

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

October 4, 2024

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

Present: Michele Naumann Carlstrom, Chair (New York City)
Kyle Hierholzer, Vice Chair (Syracuse)
Mary Chiappone-Filson (Albany)
Kiersten Fisher (Rochester)
Dale Montelione-Grust (Albany)
Amy E. Warcup (Rochester)

Absent: Chad Hunkins
Linda Toomey (attending FSMTB annual meeting)

Staff:	Carolyn Ferrick	Professional Examinations 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.

Review of Board Minutes

The Board considered the draft minutes of the following meeting:

- May 3, 2024

The Board voted unanimously to approve the draft minutes as submitted. (Motion: Michelle Naumann Carlstrom; second: Dale Montelione-Grust)

Executive Secretary's Report

- Mr. Thompson noted the passing of Extended Board Member Mary Beth Clancy-Halayko. The Board recognized Mary Beth's many years of service and offered its condolences to Mary Beth's family and colleagues.
- Board Member Toomey is attending the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB) annual meeting in Washington, D.C., on behalf of the Board.
- The FSMTB is co-sponsoring a two-day conference/training session in January that will focus on human trafficking in illicit massage businesses (IMBs). It will highlight a range of strategies—such as criminal case investigation and prosecution, ordinance reform, and cross-agency collaboration. Mr. Thompson shared the conference information with colleagues in

the Office of Professional Discipline (OPD). Recently, OPD investigators collaborated successfully with local police and district attorney offices on a regional illegal practice case.

Practice Inquiries/Other Business

- Board members confirmed that gua sha, as practiced to improve circulation, falls within the scope of practice of massage therapy. Ms. Martin noted that massage therapy practice does not extend to exfoliation (cosmetic procedure).
- The Department and its exam administrator will set the date for the next licensure exam soon; the licensure-application deadline for that exam remains as November 1.
- An audience member inquired about the Department's role in addressing unlicensed practice. All complaints of unlicensed (illegal) practice may be directed to OPD, where staff will assess the complaint. Criminal prosecution of substantiated activities would be done in collaboration with such authorities as local law enforcement and attorneys general.
- Board members suggested that gender-specific language in our practice advisories may need to be updated.

Conclusion of Public Session

Motion: To end the public session and enter executive session to discuss matters relating to the State Massage Therapy examination – Kyle Hierholzer; second: Amy Warcup.

Vote: Unanimous approval (10:40 a.m.)

Executive Session (10:45 a.m.)

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

Motion to conclude meeting: Michele Naumann Carlstrom; second: Kiersten Fisher. Unanimous approval (11:55 a.m.)

Next meeting: December 6, 2024