



Washington State Board of Massage

Business Meeting Minutes September 23, 2022 | 9:00 a.m.

On Friday, September 23, 2022, the Board of Massage held a board meeting via Webinar. In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notices were sent to individuals requesting notification of meetings.

Board Members

Heidi Williams, LMT, chair
Autumn Christina Straker, LMT, vice chair
Chimere Figaire-Correa, LMT

Guest Speaker

Debra Persinger, PhD, FSMTB

Staff Present

Davis Hylkema, Interim Program Manager
Megan Maxey, Interim Executive Director
Joan Simmons, Administrative Assistant
Lilia Lopez, AAG
Sierra McWilliams, AAG
Anthony Partridge, Policy Analyst
Stephanie Vaughn, Rules Manager
Shawna Fox, Office Director

Guests

Allison Hanelt, LMT
Andrea Wiener
Ann Mateo, LMT
Anne Nutwell
Ariel Hubbard, LMT
Ashley Hernandez
Betty King, LMT
Catherine Oliver, LMT
Charlene Russell, LMT
Christine Hooper
Craig Lavallee, LMT

Cynthia Longnecker, LMT
Dawn Schmidt, LMT
Diana Thompson, LMT
Gail McGaffick, JD
Gregory Nielsen
Hunter Irons
Jackie Guilbeault
Julie Onofrio, LMT
Karen James, LMT
Korine Boldaji
Lydia Benson

Mark Allen
Marybeth Berney, LMT
Michelle Agliano, LMT
Robbin Blake, LMT
Sean McHugh, LMT
Shannon Morris, LMT
Shelley Kloba
Stephanie Dickey, LMT
Summer Meyer, LMT
Susan Sherman, LMT

OPEN SESSION – 9:00 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The board meeting was called to order by Heidi Williams, LMT, chair, at 9:02 a.m.

1.1. Introductions and Meeting Ground Rules.

The board and staff introduced themselves. Ms. Williams read the Meeting Ground Rules.

1.2. Approval of the September 23, 2022 Agenda

MOTION: A motion was made to approve the September 23, 2022 agenda. The motion was seconded and passed.

1.3. Approval of the July 29, 2022, Business Meeting Minutes

MOTION: A motion was made to approve the July 29, 2022, business meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and passed.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public who indicated an interest in speaking shared comments at this time.

Comments shared included:

- One comment was received in favor of not changing the proposed language in WAC 246-830-500(6)

3. INTERSTATE MASSAGE THERAPY COMPACT (IMPACT) PRESENTATION

Dr. Persinger presented an overview of IMPact and the Massage Therapy Licensing Database, and answered questions from the board and public.

4. SCHOOL PROGRAM REVIEWS

Reviewing Board Members (RBMs) presented the following school program requests for full board consideration:

- American Institute of Clinical Massage – 750-hours
 - The RBM recommended approval pending approval by the Workforce Board.

MOTION: A motion was made to approve American Institute of Clinical Massage’s 750 hour massage program pending approval by the Workforce Board. The motion was seconded and passed.

- Soma Institute – 768-hours
 - The RBM recommended approval.

MOTION: A motion was made to approve Soma Institute’s 768-hour massage program. The motion was seconded and passed.

- Victoria’s Academy of Cosmetology 750 full-time
 - The RBM recommended approval.

MOTION: A motion was made to approve Victoria’s Academy of Cosmetology 750 full-time. The motion was seconded and passed.

- Victoria’s Academy of Cosmetology 750 part-time
 - The RBM recommended approval.

MOTION: A motion was made to approve Victoria’s Academy of Cosmetology 750 part-time. The motion was seconded and passed.

5. CONTINUING EDUCATION DURING COVID POLICY

Mr. Hylkema provided a brief recap.

5.1. Public Comment Period – Members of the public were given the opportunity to address the board on this agenda item.

Comments shared included:

- Multiple comments were received encouraging the board to not extend the policy past December 31, 2022, as strong support for the hands-on requirement to begin after the expiration of this policy.
- It was suggested this should be optional because the flu is predicted to be bad and Covid still exists.
- Statistic shared that Massage Therapists have the highest audit CE failure of any profession.
- Support for the policy to be extended an additional six months and reevaluate in the winter of 2023.

5.2. Board members reviewed Policy Number BOM 20-01.6 – Continuing Education Requirements During the COVID-19 Response and made a decision about the policy's expiration date.

MOTION: A motion was made to not extend Policy Number BOM 20-01.6 – Continuing Education Requirements During the COVID-19 Response beyond December 31, 2022. The motion was seconded and passed.

