



Washington State Board of Massage

Business Meeting Minutes March 12, 2021 | 9:00 a.m.

On Friday, March 12, 2021, 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
John Cassinerio, LMT
Chimere Figaire-Correa, LMT

Staff Present

Megan Maxey, Program Manager
Renee Fullerton, Executive Director
Lilia Lopez, Assistant Attorney General
Michelle Hartman, Administrative Assistant
Davis Hylkema, Assistant Program Manager
Julianne Kolln, Policy Analyst

Guests

Mark Allen	Theron Eirish	Catherine Oliver, LMT
Marybeth Berney, LMT	Laura Embleton	Lisa Noste, LMT
Robbin Blake, LMT	Karen James, LMT	Christine Prokay, LMT
Stephanie Dickey, LMT	Ann Mateo, LMT	Christina Sarver, LMT
Rebecca Dragseth, LMT	Gail McGaffick, JD	Diana Thompson, LMT

OPEN SESSION – 9:00 a.m.

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

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 March 12, 2021 Agenda

Program staff requested to move agenda item 5.2 from program report, make it agenda item 5, and renumber the remainder of the agenda items.

MOTION: A motion was made to approve the March 12, 2021, business meeting agenda with the amendment requested by program. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

1.3. Approval of the January 22, 2021, Meeting Minutes.

Program staff informed the board that the adjournment time on the minutes was incorrectly labeled as p.m. instead of a.m.

MOTION: A motion was made to approve the January 22, 2021 minutes, with the corrected adjournment time. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

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

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

- Columbia River Institute of Massage Therapy
 - The RBMs recommended approval.
MOTION: A motion was made to approve Columbia River Institute of Massage Therapy’s massage program as meeting the education and training standards that go into effect on September 1, 2021. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

- Therapeutic Connections School of Massage – 930-hour program
 - The RBMs recommended approval.
MOTION: A motion was made to approve the Therapeutic Connections School of Massage’s massage program as meeting the education and training standards that go into effect on September 1, 2021. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

- West by Northwest – 760-hour program
 - The RBMs stated there were deficiencies that need to be remedied before approval. They recommend for program staff to send a deficiency letter.

MOTION: A motion was made to approve program staff to send a deficiency letter. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

- West by Northwest – 915-hour
 - The RBMs determined there were deficiencies that need to be remedied before approved. They recommend for program staff to send a deficiency letter.

MOTION: A motion was made to approve program staff to send a deficiency letter. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously

- Whatcom Community College – Degree program
 - The RBMs recommended approval.
MOTION: A motion was made to approve the Whatcom Community College – Degree program as meeting the education and training standards that go into effect on September 1, 2021. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

- Whatcom Community College – Certificate program
 - The RBMs recommended approval.
MOTION: A motion was made to approve the Whatcom Community College – Certificate program as meeting the education and training standards that go into effect on September 1, 2021. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

- Port Townsend School of Massage – 525-hour
 - The RBMs recommended approval.

MOTION: A motion was made to re-approve the Port Townsend School of Massage – 525-hour. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
- Port Townsend School of Massage – 650-hour
 - The RBMs recommended approval.

MOTION: A motion was made to re-approve the Port Townsend School of Massage – 650-hour. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public shared the following comments/suggestions with the board:

- The public commented that it would be helpful if there could be multiple times for them to comment or have the opportunity to comment after each agenda item, rather than a short time at the beginning.
- The public noted there are many online courses available for multicultural health training and think it would be beneficial for LMTs to have the ability to have classes specific to different groups of people.
- A comment was received making note of the legislative bill about requiring healthcare practitioners to do health equity training as part of their continuing education.

4. SCHOOL APPROVAL PROCESS STANDARDIZATION – MEGAN MAXEY AND DAVIS HYLKEMA

Ms. Maxey and Mr. Hylkema reviewed the standards for school approvals with the board and what areas the board sees as challenging for the schools.

Ms. Maxey asked the board if they would be interested in creating a guidance document and have a subcommittee work with program staff on it. Ms. Lopez noted that a guidance document can be created, but it cannot change the requirements that are in the rule.

MOTION: A motion was made to delegate Autumn to work with program staff on a guidance document. After discussion, a second motion was made to amend the first motion for Heidi and Autumn to be on the subcommittee to work on a guidance document. The motion was seconded and passed.

5. MULTICULTURAL HEALTH EQUITY TRAINING UPDATE – RENEE FULLERTON

Ms. Fullerton reported that she reached out to the department’s community and equity relations staff. Due to scheduling conflicts, there was no staff available to present at this board meeting.

Ms. Fullerton noted that there is a legislative bill moving forward regarding health equity continuing education for healthcare professions that have continuing education requirements. She reviewed the bill with the board and proposed the idea of forming a subcommittee to assess the current state, specific to massage.

MOTION: A motion was made to create a subcommittee to include Autumn and Chimere for multicultural health equity. The motion was seconded and passed.

The board invited public comments. No comments were received.

6. PROGRAM REPORT – RENEE FULLERTON AND MEGAN MAXEY

6.1. Budget

Ms. Fullerton presented the board with a budget status report as of January 31, 2021. The overall trend remains the same with a decreasing negative fund balance. Disciplinary expenditures remain the largest cost.

6.2. Multicultural Health Equity Training Update – see item number 5

6.3. Legislative Update

- SB 5229 – Concerning health equity continuing education for health care professionals.
 - Ms. Maxey gave a summary of the original language in SB 5229 and a summary of amendments that have been made. Ms. Straker asked for clarity on the last sentence that reads:

The department may not deny the application of any applicant for a credential to practice a health profession on the basis that the education or training program that the applicant successfully completed did not include integrated multicultural health curriculum as part of its basic instruction.
 - Ms. Lopez noted that the intention is that it is not the student’s fault if the school doesn’t offer the training.

- HB 1329 – Concerning public meeting accessibility and participation.
 - Ms. Maxey gave a summary of the original language in HB 1329 and a summary of amendments that have been made.
 - The board did not have any questions.

6.4. Rules Update

Ms. Maxey provided an update about commencing rulemaking that was authorized by the board in February 2020. Ms. Maxey stated that she is working on the required documentation that needs to be submitted before filing the CR-101.

The CR-101 will include the following rules:

- WAC 246-830-201 – Examination
- WAC 246-830-485 – Somatic education training program exemption
- WAC 246-830-490 – Intraoral massage education and training
- WAC 246-830-500 – Equipment and sanitation
- WAC 246-830-510 – Hygiene

6.5. Future Agenda Items

The board discussed adding the following items to the next board meeting’s agenda.

- FSMTB Presentation

- Complaint trends over the last few years for the massage profession
- Have a presentation on the topic of human trafficking and elicit massage businesses. Ms. Fullerton will work on finding someone that can come give a presentation to the board.

9. ADJOURNMENT – HEIDI WILLIAMS, LMT, CHAIR

A motion was made at 12:40 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Approved:

Megan Maxey, Program Manager

Heidi Williams, LMT, Chair