



Washington State Board of Massage
Business Meeting Minutes
November 7, 2025 | 9:00 a.m.

On November 7, 2025, 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 166 with access via Zoom. In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notices were published on the DOH website and through GovDelivery.

Board Members

Whitney Smith, LMT, Chair
Esther Sanders, LMT
Francisca Rath, LMT

Staff Present

James Chaney, Executive Director
Sabine Meuse, Program Manager
Jonathan Chamrad, Program Support
Alyssa Gehrig, Administrative Assistant
Evan Shigaya, Policy Analyst
Zach Patnode, Quality Administrator
Bradley Carter, Credentialing
Coordinator
Shelly Buchanan, Supervising Staff
Attorney
Kristi Knieps, Assistant Attorney General

Guests

Robbin Blake	Becky West	Michelle LeClair
Seth Dinkel	Kevin Snedden	Maryann Brathwaite
Leslie Emerick	Marybeth Berney	Anne Nutwell
Devin Gombosky	Lynna Fuller	Julie Onofrio
Kathleen Fitzgerald	Elizabeth Piglowski	Christina Lus
Daniel Steinmetz	Ann Mateo	Amy Twigg
Karen James	Travis Zen	Linda Frank
Julie Onofrio	Jessee Skittrall	Summer Meyer
Elise Baine	Karen James	Valerie Wing
Sylvia Liu	Ilima DeCosta	Heidi Wing
Sherise Gueck	Sally Sheck	Rebecca Ivy
Suze St Louis	Carita Schell	Alisa Hendricks

Open Session – 9:00 A.M.

1. Call to Order – Whitney Smith, LMT, Vice Chair - Discussion/Action

The board meeting was called to order by Whitney Smith, LMT, Chair, at 9:03 am, on November 7, 2025.

1.1. Introductions.

- The board, staff and guests were introduced. Mrs. Smith read the meeting ground rules.

1.2. Approval of the November 7, 2025, proposed agenda.

MOTION: A motion was made to amend the September 5, 2025 agenda to change the reviewers of the Sage Academy to be Francesca Rath and Whitney Smith. The motion was seconded and passed.

MOTION: A motion was made to amend the agenda to include a discussion at the end to change a 2026 meeting date. The motion was seconded and passed.

MOTION: A motion was made to approve the amended September 5, 2025 agenda. The motion was seconded and passed.

1.3 Approval of the September 5, 2025, business meeting minutes.

MOTION: A motion was made to approve the September 5, 2025, business meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and passed.

2. Public Forum

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

- Linda Frank, WSMATA, commented if the board was going to take any action concerning ESSB 5814.
- Ilima Decosta, had questions regarding licensure by endorsement.

3. Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB) Annual Conference, Kansas City, MO – Board Report

Board Members that attended the recent FSMTB Annual Conference reported what they learned.

4. School Program Reviews – Whitney Smith, LMT, Chair

Reviewing board members (RBM) presented school program approval requests for full board consideration.

4.1 Reviewing board members presented school program approval requests for full board consideration.

- Port Townsend School of Massage 669hr-Weekday TRNG.TG.61178570. The RBMs recommended send a deficiency letter to the Port Townsend School of Massage 669hr-Weekday TRNG.TG.61178570.

MOTION: A motion was made to send a deficiency letter to the Port Townsend School of Massage 669hr-Weekday TRNG.TG.61178570. The motion was seconded and passed.

- Port Townsend School of Massage 669hr-Weekend TRNG.TG.61178591. The RBMs recommended to approve Port Townsend School of Massage 669hr-Weekend TRNG.TG.61178591.

MOTION: A motion was made to approve Port Townsend School of Massage 669hr-Weekend TRNG.TG.61178591. The motion was seconded and passed.

- Spectrum Center School of Massage 880 Hour TRNG.TG.61209582-MASS. The RBMs recommended send a deficiency letter to Spectrum Center School of Massage 880 Hour TRNG.TG.61209582-MASS.

