



## State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners

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

### OPEN SESSION MINUTES TELECONFERENCE CALL

May 27, 2020, 10:05 a.m. – 11:24 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, Administrative Specialist  
\*Please see attached list of Teleconference Participants

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#### **Call to Order at 10:05 a.m. & Opening Remarks by Board Chair**

The regularly scheduled Open Session meeting of the Maryland State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners was held on May 27, 2020 via teleconference. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Paula Jilanis, LMT, and Board Chair. Roll call was taken and all Board Members were present. Paula Jilanis expressed her appreciation to the Board Staff for their consistent hard work and communication during the pandemic.

#### **Review/Approval of the Open Session Agenda**

There was a motion to accept the amended agenda by David Cox; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Margaret Hayes. The motion passed. Board Vote: 7/0/0.

#### **Review/Approval of the Open Session Minutes for April 22, 2020**

The Board's Open Session Minutes for April 22, 2020 were approved. There was a motion to accept the Open Session Minutes by Kirsten Bodnarchuk; 2<sup>nd</sup> by David Cox. The motion passed. Board Vote: 7/0/0.

#### **MATTERS FOR REPORTING**

##### **Board Chair Reports**

**Strategic Planning Meeting, July 23, 2020 – Cancelled** - The Strategic Planning Meeting scheduled for July 23, 2020 has been postponed until further notice. Paula Jilanis reported a projected \$50,000 revenue shortfall for fiscal year 2020. Paula Jilanis announced that Licensees may have to pay the full fee for the 2020 renewal cycle.



## **Board Counsel**

**Telehealth** – Two emergency Bills were passed during the Legislative Session. Governor Hogan signed SB402 and HB408 into law on April 3, 2020. These Bills allow Telehealth interactions between a certified, licensed health practitioner and patient in different locations through the use of telecommunications. The Advisory Committee will incorporate the Telehealth Bill into the Regulations.

**Executive Orders - 05-13-2020 & 05-19-2020** – Grant Gerber reported on the updates to the Governor’s Executive Order dated May 13, 2020. The language was vague and unclear. The Executive Order dated May 19, 2020 allows LMT’s to return to work only in a healthcare setting under certain conditions. Grant Gerber reiterated that the Board does not write the Executive Orders nor provides legal advice to practitioners.

## **Executive Director’s Report**

**2020 Annual Budget** – The 2020-2021 Budget has been prepared and submitted. The projected income for 2021 is \$880,493.

Due to COVID restrictions and the Governor’s travel ban, the Massage Board is meeting its minimum carryover balance.

**2021 Legislative Concept Paper Submitted** – The Advisory Committee has been working arduously to clean up the language in the Statutes. The Board voted to accept the recommended changes to the Statutes. The Concept Paper indicates what language needs to be clarified. Lillian Reese submitted the final draft to the Secretary’s Office on May 20, 2020.

**Re-Scheduling of Jurisprudence Examinations-** the Board Office has received numerous inquiries regarding when testing will be rescheduled. Sharon Oliver stated the Board Offices are still closed to the public. When the examinations resume, licensees will be notified of their testing date. Sharon Oliver stated that proper safety protocols will need to be in place, such as safe social distancing and the use of PPE’s.

**Participation in Alliance of Massage Therapy Education Webinar – 05/17/2020** – Sharon Oliver participated in an informative Webinar on May 17, 2020 that focused on topics such as how Massage schools will present distance learning material to students, establishing proper sanitation protocols, ensuring students will graduate in a timely fashion and what online learning looks like post COVID-19. Sharon Oliver suggested a resource book entitled, “Preventing Disease Transmission in Massage Practice” by Ann Williams and Eric Brown.

**The FSMTB 2020 Annual Meeting will be held October 15-17, 2020 in Chicago, Illinois** – The FSMTB 2020 Annual Meeting will take place online. The Chicago, Illinois trip has been cancelled due to COVID-19 safety precautions.

**Cost of Office Suite Disinfection** – In late April there was a suspected case of COVID-19 in the Board Office. Staff member did test negative. However, as a result the Board incurred a \$900 expense for the sanitation cleaning to ensure the safety of the staff. The cost was evenly split between the Massage and Chiropractic Boards.



**Advisory Committee**

Caitlin Thompson thanked David Cox, Diane Jones-Richards, Gwenda Harrison and Margaret Hayes for their work and flexibility.

**RMP to LMT Recommendation** – The Advisory Committee recommended the implementation of a single-tier system and to eliminate the RMP status for massage professionals in Maryland. Motion by the Advisory Committee; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kirsten Bodnarchuk. The motion passed. Board Vote: 7/0/0. Board Discussion ensued.

**Telehealth Regulations –**

Motion by the Advisory Committee to approve the creation of regulation language to implement the new Telehealth Law; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Diane Jones Richards. The motion passed. Board Vote: 7/0/0.

