



ADVOCATE FOR MASSAGE THERAPY AS A RECOGNIZED AND RESPECTED HEALTHCARE PROFESSION

March 22, 2018

**To:** WSMTA Board of Directors and Members

**From:** WSMTA CPP member, Robbin Blake, LMT (rblake@mywsmta.org)

**Re:** March 9, 2018 Board of Massage (BOM) Meeting Notes

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After the meeting was called to order and the initial agenda items were agreed to and school program reviews were completed, Noel Webster, MSW, CDP, MAC presented a slide show on WRAMP -- Washington Recovery and Monitory Program.

**WRAMP:** Under RCW 18.130.175 the Department of Health may refer people it regulates with drug abuse problems to WRAMP (massage therapists are able to partake in WRAMP, whereas doctors and several other professions have their own agencies) instead of having their licenses immediately revoked. Compliance with the program is voluntary. People who volunteer for the program are in it for 1-5 years and privacy is maintained within WRAMP and not shared outside of the agency, except in the situation of non-compliance or if the healthcare provider is unsafe. Participants spend between \$150-\$300/month to be in the program. Depending on the situation, participation in WRAMP and complying and passing all levels of monitoring may permit a participant to continue practicing their profession and maintain their license.

**Board of Massage Newsletter:** The Department of Health Board of Massage program people have agreed to create and publish a newsletter 2 times a year.

**Continuing Education:** At the end of the discussion of Continuing education, the board has tentatively agreed to make the following changes to WAC 246-830-475 which regulates continuing education:

- Anyone who teaches CE must have two years of professional experience to teach for a fee. The general public asked for 3 years experience.
- CPR is to be made a required CE for all LMTs and at this point must be done in a hands-on class.
- The 8 hours required for "direct supervised massage skills training" was flip-flopped with "remaining twelve hours" so that 12 hours were to be required by "direct supervised massage skill training" and 8 "remaining hours. So now the break down is:
  - 12 hours minimum direct supervised massage skills training
  - 4 hours minimum ethics
  - CPR (for however many hours an LMT registers for)
  - remaining hours may consist of live class, self study, teaching a course for the first time, business and management courses, distance service, active service on massage related boards or committees

The concept of flipping the 8 hands-on and 12 other hours was brought up in a discussion between DOH employees and the Board and the Board latched onto it. The board initially stated it would consider it but by the end of the meeting, it appeared to agree to it.

- Ethics can also include 2 hours maximum of attending a Board of Massage meeting (phone call meetings were exempted).

- Provisions were made for documenting CE credits by stating what needed to be included on a certificate of attendance or certificate of attendance, as well as what documents would be considered to show proof of credit.
- Brandon Williams (Program Associate at the DOH) brought up issues about LMTs with expired licenses being able to meet the direct supervised massage skill training so the Board amended the language to include "in person observation". However, in public comment several comments were made that there are no such restrictions on people attending CE classes and numerous public commentaries requested that the "in person observation" be removed as it defeated the purpose of having hands-on classes.
- The Board discussed energy work. It's decision was to not allow energy work in the hands on requirement, but to allow it the "remaining hours" section. However, the board did not make any suggested WAC language proposals about this.

No actual changes to the continuing education WACs have been made, the Board's proposed changes to the CE language and requirements have yet to be agreed to by the board.

**Tools:** The Board of Massage received a request from someone about what tools are considered to be legal, which prompted a discussion at this board meeting. There wasn't a decision reached by the board about whether to add something about tools to our WACs or to leave it as is. Adding language runs the risk of excluding and not adding language runs the risk of exposing the general public to danger if LMTs do use tools not consistent to what our scope of practices allows us to do. The Board appeared to be amenable to a wide range of tools, but tabled the discussion until the next board meeting.