



MASSAGE THERAPY ASSOCIATION

ADVOCATE FOR MASSAGE THERAPY AS A RECOGNIZED AND RESPECTED HEALTHCARE PROFESSION

Date: January 22, 2021

To: WSMTA Board of Directors and Members

From: Marybeth Berney, LMT, WSMTA President, Board Member, Government Relations Program Member (mberney@mywsmta.org)
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Re: January 22, 2021 Board of Massage (BOM) Meeting Notes

New Board Member:

Chimere Figaire-Correa joined the board as a professional member from the Vancouver area. Chimere has been a licensed massage therapist since 2005.

Public Comment:

AMTA-WA and WSMTA asked that they be included in the workgroup on Multicultural Health Equity Training. WSMTA asked for more clarity on the temporary changes to CE requirements.

Legislative Update:

The Dept of Health staff brought these state bills to the attention of the Board of Massage members

- House Bill 1056 – Concerning open public meeting notice requirements and declared emergencies.
 - Allows a public agency to hold meetings of its governing body remotely, or with limited in-person attendance after a declared emergency.
 - Requires that the public be allowed to listen in, in real time, to meetings that are held remotely or with limited in-person attendance.
 - Requires all public agencies to post agendas online for regular meetings and for special meetings held remotely or with limited in-person attendance.
- Senate Bill 5229 – Concerning health equity continuing education for healthcare professionals.
 - Requires all professions licensed under Title 18 which require continuing education, to adopt rules requiring continuing education related to health equity by January 1, 2023.
 - Rules shall be developed in consultation with communities who have lived experience of health inequities or racism.

Multicultural Health Education and Awareness/ MultiCultural Health Equity Training:

With SB 5229, each board that requires continuing education to adopt CE regulations regarding health equity. The Board had a discussion on the best way to address this legislative requirement for healthcare providers to receive education and training in Multicultural Awareness and Healthcare Equity/Inequity. The board took comments during this discussion and are moving forward with creating a workgroup with stakeholders to look at the many facets in which SB5229 might be appropriated to the Massage Profession. A few states have a requirement for this type of training built into their CE requirements. That way all licensed healthcare providers receive the training and education vs just new people entering the health professions. The board will seek public comment about this type of education via their next newsletter. They hope to adopt a committee at the next meeting. They will not be able to re-open the continuing education WAC until after September 1, 2021.

The Dept of Health staff provided these regulations on this topic – these are listed verbatim:

Maryland – 10.65.05.01. 01 Required Continuing Education Hours.

A. By October of each renewal year, beginning in October, 2004, license and registration holders shall satisfactorily complete a minimum of 24 hours within the previous 24 months as follows: 1) 3 hours in professional ethics or jurisprudence; 2) 3 hours in communicable disease education which includes AIDS/HIV; and. 3) 17 hours in massage-related courses as approved by the Board; and. 4) 1 hour in diversity or cultural competency.

Oregon – 334-010-0050 Continuing Education

(A) At renewal time, each licensee must sign and submit a statement indicating they have completed 25 hours of continuing education. The Board may require proof of CE hours.

(B) Of the 25 hours, at least 15 must be contact hours of continuing education training or Board approved activities. At least 4 contact hours must be in Professional Ethics, Boundaries and/or Communication. The remaining 10 of 25 hours may be contact or noncontact hours. Once every other renewal, at least 1 hour must be in Cultural Competency as per ORS 413.450.

Cultural Competency continuing education approved by the Oregon Health Authority, will be accepted for meeting the cultural competency requirement.

Michigan

On July 9, 2020, Michigan's governor issued an Executive Directive for the state's Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs to work in consultation with the relevant boards, to begin the process of creating rules to establish implicit bias training standards as part of licensure and renewal of health professions.

School Approval New Training Hours:

Starting Sept. 1 2021 the minimum hours required for a Board Approved massage program will go from 500 to 625. Staff has developed a standardized application format. Schools will have the option to provide the new application electronically or on paper. Staff will evaluate each application for completeness and correct format, only then will the application be forwarded to board members for review.

Credentialing Report:

There are currently 12,544 massage licenses. 10,014 are Active, 266 are Inactive, 1922 are Expired in Renewal. The majority of Inactive and Expired in Renewal are likely COVID related, LMT's who are closed temporarily or perhaps closed permanently due to COVID.

Rules:

The board staff filed, on Dec. 24th 2020, the CR-103 for the 13 WACs that the board had been working on. The WACs will have an effective date of September 1, 2021.

Next Meeting:

In depth discussion and procedural training on how school approvals are dispensed, handled and approved or denied. The Board talked about inviting the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB) back to share with board members and audience info on the Massage Therapy Licensing Database (MTLD) and CE Registry.

Budget:

According to state law all Boards and Commissions must be self-supporting by their own fees. The Massage board's budget has been in the red for many years now. Because of this the Secretary of Health approved a fee increase for LMTs. That increase is beginning to help, though the budget still remains in the red. 41% of the budget is spent on Discipline of LMTs. The biggest cost drivers are sexual misconduct of LMTs, non-compliance with CE requirements and an emerging category of COVID complaints.

This information was copied from the Dept of Health's meeting document:

**Board of Massage
Budget Status Report**

For the period of July 1, 2019 to November 30, 2020

Beginning Fund Balance	(1,689,342)
Revenue	2,938,479
Expenses	2,103,454
Est. Ending Fund Balance	(854,317)

	Biennial	BTD	
	Budget	Expenses	Balance
Salaries & Benefits	294,746	192,316	102,430
Contracts	1,800	-	1,800
Goods & Services	267,000	171,362	95,638
Travel	24,269	8,885	15,384
Equipment	4,800	1,548	3,252
Grants	-	-	-
Intra Agency*	1,793,919	1,286,739	507,180
Indirect Charges	672,495	442,604	229,891
Total	3,059,029	2,103,454	955,575

* Intra agency charges include expenses such as rent, IT support, enterprise software and communications.

