

APTA Wisconsin Candidate Questions

Name and Credentials:

Lindsay Dolan PT, DPT

Education:

UW-Madison 2021

Employer and Position:

Delta Healthcare Providers - Contract PT

DELEGATE

1. As an APTA Wisconsin Chapter representative at the APTA House of Delegates, how would you ensure that the voices and concerns of Chapter members are heard and considered in decision-making processes?

For voices and concerns of WI Chapter members to be heard at the APTA House of Delegates, we first must *access* those voices and concerns. As a traveling physical therapist, I accept short term contracts around the country, though most of my time working has been for different settings around the state of WI. It has been a great opportunity to connect with physical therapists and physical therapist assistants and expand my network.

Naturally in any workplace, discussion of woes and concerns of our profession occur and often we find ourselves daydreaming of solutions. Since being chosen as WI Delegate the last two years, my lens on these conversations has changed. I've been fortunate to be in a position where ideas can be introduced and adopted through the House of Delegates process. Now if ever a concern arises, I can address the WI delegates and collaboration begins.

Additionally, when presented the list of topics and ideas to be addressed at the House of Delegates, I have a wide network of therapist's perspectives and thoughts to consider. I can connect with my network to discuss topics prior to and follow up with them after the House of Delegates to debrief and educate on the outcome. This process is an honor and expectation of being a delegate and I am thankful to have a vast and diverse network in which to share.

2. In your opinion, what are some of the most pressing issues facing the physical therapy profession today?

Some of the most pressing issues facing the physical therapy profession today include reimbursement, burn out, student loans, administrative burden, and the integration/utilization of artificial intelligence (AI). I see these issues all related: without appropriate reimbursement, therapists don't receive the proper income to pay off student debt and are also being overworked by administrative burden and therefore leads to burn out. Hopefully with new technology and safe integration of AI, we can help reduce some burden placed on therapists, however monitoring and appropriate utilization is key. These above issues are currently being addressed at the national and state level through legislative battles and will be discussed at the 2024 House of Delegates.

Personally, I find our entire healthcare system a pressing issue. Instead of this current "sick" care system, we must find a way to recreate a new system focusing on preventative care and ditch third party payors. Currently, I am working as a home health physical therapist in the Northwoods of Wisconsin. I reflect on my time and cannot help but find it unethical how we historically have "treated" patients. Most northern WI home health patients are of advanced age, white, overweight, diabetic with hypertension and likely additional cardiac or pulmonary concerns. We cannot blame these patients to the state they are in now. Instead, if the healthcare system would have intervened earlier in their life and incorporated better habits focusing on prevention, we likely would see a much healthier population—the result of *healthcare*. Physical therapists and physical therapist assistants are in a great position to lead the charge on this revamped system. We should be at the forefront ready to lead, guide, and educate. It is my dream and passion to see this in my lifetime.

3. Collaboration is key in representing a diverse constituency at the APTA House of Delegates. Can you describe a successful collaborative effort you have been a part of in the past and how you contributed to its success?

While in physical therapy school, I had the wonderful opportunity to engage with the APTA WI State Government Affairs committee as Core Ambassador. I was asked to testify several times in front of lawmakers at the Wisconsin State Capitol. Testifying included preparing a script to help describe and explain to government officials (who may not know anything about physical therapy) the purpose and benefits behind these laws.

I, along with other APTA WI leaders, advocated to the Senate Health Committee on Senate Bill 39: The Physical Therapy Interstate Compact. I was able to communicate the importance of the PT compact and offer a personal touch as a hopeful travel PT who would use the PT Compact to help fulfill healthcare needs across the country. We were successful in passing that bill in the senate and therefore had the opportunity to testify in

front of the House Assembly Committee on Health for Assembly Bill 438 regarding the compact as well as Assembly Bill 581 which was proposed to help clarify 'supervision' of a student of physical therapy assistant and student physical therapist. From meeting to discuss the issue, testifying to each body of government, being present watching Governor Evers sign the Compact Bill to law, and now currently using the PT Compact as a traveling physical therapist across the country is incredibly rewarding. From then I was hooked—I continue to be a part of and collaborate as a member of the APTA WI's State Government Affairs committee.