

**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.
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 three (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. Then, Ms. Bargdill announced that Claire Morris started on September 1, 2024, as the Executive Director of the Board of Nursing and Jessica Long started 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). It requires adoption by seven states to become a compact and it has been adopted by Nevada and Ohio.

Ms. Hogue made a motion that Virginia join IMpact. Ms. Lively and Ms. Peterson seconded the motion. During the discussion, Ms. Hogue opined that the Board of Nursing needs to explore IMpact and the benefit it would give to military spouses by creating license portability and to consider the higher standard level of education with requirement for 625 hours. Currently, Virginia only requires 500 hours education for a Massage Therapy license. Ms. Peterson included that license portability would benefit the Hampton Roads area of the Virginia because of its proximity to North Carolina.

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 shared with them her ongoing concern with how her county government is handling the issue of human trafficking. She wishes for better lines of communication between her county government, the Commonwealth's Attorney Office, and the Advisory Board.

Mr. Melloul was next to address the Advisory Board, on behalf of his school, SMIHA, in Lynchburg, VA, where their Massage Therapy program is 900 hours. Mr. Melloul spoke in support of raising the number of hours for Massage Therapy programs in Virginia, Virginia joining IMpact, and stated a desire to see that these two items move forward in the 2025 session of the General Assembly.

Mr. Cyrus addressed the Advisory Board to inform them on the modality 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 is currently serving as Chair, and Ms. Peterson is serving as Vice-Chair. Ms. Peterson is eligible to serve another term.

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 – December 2024, as well as Informal Conferences scheduled for January – June 2025, and requested the Advisory Board members provide their availability for each set of dates.

Ms. Bargdill addressed the FSMTB’s CE Registry as it pertained to Regulation 18VAC90-50-75A2a(2) and that this is an approved continuing education provider.

Ms. Bargdill presented Guidance Document 90-47 to be reviewed by the Advisory Board because of a request for an exemption in the guidelines for sexological bodywork. The Advisory Board completed the review and Ms. Peterson made a motion to deny the exemption and Ms. Lively seconded the motion. There was a vote, and it passed unanimously.

Comments related to current trends and issues in the massage therapy education and practice environments included a discussion

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 and does not seem to be dealing with any impact in the U.S. Department of Education’s change in Title IV funding eligibility.

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 and 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Christina Bargdill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Christina" and last name "Bargdill" clearly distinguishable.

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