



MARYLAND State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Wednesday, September 25, 2019 | 10:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m.

BOMTE MISSION: "The Mission of the State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners is to regulate the practice of massage therapy to ensure standards of competency, protect public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Maryland."

Board of Massage Therapy Examiners

Open Session Minutes
10:12 a.m. - 11:14 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
Gloria Boddie-Epps, Consumer Member
Margaret Hayes, Consumer Member

Non-Members Present

Sharon J. Oliver, MBA, Executive Director
Adrienne Congo, MS, Deputy Director
Grant Gerber, AAG, Board Counsel
Marc Ware, Investigator III
Pamela Alston, Admin. Specialist
Kim Lang, MDH
Sabrina Lopez, President- AMTA
Amelia Mitchell, AMTA
Martin Chamberlain, LMT
Lillian Reese, Legislation Specialist
Tara McManaway, CSM

Call to Order at 10:00 a.m. & Opening Remarks by Board Chair

The regularly scheduled Open Session meeting of the Maryland State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners was held at the Metro Executive Building, Conference Room 110, on August 28, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 10:12 a.m. by Paula K. Jilanis, LMT and Board Chair. Roll call was taken and all Board Members were present.

Review/Approval of the Open Session Agenda – Gwenda Harrison motioned to accept the agenda with amendments; 2nd by David Cox; The motion passed. Board Vote 6/0/0.

Review/Approval of the Open Session Minutes for August 28, 2019 – Caitlin Thompson motioned to accept the Open Session Minutes; 2nd by Margaret Hayes. The motion passed. Board Vote 6/0/0.

Election of Officers – Margaret Hayes, Chair, announced the slate of officer nominees – Board Chair: Paula Jilanis, Vice-Chair: Caitlin Thompson & Secretary/Treasurer: David Cox. The nominations were respectfully submitted by Adrienne Congo and Margaret Hayes. The Board Members voted. Each officer was unanimously elected to serve an additional term in their current position.

Farewell to Gloria Boddie-Epps – Ms. Boddie-Epps was presented with a plaque and Governor’s Proclamation by Paula Jilanis. She was thanked for her commitment and dedication to serving the Massage Therapy & Chiropractic Boards since 2012.

Status of Two Vacant Board Member Positions – Sharon Oliver reported that the New LMT Board Member candidate is still being processed by the Governor’s office. The New Consumer Board Member was appointed. Before the Consumer Member is seated, she must be sworn in, and will likely be present for the October 23rd Board Meeting.

Board Chair Reports

Parliamentarian – David Cox has been designated to serve as the Massage Board’s Parliamentarian.

Board Counsel – Grant Gerber commended Ms. Boddie-Epps on her invaluable service to the Board. He stated that he has been working with Sharon Oliver on several initiatives related to operation of the Board.

Executive Director’s Report

Open Meeting Act Training Requirements –David Cox and Sharon Oliver have completed the online Training.

2020 Board Member Position Announcements – Two Board positions will become vacant in 2020. An announcement has been posted on the Board’s website. Nominations are due to the Office of Appointment by November 11, 2019. The list of nominees are due at the Secretary’s Office by December 1, 2019.

FSMTB 2019 Board of Director Candidates – David Cox has been nominated as a candidate to serve on the Board of Directors for the FSMTB. This position is for a 3-year term. Congratulations to David Cox.

Staff Training (Intentional Team Building & Sexual Harassment Prevention in the Workplace) –Sharon Oliver expressed the importance of cohesiveness and professionalism in the

workplace. Current initiatives include quality training for the staff to ensure excellent service to the public and the Board.

Human Trafficking Meetings - Investigator Marc Ware reported that over the course of the last month he has attended two (2) meetings on Human Trafficking held in Howard County and Baltimore City. Participants included representatives from law enforcement agencies and the Hotel & Hospitality Industry. He informed the Board on some of the topics that were discussed. Investigator Ware will continue to attend future meetings and update the Board on new initiatives to combat sex crimes and initiatives that may likely affect the Massage Industry.

New Board Member Orientation – October 7, 2019 at UMBC – Sharon Oliver plans to attend and participate. Current Board members are also encouraged to attend the Orientation. Interested persons were asked to email Kim Lang.

Committee Reports

Advisory Committee – *Caitlin Thompson, LMT, and Chair* – Caitlin Thompson thanked the members of the Advisory Committee and Amelia Mitchell of AMTA for their work on the Establishment Bill. Ms. Mitchell informed the Board that some time in November 2019, there will be an informative media piece, newsletter or video about the proposed Establishment Bill.

Licensing Committee – *David Cox, LMT, and Chair* - A new committee will be formed after the new Board member is seated.

Unfinished Business – Update on Central Maryland School of Massage (**CMSM**) – The school officially closed on September 13, 2019. Sharon Oliver received the list of the final group of students and graduates.

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 6/0/0. (See attached list).

Current Licensure Statistics

Active & Inactive Licensees/Registrants

Licensed Massage Therapists	Active	2459
Licensed Massage Therapists	Inactive	241
Registered Massage Practitioners	Active	1494
Registered Massage Practitioners	Inactive	88

Miscellaneous

Gwenda Harrison and Adrienne Congo are scheduled to attend the FSMTB conference on October 3-5, 2019 in Atlanta, Georgia. Gwenda Harrison will represent the Massage Board and present a 3-5

minute report at the conference. Ms. Harrison personally thanked Gloria Boddie-Epps for her years of service to the Board and perfect attendance record.

Tara McManaway of the College of Southern Maryland stated that Optum Insurance Company, a privately managed care insurance company received a contract from the Veteran's Administration (VA) to provide oversight for Healthcare Massage Therapy for Veterans. Tara enquired about the Board's Policy regarding insurance referrals and whether or not the Board was aware of Optum's recruiting offers to Licensed Massage Therapists. Sharon Oliver requested that Ms. McManaway forward the Optum email for further review.

Ms. McManaway also expressed concerns about a suspicious online Massage Therapy School soliciting business and recruiting massage therapists. Tara McManaway stated that she researched the MHEC website to check the credibility of the online schools. The schools were not found to be credible. Sharon Oliver requested to review the emails for possible further investigation.

Next Meeting – October 24, 2019 10:00 A.M., Room 110

Meeting Adjourned & Closed for Proceeding Executive Session – Motion to adjourn Open Session Meeting at 11:14 a.m. by David Cox; 2nd by Gwenda Harrison. The motion carried. Board Vote 6/0/0.

Respectfully Submitted,



David A. Cox, LMT
Secretary/Treasurer