

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING
ADVISORY BOARD ON MASSAGE THERAPY
MINUTES**

Wednesday, October 30, 2024

TIME AND PLACE: The meeting of the of the Massage Therapy Advisory Board convened at 10:00 a.m. in Training Room 1, Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 201, Henrico, Virginia.

PRESIDING: Dawn Hogue, L.M.T., Chair

MEMBERS PRESENT: Shawnté Peterson, L.M.T., Vice Chair
Annie Lively, L.M.T.
Candice Merrick, L.M.T.

MEMBERS ABSENT: P. Lisa Speller, R.N., B.S.N., M.S., Citizen Member

STAFF

PARTICIPATING: Claire Morris, L.N.H.A., R.N., Executive Director
Christina Bargdill, B.S.N., M.H.S., R.N., Deputy Executive Director
Candis Stoll, Senior Discipline & Licensing Specialist

OTHERS

PARTICIPATING: Kelly Smith, Director of Communications
Ofelia Solomon, Licensing Supervisor, L.R.C.
Jessica Long, Licensing Specialist-Massage Therapy

PUBLIC

PARTICIPATING: Roxana Paduretu, L.M.T.
Becky Bowers-Lanier, American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA)-
VA Chapter
Darren Cyrus, L.M.T.
Jonathon Melloul, Sylvain Melloul International Hair Academy (SMIHA)

**ESTABLISHMENT OF A
QUORUM:**

Ms. Hogue welcomed attendees and asked Ms. Stoll to take a roll call of Massage Therapy Advisory Board Members present. With four (4) members present, a quorum was established.

Staff and public attendees were identified.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ms. Bargdill announced that Candice Merrick, L.M.T., was appointed to the Advisory Board on Massage Therapy. Ms. Bargdill announced that Claire Morris assumed the role of Executive Director of the Board of Nursing, replacing Jay Douglas who retired after 25 years of service to the Board on September 1, 2024. Jessica Long joined the Board of Nursing on August 12, 2024, as part-time Licensing Specialist for Massage Therapy.

OLD BUSINESS: The minutes from the Advisory Board of Massage Therapy meeting, held on December 15, 2023, were reviewed. There were no edits or corrections made to the minutes. Ms. Peterson made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lively and carried unanimously.

Ms. Bargdill provided an update on Interstate Massage Compact (IMPact). Seven states are required to adopt the legislation in order for the compact to be established. Currently, two states, Nevada and Ohio, have adopted the legislation to join the compact.

Ms. Hogue made a motion that the Virginia Board of Nursing consider the model legislation that would need to be adopted to join IMPact. Ms. Lively seconded the motion. During the discussion, it was recommended that the Board of Nursing consider the IMPact model legislation and the benefit participation in the compact would provide to military spouses by creating license portability, and to consider increasing the educational requirements for initial licensure from 500 hours to 625 hours to be more consistent with the requirements from neighboring states and to address the impact of the Department of Education 100% rule impacting the eligibility of federal grants for students who attend an educational program that exceeds the total number of hours required for licensure. Currently, Virginia only requires 500 hours education for a Massage Therapy license.

There was a vote on Ms. Hogue's motion and the vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Ms. Hogue opened the meeting for public comment at 10:15 a.m.

Ms. Paduretu addressed the Advisory Board and spoke on her concern about the issue of human trafficking, the unlicensed practice of massage therapy in her community and the impacts on the licensure process in Virginia.

Mr. Melloul addressed the Advisory Board, on behalf of his school, Sylvain Melloul International Hair Academy (SMIHA), in Lynchburg, VA. The SMIHA Massage Therapy program is 900 hours long. Mr. Melloul spoke in support of raising the number of hours for Massage Therapy programs in Virginia, Virginia joining IMPact, and his efforts for these two items move forward for consideration in the 2025 session of the General Assembly.

Mr. Cyrus addressed the Advisory Board to provide information on the practice of sexological bodywork.

NEW BUSINESS: Ms. Hogue announced that according to the By-laws, elections for both Chair and Vice-Chair must be held.

Ms. Hogue moved to nominate Ms. Peterson to serve as Chair. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lively. With no other nominees for Chair, Ms. Peterson was elected to Chair by acclamation.

Ms. Hogue moved to nominate Ms. Lively to serve as Vice-Chair. The motion was seconded by Ms. Merrick. With no other nominees for Vice Chair, Ms. Lively was elected to Vice Chair by acclamation.

Ms. Bargdill offered dates for the Formal Hearing schedule for January through December 2025, as well as Informal Conferences scheduled for January through June 2025. Advisory Board members were asked to provide their availability for each set of dates.

Ms. Bargdill addressed the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB) CE Registry as it pertained to Regulation 18VAC90-50-75.A.2.a(2) and confirmed that CE Registry is an approved provider for continuing education per the regulation.

Ms. Bargdill presented Guidance Document 90-47 in connection with a request for an exemption in the guidelines for sexological bodywork submitted by a licensee. The Advisory Board completed the review and Ms. Hogue made a motion to deny the request for exemption and to keep the Appropriate Draping and Technique language as it is currently stated in the guidance document. She further moved to insert links to § 54.1-3000 of the Code of Virginia and § 54.1-3008 pertaining to the practice of massage therapy and to remove the existing language from the document as it is duplicative. Ms. Peterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

An Environmental Scan was conducted. Advisory Board members discussed current trends and issues in massage therapy education, the practice environments and the efforts to elevate the profession and help the public better realize the significant health benefits that can be gained through massage therapy. Ms. Lively added that she had the opportunity to provide massage therapy during the 2024 Olympic Trails and found this to be an empowering opportunity in her profession because the athletes sought out the massage therapy for its benefits to their overall health and athletic performance. Ms. Merrick mentioned that by increasing the education requirement to 625 hours, it would make financial aid, such as Pell Grants, accessible to more students, allow for a broader pool of students, and provide business owners with more well-trained and better prepared staffing.

REPORTS:

Ms. Bargdill presented the L.M.T. Licensure Report. The number of L.M.T. licenses issued this year is on track with the number of licenses issued in 2023.

Ms. Bargdill presented the L.M.T. Discipline Report. There was a decrease in Discipline cases in comparison with last year. Statistical reports provided are available in the agenda materials.

Ms. Bargdill attended and submitted a written report for the 2024 FSMTB Massage Board Executive Summit. She noted that the overall theme of the summit was on engagement and interaction with member Boards to encourage steps towards uniformity and standardization of licensure activities across member Boards.

Ms. Stoll attended the 2024 FSMTB Annual Meeting and provided an oral report. The report covered activities that included voting for the board of directors, resolutions, and by-laws; and a variety of guest speakers that covered topics such as tools to combat human trafficking, regulatory trends, and assessment innovations.

INFORMATION ONLY: “IMpact Intentions and Clarifying Examples,” by Debra Persinger, Executive Director of FSMTB, published September 6, 2024
On August 1, 2024, MBLex initiated instant on-screen exam results.
FSMTB Annual Report, October 2024

DISCUSSION OF
FUTURE MEETINGS: Board staff will start polling members of the Advisory Board on Massage Therapy in June 2025 for availability for meeting in the fall of 2025.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Christina Bargdill, B.S.N., M.H.S., R.N.
Deputy Executive Director