

**MASSAGE, BODYWORK AND SOMATIC THERAPY  
MINUTES  
REGULAR OPEN COMMITTEE MEETING  
FEBRUARY 2, 2005**

A meeting of the Massage, Bodywork and Somatic Therapists was held on February 2, 2005 in the Essex Conference Room on the 7th Floor, 124 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey. Alan Vonderahe, Committee Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Carol Alexander  
Deborah Overholt  
Donda Kraus-Sternberg  
Alan Vonderahe

**ALSO PRESENT**

George J. Hebert, Executive Director, New Jersey Board of Nursing Ginger Provost, Deputy Attorney General

Charles Manning, Regulatory Analyst, Division of Consumer Affairs attended the meeting for the discussion of the Education Requirements.

**QUORUM WAS DECLARED PRESENT**

In accordance with Chapter 231 of P.L. 1975, more commonly referred to as the Sunshine Law, adequate notice of this meeting was provided by mailing on January 3, 2005. A schedule of all 2005 Regular Open Committee Meetings of the Massage, Bodywork and Somatic Therapy Examining Committee to be held during 2005 was provided to the Office of the Secretary of State, Star Ledger, Trenton-Times, The New York Times, Camden Courier Post, The Press of Atlantic City and The Philadelphia Inquirer. The schedule has also been posted on the bulletin board at the New Jersey State Board of Nursing Office.

A reading and approval of the Agenda for the February 2, 2005 Massage Committee Meeting with the following amendments:

- Letter dated February 1, 2005 from the Department of Education regarding transcripts for students seeking certification: will be placed under communication.
- The Education Requirements: will be placed under old business.

**AFTER DISCUSSION, THE COMMITTEE UPON A MOTION MADE BY DEBORAH OVERHOLT AND DULY SECONDED BY CAROL ALEXANDER VOTED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA OF THE FEBRUARY 2, 2005 MASSAGE COMMITTEE MEETING AS AMENDED. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

A reading and approval of the Open Committee Meeting Minutes of December 1, 2004.

**AFTER DISCUSSION, THE COMMITTEE UPON A MOTION MADE BY CAROL ALEXANDER AND DULY SECONDED BY DONDA KRAUS-STERNBERG, VOTED TO APPROVE THE REGULAR OPEN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 1, 2004. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. George Hebert discussed with the committee the current Information Sheet and Official Application for

## Massage, Bodywork and Somatic Therapy Certification.

The Information Sheet and Official Application Form were reviewed with the following recommendations for change were made:

- a) Information Sheet: Revise the information sheet to inform the applicants not to send the Criminal History Background Check fee in with their application, but to submit it to Sagem Morpho, Inc. at the time of fingerprinting.
- b) The application checklist: Revise the check list to include a 2x2 passport size photo of the applicants head and shoulders taken within the past 6 months.
- c) Application Form: Revise the application form to reflect which sheet within the form each category of applicants is required to complete.

### Official Application:

- Page 1 - is to be completed by all applicants.
- Page 2 - is to be completed by all applicants.
- Page 3 - is to be completed by all applicants.
- Page 4 - is to be completed by all applicants.
- Page 5 (Education Form) is to be completed by those seeking certification by "Grandfathering and Education".
- Page 6 (Work Experience) is to be completed by all applicants.
- Page 7 (Affidavit) to be completed by all applicants.
- Page 8 (Affidavit of Good Moral Character) to be completed by all applicants.
- Page 9 (2nd affidavit of Good Moral Character) to be completed by all applicants.
- Page 10 (Certification of Authorization Form) to be completed by all applicants.
- Page 11 (The Verification Form) is to be completed by each applicant that is certified and or licensed in another state is required to have the verification form filled out by the state in which they are currently licensed and or certified in.

The committee decided to maintain one application for all categories.

