



State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners

METRO EXECUTIVE BUILDING
4201 PATTERSON AVENUE • SUITE 301
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21215

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

TELECONFERENCE CALL

March 25, 2020, 10:13 a.m. – 10:59 a.m.

Members Present

Paula K. Jilanis, LMT, Board Chair
Caitlin M. Thompson, LMT, Vice Chair
David A. Cox, LMT, Secretary/Treasurer
Gwenda Harrison, LMT, Board Member
Diane Jones Richards, Consumer Member
Margaret Hayes, Consumer Member
Kirsten Bodnarchuk, LMT, Board Member

Non-Members Present

Sharon J. Oliver, MBA, Executive Director
Adrienne Congo, MS, Deputy Director
Grant Gerber, AAG, Board Counsel
Marc Ware, Investigator
Pamela Alston, Admin. Specialist
Amelia Mitchell, AMTA
Regina Schnieder, LMT
India Jones, RMP
Molly Farwell Gavin, LMT

Call to Order at 10:13 a.m. & Opening Remarks by Board Chair

The regularly scheduled Open Session meeting of the Maryland State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners was held via teleconference on March 25, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 10:13 a.m. by Paula Jilanis, LMT and Board Chair. Roll call was taken and all Board Members were present.

COVID-19 Updates – There was a discussion on whether or not massage therapists and practitioners are essential/non-essential health care providers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Paula Jilanis read Governor Hogan’s Executive Order dated March 16, 2020. Massage Therapists were advised to check the Board’s Website frequently for important updates regarding COVID-19.

Review/Approval of the Open Session Agenda with additions/amendments – David Cox motioned to accept the agenda with additions; 2nd by Margaret Hayes. The motion passed. Board Vote: 7/0/0.

Review/Approval of the Open Session Minutes for February 26, 2020 – Caitlin Thompson motioned to accept the Open Session Minutes; 2nd by Gwenda Harrison. The motion passed. Board Vote: 7/0/0.

Matters for Discussion

Extension for CEU’s – AMTA submitted a request for waiver of the CPR/CEU requirements for

the upcoming renewal period. A Board decision will be made prior to the October 2020 renewal period.

Extension for renewals – AMTA requested a one year extension for all Licensees and Registrants in good standing. Governor Hogan has granted a 30-Day extension after the state of emergency is lifted for renewal of licenses and registration. Board Discussion ensued. A Board decision will be made at a subsequent meeting. Paula Jilanis publicly thanked Sharon Oliver for her communication efforts as well as the MDH IT Department for their consistent work on the dissemination of daily updates regarding the current pandemic.

Board Chair Reports

Strategic Planning – The Strategic Planning Meeting is tentatively set for Thursday, July 23, 2020 at the University of Maryland, School of Pharmacy. The Ad Hoc committee is developing a work plan in preparation for the July meeting.

Montgomery County, Maryland Bill – The Montgomery County Bill developments are currently on hold due to the COVID-19 state of emergency. There are no updates at this time.

General Counsel – Grant Gerber thanked Sharon Oliver on her efforts to ensure the Massage Board and Licensees are continuously apprised of the rapid changes in information taking place due to the COVID-19 crisis. He reminded the Board of his contact information and his telework schedule.

Executive Director's Report

Coronavirus –Telework of Non- Essential Employee – Sharon Oliver expressed her thanks to the Board staff as well as the flexibility of the Massage Board Members during this state of emergency. She apprised the Board of the staff's staggered work schedules due to the telework requirements mandated by Governor Hogan.

Cancellation of Jurisprudence Examination - The Jurisprudence Exam has been cancelled for March and April and will be rescheduled at a later date. Additionally, the Metro Building is currently closed to the public. Ms. Oliver encouraged everyone to continue to support each other, exercise safety measures and proper social distancing during this time.

Committee Reports

Advisory Committee – Caitlin Thompson reported that a meeting was scheduled for March 18th with stakeholders was cancelled due to the COVID-19 social distancing policy in place.

Licensing Committee – David Cox reported that the Licensing Committee has been meeting via teleconference and there are plans to meet in April. Marc Ware has been vital in assisting in providing information on applicants.

Matters for Notation - Unfinished Business – None

Petition(s) Applicants(s) Ratifications from February 26, 2020 Closed Session – None

Ratification of Board Issued Licenses and Registrations – David Cox moved to combine all LMT's & RMP's as a group and ratify as new licensees; 2nd by Gwenda Harrison. The motion passed. Board Vote: 7/0/0. *Welcome to the State of Maryland!*

New LMT's

License Number	Name	Original License Date
M06020	ALTBERGER, BRETT D.	02/07/2019
M06021	RADDELL, MARY E.	02/07/2019
M06022	KING, AMBER M.	02/21/2019
M06023	SWAIN, HADASSAH	02/22/2019
M06024	MCNEILL, ASHLEY J.	02/25/2019

New RMP's

License Number	Name	Original License Date
R03028	SPARROW, KENNEN	02/04/2019
R03029	XIAO, GUOZHEN	02/07/2019
R03030	ZHANG, HONGZHI	02/07/2019
R03031	SMITH, LAKISHA C.	02/07/2019
R03032	GUIDOTTI, ANTHONY C.	02/07/2019
R03033	FAN, KEVIN F.	02/15/2019
R03034	GILLILAND, SAMANTHA A.	02/19/2019
R03035	ROBINSON, RHONDA, R.	02/21/2019
R03036	BROWN-HICKMAN, LeARA M.	02/22/2019
R03037	CAMPBELL, EMERALD K.	02/22/2019
R03038	GIBSON, PATRICIA C.	02/22/2019
R03039	PARK, CHAN H.	02/22/2019
R03040	ROBERTS, CHERISE A.	02/22/2019
R03041	BUFANO, JULIA	02/22/2019
R03042	MARQUISS, EDEN N.	02/22/2019
R03042	CONQUEST, HALLE A.	02/22/2019
R03043	CUMMINGS, BRENN A. J.	02/26/2019

Current Licensure Statistics

Active & Inactive Licensees/Registrants

Licensed Massage Therapists	Active	2535
Licensed Massage Therapists	Inactive	237
Registered Massage Practitioners	Active	1610
Registered Massage Practitioners	Inactive	83

Review Actions to be taken: None

Miscellaneous - Questions from Licensees

Paula Jilanis addressed the following-

“Are Massage Therapists considered Non Essential?” – Refer to the Federal Government’s Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce on the Board’s website and Secretary Neall’s March 24, 2020 directive for further clarification and the definition of an Essential/Non-Essential Employee.

“I am an independent contractor- what help or relief can I receive?” Paula Jilanis mentioned that there are various resourceful links on the Massage Therapy Website.

“What kind of guidelines will come from OSHA regarding COVID-19?” - An informative link will be posted on the Massage Board’s website to OSHA guidelines.

Next Meeting – April 22, 2020 10:00 A.M., Room 110 or Teleconference Call

Meeting Adjourned & Closed for Proceeding Administrative Session – Motion to adjourn Open Session Meeting at 10:59 a.m. by David Cox; 2nd by Gwenda Harrison. All in favor; the motion carried. Board Vote: 7/0/0.

Respectfully Submitted,



David A. Cox, LMT
Secretary/Treasurer