

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
STATE BOARD FOR MASSAGE THERAPY
December 15, 2023

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

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

Staff:	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 10:05 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

- **Meeting with the New York State Council of Massage Therapy Educators**
Department staff from the Board office, Professional Examinations unit, Professional Education Program Review office, and the Deputy Commissioner's office attended the annual (virtual) meeting of the New York State Council of Massage Therapy Educators.

Staff from the Deputy Commissioner's office presented on the Paths to the Professions website, which provides information about careers in the licensed professions. We encouraged attendees to share the resource and provide feedback.

School representatives had questions about exam-related matters:

- They remain interested in having the limited permit be valid for one year, instead of expiring at the point of the results of the next available licensing exam. We noted this requirement is defined in Education Law; changing it would require action by the Legislature and Governor.
- Schools asked for more timely distribution of licensing exam scores. In the past, we have held the release of scores pending the review of exam challenges. We offered to release the scores before completion of the challenge process, and then update the schools later if the challenge results alter the performance data. The schools supported that approach.

- School representatives suggested that exam readers (needed by some exam takers) should be licensed in massage therapy or a related field. There are different schools of thought on using licensees as readers. One concern is that licensees may inadvertently provide cues that signify a right or wrong answer. We will review the latest literature on that topic.
- We described the task-analysis survey and noted that it focused on identifying entry-level knowledge.
- The schools asked about expanding the number of exam items related to ethics. We noted that the updated exam blueprint will have 20 “professional responsibility” items, which is more than double the current number. We will be following up with the schools to share the revised blueprint and confer with them on its effective date.
- The Department may consolidate the timing of exam offerings across the professions—to help hold the line on student and administrative costs. If so, there may be minor adjustments (e.g., of a week or two) to the current exam schedule.
- The schools asked about increasing the frequency of the licensure exam, e.g., to three or more times per year. The exam requires significant Board oversight, so the Department would have to consider the impact on resources.

Conclusion of Public Session

Motion: To end the public session and enter executive session to discuss matters relating to the State Massage Therapy examination – Dale Montelione-Grust

Second: Michele Naumann Carlstrom

Vote: Unanimous approval (10:25 a.m.)

Executive Session (10:35 a.m. to 12:10 p.m.)

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

Next meeting: Friday, March 1, 2024.