

**THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
STATE BOARD FOR MASSAGE THERAPY**

March 1, 2024

Public Locations: Albany, New York City, Rochester, Syracuse

Present: Michele Naumann Carlstrom, Chair (New York City)
Kyle Hierholzer, Vice Chair (Syracuse)
Chad Hunkins (nonpublic location)
Dale Montelione-Grust (Albany)
Linda Toomey (Syracuse)
Amy E. Warcup (Rochester—executive session)

Absent: Kiersten Fisher

Staff:	Christina Amato	Department staff observer
	Carolyn Ferrick	Professional Examination Unit
	Diane Martin	Board Staff
	Karen Shier	Board Staff
	Paul Thompson	Board Executive Secretary

Meeting Convened

The Executive Secretary called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. Board members and staff introduced themselves. The Executive Secretary reviewed the agenda and noted that comments and discussion are restricted to State Board members and Department staff.

Executive Secretary's Report

- **Retirement of Deputy Commissioner Sarah Benson**
 - Mr. Thompson noted the recent retirement of Deputy Commissioner Sarah Benson, who had served in many roles in the Office of the Professions (OP) and was a great advocate for the work of the State boards and the licensed professions. In the interim, Assistant Commissioner David Hamilton will be overseeing the work of OP.

Consideration of Practice Inquiries

- One inquiry sought to determine whether there is a scope distinction between “dynamic” versus “static” cupping. Those are general concepts that can encompass acceptable cupping modalities. Some specific cupping modalities, such as “fire cupping” and “wet cupping,” involve techniques that fall outside the massage therapy scope of practice.
- “Fascial counterstrain” appears to be a proprietary terminology rather than a distinct modality, as it encompasses typical and acceptable strain/counterstrain techniques. Any associated representations of diagnoses and cures, however, would not be consistent with the massage therapy scope of practice.
- “Orthobionomy” appears to fall within acceptable positional release techniques.
- The language of the statutory scope of practice (as defined in Education Law) is such that “Ashiatsu” does not clearly fall within the statutory scope of practice; massage therapists

should exercise caution pending any change in Education Law.

Conclusion of Public Session

Motion: To end the public session and enter executive session to discuss matters relating to the State Massage Therapy examination – Michele Naumann Carlstrom

Second: Dale Montelione-Grust

Vote: Unanimous approval (10:30 a.m.)

Executive Session (10:40 a.m. to 11:55 a.m.)

Discussion of matters relating to the New York State licensure examination.

Next meeting: May 3, 2024