



ADVOCATE FOR MASSAGE THERAPY AS A RECOGNIZED AND RESPECTED HEALTHCARE PROFESSION

May 10, 2019

To: WSMTA Board of Directors and Members

From: WSMTA Government Relations Program Director, Robbin Blake, LMT (rblake@mywsmta.org)

Re: May 3, 2019 Board of Massage (BOM) Meeting Notes

School Program Reviews: Carrington College -- deficient; Friday Harbor School of Massage -- approved; Victoria's Academy of Cosmetology -- approved

Rules Update and Discussion:

- WAC 246-830-500 Equipment, Linens, and Sanitation: In the special April meeting blankets had been declared a single use item. There was a lot of feedback from massage therapists and owners of clinics that this was not feasible due to the lack of space to store multiple blankets, the expense involved--not just washing but having to buy additional washers and dryers and the expense of hooking water up to new washers, in addition to the expense (time and money) of having to almost double the loads of laundry. In subsection 4, the BOM changed the language to state that blankets had to be cleaned when soiled or cleaned at least one time per day. This seemed to also be acceptable to everyone in the audience.
- WAC 246-830-xxx Massage of the Gluteal Cleft and Perineum: The language for this new WAC has been settled for close to a year. During this meeting, there had been a request by a public member to require prior written, informed consent for massage to be done on the pubic bones, public rami and medial ischial tuberosities and had requested that this consent be provided in this section. This was a continuation of discussion from the April meeting. During the BOMs discussion of this topic, the language of this WAC had been greatly re-written and retitled. There was much public comment on this. WSMTA's position was that this WAC was the wrong section for this potentially new consent to be put into, as this new WAC only dealt with two very small and defined areas and the body areas that the requesting public member was talking about were outside of this area. WSMTA had requested that a) first, the education of consent for this area be done in schools and not regulated and b) that if the BOM chose to regulate this, that it put the requirement for consent in WAC 246-830-550 Standards of practice--Limitations, as this would be a new limit on a body area prior to when massage could begin and this was more appropriate WAC than the new WAC 246-830-xxx. This topic consumed a good portion of the total meeting time. Because the BOM members seemed to reach a point of not knowing how to continue, one of the DOH staff members suggested that they could reset the language back to the original and open up a new CR-101 at a later date if needed. The BOM followed the advice. However, they forgot to reset their changes to the Draping Regulation. As part of their changes to this new WAC, the BOM had removed the ability to remove the genital drape in the sole instance that massage on the perineum was being done.

At the end of the rules section, the BOM made the decision to take the rules as they were at the end of this session and begin the CR-102 process.

House Bill 1082: This bill is no longer active. This bill would have made LMTs and Reflexologists carry

government issued ID or have government issued ID nearby when they were doing massage. The government issued ID was required to be presented if a police inspection was ever done on the premise to help curb prostitution by illegal businesses. This bill originated from the City of Vancouver.

Credentialing: There were 13,830 active LMTs and 362 pending applications

Upcoming Meetings: The BOM discussed holding phone/webinar based teleconferences to help reduce the budget.