**North Central District – APTA-WI**

**Tuesday May 13, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

**Videoconference via Zoom:** Chris Ashbeck (Chair), Ben Solheim (Vice Chair), Dave Smith (Secretary/Treasurer), Cindy Koehler (Membership APTA WI and NCD), Aaron Homolka, Nicki Quarne, Kelly Ashbeck (guest), Kathy Zalewski

**CE/Presentation/Discussion:** (after business portion) – none. Oncology PT CE in April at UWSP; see below

**Secretary/Treasurer Report:**

* Review and approval of minutes from prior meeting – (on website)
  + - Correction: Kristi Hallisy is the instructor of the potential upcoming Tai Chi CE course; spelling was incorrect and has been updated in minutes
* Treasurer report– Dave Smith:
  + - $16,972, same as on 12/31/24. Check for NCD co-sponsorship of the combined UWSP PT Program and the NCD CE in April has not cleared yet ($1150)

**Subcommittees/Representatives:**

* Executive Committee (Chris Ashbeck – Chair. Ben Solheim – Vice Chair. Dave Smith – Secretary/Treasurer)
  + APTA WI Board of Directors meeting and Strategic Planning update – Chris Ashbeck
    - Discussion about transitioning to app to deliver APTA WI Conference materials. Share opinions with Chris
    - Website. Townhall ran through website. Concerns about costs of the web developer Cadeuseus. Contains CEU Locker. Will continue currently
    - PAC – fundraising goal is $30k with upcoming legislative push. Currently at $12.5k
    - Lindsay Dolan – named the PAC (Political Action Committee) chair
    - Bill Boissonnault and Jeff Wilkens – Leadership Development Committee
      * Assist those who want to lead; foster leadership at state level
      * Let Chris Ashbeck know of any staff who would be interested or a good fit
    - Emily Ziegler – named the Early Career SIG chair (prior chair of Student SIG). For graduates in their first 5 years. Let Chris know of staff who may be interested.
    - House of Delegates (APTA) – virtual Town Halls to give some information on resolutions that will be brought to the floor for a vote. Look for emails from Amy Olson at APTA WI.
  + APTA-WI Northcentral District and UWSP DPT Program event, *Improving Outcomes and Lives with Oncology Physical Therapy* was held at UWSP April 30, 6-8 pm. Presented by Leslie Waltke PT, DPT, Waltke Cancer Rehabilitation Academy in Elm Grove, WI. 6:00 to 6:30 social with NCD therapists and UWSP staff and students. Free for NCD members. 1.5 CEUs. Brief discussion about event
    - Approximately 76 in attendance. 45 UWSP students, 8 UWSP staff, 16 local PT/PTAs.
    - Plan is for a yearly event. Focus will be on case presentations
    - Plan to apply for the Tommy Thompson speaker grant to cover costs. Keep it a free event, continue to partner with NCD.
  + Legislative Updates – Kelly Ashbeck PT, DPT (future APTA WI Payment Specialist)
    - Lynn Steffes PT, DPT (current APTA WI Payment Specialist is retiring
    - Lynn and Kelly along with both APTA WI lobbyists Annie Early and Jeremey Shepherd, attended the Wisconsin Health News sponsored panel on prior authorization May 13.
    - Prior Authorization bill in preliminary draft. Final may be ready by June. PT, OT, Speech, and Chiropractic Associations are involved.
    - The panel included Representative Clint Moses (a chiropractor) is head of the Assembly Committee on Health, Aging and Long-Term Care supports bill, is looking at ensuring consistency among insurers, speeding up the process to prevent care delays, and reducing provider burdens.
    - Cory Tomczyk (29th WI Senate District) from Mosinee is co-author with Bob Wittke (63rd WI Assembly District). Senator Testin supports. Ben Solheim and Aaron Homolka will work with Kelly Ashbeck to reach out to Sen. Tomczyk once the bill is released.
    - Overview of bill proposals:
      * Would apply to State and National insurances working in WI, including Medicaid HMO’s
      * No prior authorization for first 12 visits
      * 90 day authorization for chronic or persistent pain cases
      * Authorization to be completed in 3 business days
      * No prior authorization for post-surgical patients
      * Therapy copays not considered specialty co-pays; move to primary care copay
      * Forward any prior authorization complaints, patient stories, questions, etc to Kelly Ashbeck ([Kelly@AshbeckHSsolutions.com](mailto:Kelly@AshbeckHSsolutions.com)) or Amy Olson at APTA WI.
* Membership Committee: Cindy Koehler
  + Membership for the district – most recent numbers as of 4/15/25
    - NCD members 188 (92 PT, 59 SPT, 9 PTA, 6 SPTA). Was 273 in February
    - 5 PT’s transferred into district
    - Students are not taking advantage of discounted rates early in their career
    - Noticing more involvement in the Student SIG by 2nd and 3rd UWSP DPT cohorts
* Education Committee: (Ben Solheim – Vice Chair, Kate Bennett, Nicki Quarne)
  + Possibilities:
    - Tai Chi – Kristi Hallisy. Ben will take lead on the course. Anticipate fall, late September, at least a month before APTA WI Fall Conference. Need to determine host site (MCHS, UWSP, Ben’s office in Wausau)