6. RULES WORKSHOP PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO WAC 246-830-500

Mr. Hylkema provided a recap of the work and discussions regarding subsection (6) of WAC 246-830-500 concerning the proposed language.

6.1. Public Comment – Members of the public were given the opportunity to address the board on this agenda item.

Comments shared included:

- Encouragement for the board to keep the language to launder blankets and linens at least once a day unless it has direct contact with a client or is soiled.
- Multiple support to keep the language to launder the blankets and linens after each use, regardless of if it comes in direct contact with the patient.
- Concern for the economic and logistic impacts with having to launder after each use especially for solo and small practices.
- Encouraged the board to retain current language to wash blankets per each patient encounter and not adopt new draft language that allows for blankets to be washed daily or when soiled.
- Reminder was shared that since COVID, LMTs have been able to adapt to washing and sanitizing all linens and rooms; finding ways to wash blankets and absorb or defer costs for doing so. It is in the best interest of the public to have clean linens.
- Encouragement that if the board decides to adopt new blanket sanitation rules, the board follows up on a previous suggestion that the public be notified by informed postings so patients can ask for clean blankets at time of service.

- Reminder that there is nominal economic impact as items can be written off.
- Patient safety is of utmost importance therefore blankets washed after every session is strongly supported.

6.2. Based on the board's decision at the July 29, 2022, rules hearing, the board considered a proposed amendment to the rule language in WAC 246-830-500. Program staff presented the process for proceeding with a supplemental CR-102.

MOTION: A motion was made to approve the proposed amendment to the rule language in WAC 246-830-500. The motion was seconded and passed.

6.3. To accommodate the rulemaking schedule, the board discussed changing the date of its November meeting.

MOTION: A motion was made to keep the regular business meeting on November 4, 2022 and schedule a special meeting for rules hearing on Wednesday, November 30, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. The motion was seconded and passed.

7. RULES DISCUSSION AND WORKSHOP

7.1. The board reviewed the assistant attorney general's legal analysis on the equity of the transfer program rule.

Ms. McWilliams shared the analysis on the equity of the transfer program rule. After the update, the board invited public comment. The following items were shared:

- Concern that requiring schools to stick to the 625 hour is going to create an entirely different program because most are over 625. Schools will have to create a separate program to accommodate a small number of individuals.
- Support against changing it and limiting transfer programs to 625-hours.
- Concern the rule will cause schools to close.
- Aside from a minimum number of hours the students should have the same caliber of training and education.
- Reminder that we are trying to make the process simpler, upfront, and more streamlined so that an individual who is already licensed in another state basically needs to make up the difference to get licensed in WA state.
- Support to keep the minimum in place to weed out qualified individuals and help bring people to licensure quickly.
- Appreciation that the legal analysis found there are no inequities in the language.
- Support to allow schools to set the hours for their transfer programs.

7.2. The board held a rules workshop to examine and consider revising sections of the massage therapist rules related to massage education and training transfer programs.

MOTION: A motion was made to withdraw the filed CR-101 and create a guidance document. The motion was seconded and passed.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

The board reviewed and discussed correspondence received since the last meeting.

8.1. Letter from the American Institute of Clinical Massage

Ms. Maxey recapped the correspondence that the school is asking for clarification from the board on the intention of the rule. A copy of the letter was included in the board packet.

MOTION: The motion was made to approve program staff to draft a response letter to the American Institute of Clinical Massage based on the board’s discussion. The motion was seconded and passed.

9. JURISPRUDENCE EXAM REVIEW

Ms. Maxey shared the current jurisprudence exam. The open book test is based on the state’s laws and rules. With recent changes in the rule, she asked the board to discuss and take into consideration topics they would like to see on the exam.

The board has decided to table this item for the November 4, 2022, business meeting to allow the board time to research and bring back for discussion.

10. PROGRAM REPORT

10.1. Budget.

Mr. Hylkema shared the budget status as of August 2022 and reported the budget is moving in the right direction.

10.2. Credentialing Update.

Mr. Hylkema shared credential statistics as of September 13, 2022.

10.3. ESSB 5229 Health Equity Continuing Education Rules Update

Ms. Vaughn provided an update to the board and shared the CR-102 has been filed and the rules hearing is scheduled for September 29, 2022.

10.4. Board Member Recruitment Update.

Mr. Hylkema reported that the recommendations and paperwork have been forwarded to the Governor’s office.

10.5. Future Agenda Items.

- Jurisprudence Exam Review
- Credentialing Update to verify expired licenses count
- Special meeting for Rules Hearing on November 30, 2022

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 1:36 p.m. The motion was seconded and passed.

Submitted:

Approved:

Davis Hylkema, Interim Program Manager

Heidi Williams, LMT, Chair