

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

Thursday, October 16, 2025

TIME AND PLACE: The meeting of the Massage Therapy Advisory Board convened at 10:00 a.m. in Training Room 2, Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 201, Henrico, Virginia.

PRESIDING: Shawnté Peterson, L.M.T., M.P.H., C.H.E.S., NADA, DAc, Chair

MEMBER PRESENT: Annie Lively, L.M.T., Vice Chair
Michael Tramonte, Administrator
Tracey Walker, L.M.T.

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: Erin Barrett, Director of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs
Patricia L. Dewey, R.N., Discipline Case Manager
Candice Merrick, L.M.T., Licensing Specialist-Massage Therapy

PUBLIC PARTICIPATING: None

ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM: Dr. Peterson welcomed attendees and asked Ms. Stoll to perform a roll call of the Massage Therapy Advisory Board Members. With four (4) members present, a quorum was established.

Staff and public attendees were identified.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Michael Tramonte, President, Northern Virginia School of Therapeutic Massage, replaced Dawn Hogue, M.A., L.M.T., Executive Director, Commission on Massage Therapy Accreditation, in the Administrator/Faculty Member seat, term end date 2028.

Tracey Walker, L.M.T., filled the L.M.T. seat that was vacated by Candice Merrick, L.M.T., term end date 2028.

The Board of Nursing is moving to digital processing for travel vouchers so vouchers will be available for members' signatures through DocuSign.

OLD BUSINESS: The minutes from the Advisory Board of Massage Therapy meeting, held on October 30, 2024, were reviewed. There were no edits or corrections made to the minutes. Ms. Lively made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Walker and carried unanimously.

Ms. Bargdill provided an update on the Massage Compact that has passed the Virginia General Assembly. During the September Business Meeting for the Board of Nursing (“BON”), a motion was presented to the BON to issue a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action to implement the Interstate Massage Compact and the motion was passed. Ms. Bargdill added that Virginia is the fifth state to join. The Council of State Governments needs two more states to adopt the model language, for a total of seven states, to move forward with implementation of the Massage Compact. Ms. Bargdill provided information about the Massage Therapy Licensing Database (“MTLD”) membership and will recommend to the BON to move forward with joining the MTLD process. Dr. Peterson made a motion that the BON join MTLD. Ms. Lively seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Ms. Bargdill took time to address questions about the Compact and education requirements pertaining to the Compact and to the Commonwealth. The Advisory Board members unanimously agreed that an increase from 500 hours to 625 hours of education would benefit the professional practice in Virginia without significant burden on individual licensees or the workforce.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Dr. Peterson opened the meeting for public comment.

There was no public comment.

NEW BUSINESS: Dr. Peterson announced that according to the By-laws, elections for both Chair and Vice-Chair must be held. Dr. Peterson is currently serving as Chair, and Ms. Lively is serving as Vice-Chair. Both are eligible to serve another term each.

Dr. Peterson moved to nominate herself to serve as Chair. Ms. Walker made the motion to nominate Dr. Peterson as Chair and was seconded by Ms. Lively. With no other nominees for Chair, Dr. Peterson was elected to Chair by acclamation.

Ms. Lively moved to nominate herself to serve as Vice-Chair. Ms. Walker made the motion to nominate Ms. Lively as Vice Chair and was seconded by Dr. Peterson. 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 2026, as well as Informal Conferences scheduled for January – June 2026 and requested the Advisory Board members provide their availability for each set of dates.

Comments related to current trends and issues in the massage therapy education and practice environments included a discussion on the many types of trauma that can be experienced in the Massage Therapy industry. There was also a discussion regarding massage therapy education with regards to the subject of trauma-informed care. The Advisory Board agreed that there should be more education available on the topic of trauma-informed care.

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 2024. Ms. Bargdill

noted that the LMT New Licenses Issued Chart reflects an increase in license renewals. Total number of licensees has built back up since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ms. Bargdill presented the L.M.T. Discipline Report. An increase in Discipline cases was noted in comparison with last year. The most significant increases noted are with unlicensed activity, inappropriate relationships, and criminal activity. The BON continues to receive and adjudicate education fraud cases.

Ms. Bargdill attended and submitted a written report for the 2025 FSMTB Massage Board Executive Summit that is attached. For the Advisory Board meeting, she highlighted topics of apprenticeship, education collaboration, and top legal trends impacting the massage industry.

Ms. Stoll attended the 2025 FSMTB Annual Meeting and served as voting delegate for Virginia. She provided an oral report to the Advisory Board that included a summary of topics as in the celebration of the last 20 years of FSMTB and looking to the next 20 years, and FSMTB's strategic plan. A written report will be provided to the BON.

INFORMATION ONLY:

Ms. Lively attended the Attorney General's Human Trafficking Summit 2025 and provided information about the Illicit Massage Industry and the impact on legitimate massage practitioners.

Ms. Bargdill presented information from the State Council for Higher Education in Virginia ("SCHEV") regarding changes to the massage therapy curriculum requirements and program approval process. Ms. Bargdill led the discussion on the collaborative relationship between the BON and SCHEV, clarifying roles of each agency in improving and maintaining professionalism in massage therapy.

FSMTB Annual Report, October 2025, is attached.

DISCUSSION OF
FUTURE MEETINGS:

Board staff will poll Advisory Board members in July 2026 for availability to meet in October 2026.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

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