**Licensing Committee**

**CEU’s Carryout to 2022 Renewal** – David Cox informed that the Licensing Committee is still exploring and discussing options. The Licensing Committee recommended accepting previous advanced massage therapy CEU courses towards the 360 CEU contact hours towards RMP to LMT status change. Reference Health Occupations §6.302.

**MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION**

**Distance Learning-Hands on Training for Students Post COVID-19-** Sharon Oliver reported that this topic is being presented to the Board for further consideration. There was a recommendation that potentially instructors can demonstrate Massage techniques remotely. However, the Board must determine whether or not this distance learning method is acceptable for RMP’s or LMT’s. Sharon Oliver suggested referring this topic to the Licensing Committee for further review.

**MATTERS FOR NOTATION**

**Unfinished Business- None**

**Petition(s) Applicant(s) Ratification from April 22, 2020 Administrative Session – None**

**Ratification of Board Issued Licenses and Registrations**

**LMT’s & RMP’s April 2020 – None**

**Current Licensure Statistics**

**Active & Inactive Licensees/Registrants**

<b>License Massage Therapist</b>	<b>Active</b>	<b>2535</b>
<b>License Massage Therapist</b>	<b>Inactive</b>	<b>239</b>
<b>Registered Massage Practitioner</b>	<b>Active</b>	<b>1605</b>
<b>Registered Massage Practitioner</b>	<b>Inactive</b>	<b>86</b>



## MEETING FINALIZATION

**Review Actions to be Taken - None**

**Miscellaneous**

**Questions submitted to the Board by the Public (Paula Jilanis)**

- 1. “Will the Board issue checklists for proper re-opening protocols for Massage Therapists/Business?”**

The Massage Regulations does not establish infection control guidelines for the profession. The Board does not have nor will they create a checklist of massage therapists. Paula Jilanis suggested following the CDC and FSMTB Guidelines. Links are provided on the Board’s website.

- 2. “Requesting clarification of Item “5C” under (Amended) Health Care Directive - Dated May 19, 2020 Certification of Compliance Form to MDH for Healthcare facilities Managing Authority or the Responsible Healthcare Provider.”**

All Massage Business Establishments/Licensee’s must complete and self- certify using form “Certification of Compliance of COVID-19 and Various Healthcare Matters” and submit to the Secretary’s Office. A copy of the form must be visibly post a in the place of employment/business. Links to the certification form are on the Board’s website at [www.health.maryland.gov/massage](http://www.health.maryland.gov/massage) .

**Next Meeting – June 24, 2020, 10:00 A.M., Room 110 or Teleconference**

There was a motion to adjourn the Administrative Session Meeting at 11:24 a.m. by David Cox; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gwenda Harrison. The motion passed. Board Vote: 7/0/0.

Respectfully Submitted,

*David Cox by ssv*

David A. Cox,  
Secretary/Treasurer



**OPEN SESSION BOARD MEETING ATTENDEES**  
**TELECONFERENCE CALL**

**Massage Therapy**

MAY 27, 2020 10:05 a.m.- 11:24 a.m.

1. Amelia Mitchell, AMTA	2. Andretta Brown	3. Annette Beale	4. Ashley Costley
5. Austin Rees	6. Be Coles	7. Bernadette Mitchell	8. Bernice Burroughs
9. Caren Clift	10. Celia Limerick	11. Chelsea Adams	12. Connie Tricia
13. Crystal Hickman	14. Denise Cutair	15. Doug Wiltich	16. Deborah Bridgeforth-Elements Management
17. Emily Green	18. Ericka Foster	19. Elizabeth Leek	20. David Madon
21. Rhonda Bebout, LMT	22. Lynne Brummitt, MA, LMT	23. Erna Kilgore	24. Eugenia Harris
25. Gham Jones, LMT	26. Harry Fink	27. Health Bebout	28. Israelite Expressions
29. Jaime Bernardo	30. Jean Jeffreys	31. Jessie Bernstein	32. Kara Janis
33. Renee Rainbow	34. Rebecca Trump	35. Tuterangi Maihi, LMT	36. Regina Schneider
37. Shantel Lee	38. Laura Dewald	39. Austin Rees	40. Amanda Warriner
41. Connie Trica	42. A Shade	43. Kimberly Smith, LMT	44. Lee Anne Little, LMT
45. Lisa Diane Ruff, LMT	46. Erna Kilgore	47. Kat Bowling	48. Kelly Taylor
49. Kelsey Loss	50. Kwame Hautley	51. Lady O	52. Laura Dewald
53. Lisa Ruff	54. Luciada Simmons	55. Marcia Renee	56. Margo Cocchetto
57. Mario Taylor	58. Megan Sullivan	59. Michelle England	60. Mike & Heather Smoll-Rome
61. Miya Cooper	62. Rick Little	63. Robin Anderson	64. Sabrina Lopez, President AMTA
65. Sara Bahamon	66. Sherna Vinson	67. Stephen Coute	68. Taquita Johnson
69. Tara McManaway	70. Teia Pritchett	71. Tiah Kanikero	72. Tranquil Chi
70. Wellness Today Spa			