### **OPEN FORUM:**

Alan Vonderahe asked the public to share with the Committee any concerns, issues or questions:

Individuals who spoke were:

Cynthia Siniarii-Balena, AMTA - commented as follows:

- Commended the committee for the hard work that went into the regulations.
- Ms. Falena agreed with the committee about keeping one application.
- Keep all information simple on the application.
- Endorsement requirements, all applicants must submit regulations from their state of licensure or certification. Ms. Falena feels it is too much paperwork and it would reduce paperwork if they were required to provide the education portion of the regulations.
- Ms. Falena agrees that all applicants should provide their current practice status for the last three years.

Kenny Shinn, Owner of Heart and Soul Holistic Center - expressed comments:

- Suggestions for the formatting of the application.
- It maybe a problem for applicants to request school transcripts, because some schools have closed.
- Mr. Shinn is seeking feedback on the education requirements.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### 1. N.J.A.C. 13:37-16.4, Education Requirements.

(d)2, Ethics: six hours. (This will be amended to include Ethics and Law) the hours will be expanded from 6 hours to 8 hours.

(d)3, Law: six hours, which shall include local, State and Federal law and regulations regarding the practice of massage, bodywork and somatic therapy. (This section will be deleted with content being subsumed within (d)2.)

AFTER DISCUSSION, THE COMMITTEE UPON A MOTION MADE BY DONDA KRAUS-STERNBERG AND DULY SECONDED BY CAROL ALEXANDER, VOTED TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF NURSING APPROVAL OF THE REVISIONS TO N.J.A.C. 13:37-16.4, EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS. THE MOTION CARRIED.

### 2. N.J.A.C. 13:37-16.5, Certification without examination based on licensure in another state. (Endorsement)

(b)2, Verification of licensure or certification in good standing in another state. (This will be amended to include all states that they are currently licensed or certified in.)

AFTER DISCUSSION, THE COMMITTEE UPON A MOTION MADE BY CAROL ALEXANDER AND DULY SECONDED BY DEBORAH OVERHOLT, VOTED TO APPROVE THE REVISIONS TO N.J.A.C. 13:37-16.5, ENDORSEMENT REQUIREMENTS. THE MOTION CARRIED.

## **NEW BUSINESS: (cont'd)**

### 2. The committee discussed Assembly Bill 3687 - which revises statutes regarding acupuncturists.

AFTER DISCUSSION, THE COMMITTEE UPON A MOTION MADE BY DEBORAH OVERHOLT AND DULY SECONDED BY DONDA KRAUS-STERNBERG, VOTED TO SUPPORT ASSEMBLY BILL 3687. THE MOTION CARRIED.

3. The committee received twenty-eight (28) applications from individuals seeking certification and eight (8) of the applications appear to be complete and ready for certification. The applications will be reviewed in closed session.

4. The committee received several inquiries from individual towns in the State of New Jersey offering a certification in Massage Therapy. The question that was posed is whether or not the State certification supercedes the certification by the individual towns?

5. The committee directed a letter be sent to Deborah Kole, Attorney for the New Jersey State League of Municipalities informing her that the certification process for Massage, Bodywork and Somatic Therapy has begun.

## **COMMUNICATION(S):**

The committee received flyers from two Massage Spas that are opening up in the Newark, NJ area. The committee will review this issue in further detail at the next meeting.

AFTER DISCUSSION, THE COMMITTEE UPON A MOTION MADE BY DONDA KRAUS-STERNBERG AND DULY SECONDED BY CAROL ALEXANDER, VOTED TO TABLE THE REMAINING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA, UNDER NEW BUSINESS UNTIL THE NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING. THE MOTION CARRIED.

AFTER DISCUSSION, THE COMMITTEE UPON A MOTION MADE BY DEBORAH OVERHOLT AND DULY SECONDED BY DONDA KRAUS-STERNBERG, VOTED TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION. THE

MOTION CARRIED.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion made by Deborah Overholt and duly seconded by Carol Alexander to adjourn the Massage, Bodywork and Somatic Therapy Examining Committee Meeting. Whereupon the meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m. The next Massage, Bodywork and Somatic Therapy Examining Committee Meeting will be held on March 2, 2005.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Alan Vonderahe  
Committee Chairman

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