



Washington State Department of
Health
Washington State Board of Massage

Special Meeting Minutes
June 9, 2020 – 1:00 p.m.

On Tuesday, June 9, 2020, 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

Chelsea Giles, LMT (absent)
Anthony Sharpe, public member
Autumn Christina Straker, LMT, vice chair
Heidi Williams, LMT, chair

Staff Present

Megan Maxey, Program Manager
Renee Fullerton, Executive Director
Luke Eaton, Assistant Attorney General
Michelle Hartman, Administrative Assistant
Davis Hylkema, Assistant Program Manager
Bill Kellington, Supervising Staff Attorney
Julianne Wlazlak, Policy Analyst
Kevin Robbins, Credentialing Supervisor

Guests (69 attendees)

A list of attendees is available upon request.

OPEN SESSION

1. CALL TO ORDER – HEIDI WILLIAMS, LMT, CHAIR

The board meeting was called to order by Heidi Williams, LMT, chair, at 1:02 p.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 Agenda. The June 9, 2020 Agenda

MOTION: The motion was made to approve the June 9, 2020 special meeting agenda. The motion was seconded and approved as presented.

1.3. Approval of the February 21, 2020, Business Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: The motion was made to approve the February 21, 2020 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and passed.

1.4. Approval of the March 17, 2020, Special Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: The motion was made to approve the March 17, 2020, Special Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and passed.

1.5. Program staff shared the information provided by the Department of Health on the practice of massage therapy services under the [Governor's proclamation 20-24.1](#).

2. SCHOOL PROGRAM REVIEWS – HEIDI WILLIAMS, LMT, CHAIR

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

- Ananda Massage Training
 - The RBMs recommended approval.
MOTION: A motion was made to approve Ananda Massage Training. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

- West by Northwest – Transfer Program
 - The RBMs recommended approval.
MOTION: A motion was made to approve West by Northwest – Transfer Program. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Comments included:

- Appreciation for the board’s work and for the opportunity for public comment.
- Consider alternative methods for the eight hours of direct supervised training that is required for continuing education.
- Consider waiving the eight hours of direct supervised training that is required for continuing education.
- Consider granting a blanket extension because of the financial strains.
- Provide better clarification on the Governor’s proclamation related to the requirements for massage therapists returning to work.

4. CONTINUING EDUCATION DURING COVID-19

4.1. The board discussed having a policy to address barriers to in person continuing education during COVID-19 for current licensees and those seeking reactivation.

MOTION: The motion was made to have the board adopt a policy consistent with the discussion to address barriers to in-person continuing education during COVID-19 for current licensees and for those seeking reactivation. Staff will draft policy language that will cover the following points:

- A total of 24 hours of continuing education continues to be required by the massage therapists reporting date.
- Four hours must be on ethics, communication, or Washington state massage laws and regulations.
- The remaining 20 hours may be met through any combination of activities outlined in WAC 246-830-475(2).
- The policy will be in effect through December 31, 2020, and will be reevaluated at the November 13, 2020 meeting to determine if an extension is needed.

MOTION: The motion was made to delegate authority for final approval of the temporary continuing education policy to Ms. Williams and Ms. Straker. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

4.2. The board reviewed the proposed language for WAC 246-830-475. No amendments were made.

5. REMOTE TEACHING OPTION FOR MASSAGE SCHOOLS – MEGAN MAXEY AND RENEE FULLERTON

The board discussed extending the allowance approved at its March 17 meeting for remote teaching options for board approved massage schools during COVID-19.

MOTION: The motion was made to adopt the following statement:

“In response to directives from the Governor’s office regarding COVID-19 and social distancing, I move that all massage programs may continue to operate their board-approved program in a distance learning format upon approval by and in accordance with the Workforce Training Board’s requirements, and that it only be for the duration of time that the Governor’s directives regarding social distancing are in effect.”

The motion was approved, seconded and passed unanimously.

6. ADJOURNMENT – HEIDI WILLIAMS, LMT, CHAIR

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:30p.m. The motion was seconded and passed.

Respectfully Submitted:

Approved:

Megan Maxey, Program Manager

Heidi Williams, LMT, Chair