



Washington State Board of Massage
Business Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2024 | 9:00 a.m.

On November 15, 2024, the Board of Massage held a hybrid business meeting at the Department of Health, 111 Israel Road Se, Tumwater, WA 98501, Town Center 2, Room 153 with access via Zoom. In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notices were published on the DOH website and through GovDelivery.

Board Members

Chimere Figaire-Correa, LMT, Chair
Lynna Fuller, LMT
Sherise Gueck, LMT
Whitney Smith, LMT

Staff Present

James Chaney, Executive Director
Devin Brooks, Program Manager
Alyssa Brazil, Administrative Assistant
Jonathan Chamrad, Program Support
Kristi Knieps, Assistant Attorney General
Marlon Basco-Rodillas, Policy Analyst
Evan Shigaya, Policy Analyst
Catharine Roner-Rieter, Staff Attorney

Guests

Dawn Lafferty	Andy Hall	Ariana McCarroll
Robbin Blake	Ashley Hernandez	Patty Glenn
Carl Wilson	Karen James	Julie Onofrio
Theron Eirish	Shannon Egan	Anna Houston
Leslie Emerick	Amy Twigg	Laura Puryear
Devin Gombosky	Sean Miller	Becky West
Mai Lin Petrine	Sylvia Liu	Leslie Emerick

Open Session – 9:00 A.M.

1. Call to Order – Chimere Figaire-Correa, LMT, Chair

The board meeting was called to order by Chimere Figaire-Correa, LMT, chair, at 9:02 a.m, on November 15, 2024.

1.1. Introductions and Meeting Ground Rules.

The board, staff and guest were introduced. Ms. Figaire-Correa read the Meeting Ground Rules.

1.2. Approval of the Agenda.

The board reviewed the proposed agenda.

AMENDMENT: Ms. Brooks requested to add Classic Institute of Massage to agenda item 3, as the school submitted their application packet after the agenda was posted online.

MOTION: A motion was made to approve the amended agenda with Classic Institute of Massage added to agenda item 3. The motion was seconded and passed.

1.3. Approval of the September 6, 2024, Business Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: A motion was made to approve the September 6, 2024, business meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and passed.

2. Public Forum

Members of the public who indicated an interest in speaking provided comments to the board.

Comment shared included:

- Marybeth Berney, from WSMTA, commented that she would like to have photos on massage therapist credentials. Ms. Burney mentioned that this conversation was had in 2019 with former board members and that she will provide information on what was discussed.

3. School Program Reviews – Chimere Figaire-Correa, LMT Chair

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

- Arlington School of Massage – Transfer Program
The RBMs recommended to approve the Arlington School of Massage – Transfer, pending a minor correction.

MOTION: A motion was made to approve Arlington School of Massage – Transfer, pending a minor correction. The motion was seconded and passed.

- Classic Institute of Massage
The RBMs recommended to not approve the Classic Institute of Massage.

MOTION: A motion was made to send Classic Institute of Massage a deficiency letter. The motion was seconded and passed.

- Discoverypoint School of Massage
The RBMs recommended to approve the Discoverypoint School of Massage, Discoverypoint School of Massage – Transfer, pending grammatical corrections.

MOTION: A motion was made to approve Discoverypoint School of Massage, Discoverypoint School of Massage – Transfer, pending grammatical corrections. The motion was seconded and passed.

- Institute for Structural Medicine
The RBMs recommended to not approve the Institute for Structural Medicine.

MOTION: A motion was made to send Institute for Structural Medicine a deficiency letter. The motion was seconded and passed.

- Pacific Northwest Massage Academy
The RBMs recommended to not approve the Pacific Northwest Massage Academy.

MOTION: A motion was made to send Pacific Northwest Massage Academy a deficiency letter. The motion was seconded and passed.

- Washington Spa Academy, Washington Spa Academy Bilingual Program, Washington Spa Academy - Transfer
The RBMs recommended to not approve the Washington Spa Academy, Washington Spa Academy Bilingual Program, Washington Spa Academy - Transfer.

MOTION: A motion was made to send Washington Spa Academy, Washington Spa Academy Bilingual Program, Washington Spa Academy-Transfer a deficiency letter. The motion was seconded and passed.

- Whatcom Community College – Degree, Whatcom Community College - Certificate

The RBMs recommended to approve the Whatcom Community College – Degree, Whatcom Community College – Certificate, pending minor corrections.

MOTION: A motion was made to approve Whatcom Community College – Degree, Whatcom Community College – Certificate, pending minor corrections. The motion was seconded and passed.

4. Examination WAC 246-830-201

The board discussed [WAC 246-830-201](#): (2) and determined next steps for applicants who make more than three (3) attempts to pass the MBLEx examination.

MOTION: A motion was made to open rulemaking to amend [WAC 246-830-201](#): (2) and allow applicants to take the MBLEx more than three (3) times without providing proof to the board of having successfully completed additional clinical training or course work. The motion was seconded and passed.