**New Business:**

* UWSP DPT Program Updates – Kathy Zalewski PT, PhD, MPA (Program Director and Professor)
  + Advisory Board Meeting recently (annual)
  + CAPTE accreditation decision made in April but not yet notified of results
  + First cohort graduated in December 2024. All who are licensed are employed. Of 25 employed, 22 stayed in-state and approximately 50% are north of Madison.
  + Current (2nd) cohort started clinicals today. New cohort starts the program in 2 wks. Thus far 40% of students come from rural areas
  + Program tuition/costs:
    - Program runs a “break-even” model to support students
    - DPT Program collects tuition directly, pays 42% overhead to UWSP, rest goes to the DPT Program (is 70% at UW-Milwaukee)
    - Total UWSP tuition and fees over three years is $71k, greatly below national average.
    - Average debt of UWSP DPT students due to the DPT program is $15k
    - PT program applications are decreased; tuition costs are a main factor
    - APTA House of Delegates will be making motions regarding education. May host Town Halls to provide reviews of some of the motions. Arizona has encouraged clinical partners with programs that align with Rich Shields, PT, PhD, FAPTA recommendations for academic costs.
  + Chris Durall, lead musculoskeletal professor is retiring by end of the summer. Position will be open in July/Aug hopefully. PhD not required, will be staff not faculty line. National recruitment will occur.
  + Next steps for program: developing Residency Education. First to be musculoskeletal/orthopedics. Second will be primary care. Big qualifier is rural practice
  + Restructuring Advisory Board in next year: focus on active involvement, curriculum development, admissions, alumni activities. Focus on positions of PT clinical practice and clinical/academic education.
  + UWSP Chancellor Gibson is moving to UW-Milwaukee. He was very pro-health education. Hope to replace with someone who has a healthcare background.
  + APTA WI Spring Conference 2026 will be at UWSP
  + Accrediting boards are under more scrutiny with the next President Trump Executive Orders. Unknown whether the Dept of Education will be closed. CAPTE accreditation does not have impact on direct federal loans. If no longer in existence, all therapy (PT, OT, Speech) accreditation could be finished. Many unknowns.

**Future Meetings: Note the meetings will be held on the SECOND Tuesday of the month in February, May, and October at 5:30 pm. Our next meeting date is October 14, 2025.**

Submitted by NCD Secretary Dave Smith

**CONTACTS:**

**Chair: Chris Ashbeck** [aschbeck.chri@gmail.com](mailto:aschbeck.chri@gmail.com)

**Vice Chair: Ben Solheim** [bsolheim@himwi.com](mailto:bsolheim@himwi.com)

**Secretary/Treas: Dave Smith** [smith.david@marshfieldclinic.org](mailto:smith.david@marshfieldclinic.org)

**PT-PAC FUND:** <https://aptawi.org/political-action-committee/>

**Join us on Facebook: NCD of APTA WI**