MOTION: A motion was made to send a deficiency letter to Spectrum Center School of Massage 880 Hour TRNG.TG.61209582-MASS. The motion was seconded and passed.

- NW Academy for the Healing Arts – Tacoma 644 Hour TRNG.TG.60722781. The RBMs recommended send a deficiency letter to NW Academy for the Healing Arts – Tacoma 644 Hour TRNG.TG.60722781.

MOTION: A motion was made to send a deficiency letter to NW Academy for the Healing Arts – Tacoma 644 Hour TRNG.TG.60722781. The motion was seconded and passed.

- NW Academy for the Healing Arts – Bellingham 644 Hour - TRNG.TG.61207669-MASS. The RBMs recommended to approve NW Academy for the Healing Arts – Bellingham 644 Hour - TRNG.TG.61207669-MASS.

MOTION: A motion was made to approve NW Academy for the Healing Arts – Bellingham 644 Hour - TRNG.TG.61207669-MASS. The motion was seconded and passed.

- NW Academy for the Healing Arts – Seattle 644 Hour - TRNG.TG.61207690-MASS.
The RBMs recommended to approve NW Academy for the Healing Arts – Seattle 644 Hour - TRNG.TG.61207690-MASS.

MOTION: A motion was made to approve NW Academy for the Healing Arts – Seattle 644 Hour - TRNG.TG.61207690-MASS. The motion was seconded and passed.

- Seattle Institute of East Asian Medicine NEW – 690 Hour Program.
The RBMs recommended send a deficiency letter Seattle Institute of East Asian Medicine NEW – 690 Hour Program.

MOTION: A motion was made to send a deficiency letter to Seattle Institute of East Asian Medicine NEW – 690 Hour Program. The motion was seconded and passed.

- Sage Academy of Massage & Bodyworks TRNG.TG.61376337-MASS.
The RBMs recommended send a deficiency letter to Sage Academy of Massage & Bodyworks TRNG.TG.61376337-MASS.

MOTION: A motion was made to send a deficiency letter to Sage Academy of Massage & Bodyworks TRNG.TG.61376337-MASS. The motion was seconded and passed.

5. Apprenticeship Pathway – Discussion/Action

The board and the Department of Labor and Industries discussed apprenticeship programs for massage therapists.

2.1. Jordan Shepherd from L&I shared a presentation.

6. Rules Workshop: [WAC 246-830-035](#), Licensing by endorsement – Discussion/Action

The board discussed language amendments to WAC 246-830-035, Licensing by endorsement.

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

- Robbin Blake, WSMTA, commented about suggested edits to the rule language.
- Linda Frank, LMT, had some questions regarding these rules.

2.3. The board discussed updates to the proposed language.

7. Executive Session

Board discussed correspondence in a closed executive session.

MOTION: A motion was made to go into executive session. The motion was seconded and passed.

8. Program Report – Discussion – Program Staff

Massage Professions Program Staff reported on the following topics:

- 8.1 Recruitment update.
- 8.2 Budget
- 8.3 Credential report – *Zach Patnode, Quality Administrator, gave a presentation about the credentialing process and timeline.*
- 8.4 Disciplinary counts
- 8.5 Meeting dates for 2026.

MOTION: A motion was made to change the November 16th date to November 6th, in 2026. The motion was seconded and passed.

MOTION: A motion was made to add April 30 to the May 1st business meeting and have a two-day retreat. The motion was seconded and passed.

9. Adjournment of Meeting – Whitney Smith, LMT, Chair

MOTION: A motion was made to adjourn the business meeting at 12:12 am on Friday, November 7, 2025. The motion was seconded and passed.

Next Business Meeting

Date: Friday, January 30, 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: Washington State Department of Health

111 Israel Rd SE

Tumwater, WA 98501

Respectfully submitted,
Sabine Meuse, Program Manager

NOTE: Please visit the web site for future agendas and minutes - www.doh.wa.gov. Go to licensing and certification and you will find a list of the health care professions, go to massage therapist for agendas and minutes.