MOTION: A motion was made to approve current applicants' licensure who had taken the MBLEx more than three (3) times before they passed. The motion was seconded and passed.

5. License by Endorsement Committee- Sherise Gueck, LMT and Whitney Smith, LMT Rule Discussion for [WAC 246-830-035](#) Licensing by endorsement

5.1 The committee had no information to report.

- A committee meeting date was set for December 20, 2024.

5.2 Public Comment- Members of the public were given the opportunity to address the committee members on this agenda item.

- Carl Wilson, public attendee, thanked the board for their conscientious work.

6. Discussion for possible rule making for WAC 246-830-560 Covering and draping

Lynna Fuller presented to the board a proposal to review [WAC 246-830-560](#) and consider opening rulemaking to support the work of [WAC 246-830-557](#).

6.1 Public Comment- Members of the public will were given the opportunity to address the committee members on this agenda item.

- Robbin Blake, (speaking as an individual massage therapist), commented that during previous rulemaking there were three potential draping options: genital, breast, and gluteal cleft, and somehow genital draping was dropped from the rules. Ms. Blake requested to have genital draping put back into rules language.

- Patty Glenn, (speaking as an individual), commented that she thanks the board for looking into this covering and draping issue.

MOTION: A motion was made to open rulemaking to amend [WAC 246-830-560](#). The motion was seconded and passed.

7. Discussion for possible rule making for WAC 246-830-440 Curriculum Academic Standards- Faculty-Student Clinic

Chimere Figaire-Corre presented to the board a proposal to review [WAC 246-830-440](#) (3) and consider opening for rulemaking to specify which courses are considered hands on and hands off.

7.1 Public Comment- Members of the public were given the opportunity to address the committee members on this agenda item.

- Robbin Blake, WSTMA, commented that she would like to see changes requiring three (3) years' experience to teach all courses that are either hands-on or hands-off.

MOTION: A motion was made to open rulemaking to amend [WAC 246-830-440](#) (3). The motion was seconded and passed.

8. Discussion and Q&A on Criminal Background checks with James Chaney, Board Director and Kristi Knieps, ATG

8.1 Public Comment- Members of the public will be given the opportunity to address the agenda item.

- There were no comments from the public.
- Kristi Knieps stated that Washington has a tasks force for illicit massage businesses. She will reach out to them and invite them to the next board meeting.

9. FSMTB Annual Conference – Chimere Figaire-Correa, LMT, Chair, and Whitney Smith, LMT

Members reported out the highlights of the annual conference.

- Chimere Figaire-Correa was elected to serve a 3-year term on the board of directors for FSMTB.

10. Program Report – Devin Brooks, Program Manager

10.1. Budget

- Ms. Brooks, Program Manager, reported the increased revenue and the current fund balance from last month.
- During a meeting with the fiscal team, it was learned that the profession may potentially need a fee analysis in 5-7 years and fees may increase.

- Program discussed adding an animal massage endorsement fee and updating [WAC 246-830-990](#). It was stated that this can be an internal process and does not require opening rules.
- Chimere Figueira-Correa asked if the board has authority to add a fee for school applications.

10.2. Credential Counts.

- Ms. Brooks, Program Manager, gave an update to the board regarding the credentialing counts.

10.3. Disciplinary Counts.

- Ms. Brooks, Program Manager, gave an update to the board regarding the status of the disciplinary counts.

10.4. 2025 Meeting Dates and Locations

- January 30th, 2025, in Tumwater.
- March 14th, 2025, in Tumwater
- May 2nd, 2025, in Everett
- July 17-18th, 2025, Vancouver, WA
- September 19th, 2025, in Yakima
- November 7th, 2025, in Tumwater

10.5. Schedule Education and Training Committee Meeting

- The board agreed to hold the committee meeting on January 30th, 2025, after next business meeting.

10.6. National Convening: Human Trafficking in Illicit Massage, Event Hosted by The Network

10.7. Future Agenda Items.

- Presentation from a task force investigator.
- Review of rules surrounding various types of massage instruments used during treatment.
- Education and training committee update.
- License by endorsement committee update.
- Setting Rules Workshops dates and locations.
- Transfer programs.

11. Adjournment of Public Meeting – Chimere Figueira-Correa, LMT, Chair

MOTION: A motion was made to adjourn the business meeting at 1:29 pm on Friday, November 15, 2024. The motion was seconded and passed.

Next Business Meeting

Date: January 30, 2025

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: Washington State Department of Health
111 Israel Rd SE
Tumwater, WA 98501

12. JP Exam Committee- Sherise Gueck, LMT and Lynna Fuller, LMT, Vice Chair

The committee closed the session to report to the board revisions to the JP Exam.

13. Executive Session – The board had a closed session to discuss disciplinary action items.

Submitted:

Approved:

Devin Brooks, Program Manager

Chimere Figaire-Correa, LMT, Chair