman* to provide Roger Herr's contact information and facilitate connection with Michael Johnson.

6. Advocacy Infrastructure & Communications

Website & Records

- Phase 1 of the JGAC website update is expected to be completed by the end of the month.
- Phase 2 planning includes a **breaking news section** and a **blog/archive organized by topic**.

- The committee discussed the need for improved visibility of advocacy materials for both members and non-members.

Action Items:

- *Eva Norman & Ellen Strunk* to develop article topic ideas and share them with the committee.
 - *Phil Goldsmith* to explore whether limited public access (e.g., first two paragraphs) can be enabled on the Home Health website prior to member login.
 - *Ellen Strunk* to follow up with John regarding accessibility improvements to the Thinkific/Communities platform.
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7. Key Contact Recruitment

- Continued emphasis was placed on recruiting and engaging federal Key Contacts.
- The need for clearer communication around advocacy opportunities and impact was discussed, including concerns that many PTs remain unaware of APTA advocacy efforts.

Action Items:

- *Eva Norman* to continue inviting Key Contacts to JGAC meetings and coordinate outreach with Laura at APTA.
 - *Beth Black* to connect Kevin and Steven with Cathy Ciolek regarding AARP collaboration opportunities.
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8. Open Forum

- Eva provided an overview of **PTPAC**, emphasizing the role of targeted contributions to influential legislators and ongoing challenges in accessing advocacy information.
 - The committee discussed opportunities to improve transparency and engagement around advocacy funding and outcomes.
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9. Next Steps & Adjournment

Key Action Items Summary:

- Calendar update for next meeting (Feb 19, 8:30 PM ET) – *Eva Norman*
- Article topic list follow-up – *Eva Norman & Ellen Strunk*
- Telehealth/AOTA collaboration – *Eva Norman*

- Industry leader interviews – *Amy Hedrick*
- Website access exploration – *Phil Goldsmith*

The meeting was adjourned at approximately **9:30 PM Eastern**.