

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

Friday, December 15, 2023

TIME AND PLACE: The meeting of the of the Massage Therapy Advisory Board convened at 10:00 a.m. in Board Room 3, Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 201, Henrico, Virginia.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Maria Mercedes Olivieri, L.M.T.
Annie Lively, L.M.T.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Shawnté Peterson, L.M.T., Chair
P. Lisa Speller, R.N., B.S.N., M.S., Citizen Member

**STAFF
PARTICIPATING:** Jay P. Douglas, R.N., M.S.M., C.S.A.C., F.R.E., Executive Director
Christina Bargdill, B.S.N., M.H.S., R.N.
Candis Stoll, Senior Discipline & Licensing Specialist

**PUBLIC
PARTICIPATING:** Becky Bowers-Lanier, American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA)-VA Chapter
Christopher Kenyon, L.M.T.

**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 (3) members present, a quorum was established.

Staff and public attendees were identified.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Ms. Bargdill announced that Annie Lively, L.M.T., was appointed to the Advisory Board on Massage Therapy and that Ms. Peterson was re-appointed for a second term. Then, Ms. Bargdill announced that Candis Stoll started on July 10, 2023, as full-time Senior Licensing and Discipline Specialist, for the LMT, RMA and CNA programs, and Andrea Lewis started on June 19, 2023, as part-time Licensing Specialist for Massage Therapy.

OLD BUSINESS: The minutes from the Advisory Board of Massage Therapy meeting, held on November 9, 2022, were reviewed. There were no edits or corrections made to the minutes. Ms. Olivieri made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lively and carried unanimously.

Ms. Bargdill provided an update on the Interstate Massage Compact (Impact) and the model legislation that each state must enact to join the compact. In order for the

compact to be established, a total of seven states must enact the legislation. The most up-to-date information on Impact and the model legislation can be found on the FSMTB website.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Ms. Hogue opened the meeting for public comment at 10:36 a.m. Ms. Bowers-Lanier addressed the Advisory Board on AMTA's current position on the model legislation and the Interstate Massage Therapy Compact.

NEW BUSINESS: Ms. Hogue announced that according to the By-laws, elections for both Chair and Vice-Chair must be held. Ms. Peterson is currently serving as Chair, and Ms. Hogue is serving as Vice-Chair. Both have served two consecutive terms each in their respective offices and therefore are ineligible to serve for another term, in accordance with the By-laws.

Ms. Olivieri moved to nominate herself to serve as Chair. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lively and carried unanimously. Ms. Olivieri then rescinded her nomination. Ms. Hogue moved to nominate herself as Chair and the motion was seconded by Ms. Lively. With no other nominees for Chair, Ms. Hogue was elected to Chair by acclamation.

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

Ms. Douglas reviewed the Formal Hearing schedule for January – December 2024, as well as Informal Conferences scheduled for January – June 2024. Advisory Board members will be polled so that they can provide their availability for Formal Hearings for 2024.

Comments related to current trends and issues in the massage therapy education and practice environments included a discussion on the U.S. Department of Education (D.O.E.) Title IV funding eligibility. D.O.E has revoked the 150% rule related to Title IV funding eligibility. The potential negative implications this could have on massage therapy candidates and schools was discussed.

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 2022.

Ms. Bargdill presented the L.M.T. Discipline Report. There was a significant increase in discipline cases in comparison with previous years. This increase is primarily related to reporting of fraudulent massage therapy education resulting in the invalidation of the MBLEX exam results. Statistical reports provided are available in the agenda materials.

Ms. Bargdill attended and submitted a written report for the 2023 FSMTB Massage Board Executive Summit. She noted that this year the summit included an educational track for investigators. DHP Senior Investigator Kim Lynch attended the conference and participated in the programming available for investigators.

Ms. Hogue attended the 2023 FSMTB Annual Meeting and gave a verbal report. Topics from this meeting included sexual harassment of massage therapists by clients and the upcoming policy where massage therapy applicants must finish their course of instruction before applying to take the MBLEX.

INFORMATION ONLY: FSMTB Annual Report, October 2023
Combatting Massage licensing Fraud: How Traffickers Exploit Gaps in Education Oversight
Commonwealth of Virginia, the Commission on Human Trafficking Prevention and Survivor Support Final Report, January
Department of Education Revokes 150% Rule for Title IV Funding Eligibility, October 2023, and Fact Sheet.

DISCUSSION OF FUTURE MEETINGS: Board staff will start polling members of the Advisory Board on Massage Therapy in June 2024 for availability for meeting in the fall of 2024.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 a.m.



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

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