

**MASSAGE, BODYWORK AND SOMATIC THERAPY MINUTES
REGULAR OPEN COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 25, 2009**

A meeting of the Massage, Bodywork and Somatic Therapy Examining Committee was held on March 25, 2009 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 9:15 a.m.

ROLL CALL

COMMITTEE MEMBER(S) PRESENT:

Deborah Overholt
Donda Kraus-Sternberg
Alan G. Vonderahe

ALSO PRESENT:

George J. Hebert, Executive Director
Ginger Provost, Deputy Attorney General
Diane Scott, Administrative Staff

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 November 26, 2008. A schedule of all 2009 Regular Open Committee Meetings of the Massage, Bodywork and Somatic Therapy Examining Committee to be held during 2009 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. OPEN MINUTES -2- MARCH 25, 2009

A reading and approval of the Open Session Agenda of March 25, 2009 Committee Meeting:

After discussion, the Committee upon a motion made by Deborah Overholt and duly seconded by Donda Kraus-Sternberg, voted to approve the Open Agenda of March 25, 2009 Committee Meeting. The motion carried.

Open Session Minutes of February 25, 2009 Committee Meeting with amendments:

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4-Ki Ham – was issued a POD. On October 14, 2008, was issued a FOD for non-cooperation. Mr. Ham submitted a letter requesting reconsideration for certification. After discussion, the Committee upon a motion made by Deborah Overholt and duly seconded by Donda Kraus-Sternberg, voted to deny reconsideration for Ki Ham. The Committee agreed that Mr. Ki Ham must reapply and provide all documentation requested by the Committee regarding his background. The motion carried.

#5 -Applicants from non-approved school – a discussion ensued regarding applicants that are pending due to having gone to schools that are not approved. The Committee determined that a plan must be in place in order to go forward with each of these applicants. The Committee agreed that it would schedule interviews with several applicants from each school.

#6 - November 20, 2008 letter from Robert DeGeorges, Managing Member, Pompton Valley Professional Center, LLC requesting clarification regarding if a tenant can offer seaweed wraps. This issue was

discussed at the December 10, 2008 Committee meeting, but further information was needed. After further review of the regulations, it was determined that seaweed wraps fall within the scope of practice of massage therapy. Staff should respond accordingly.

Correspondence:

#1- January 25, 2009 – letter from Ivonne Bessil regarding her application for certification. The Committee directed that a letter be sent to Union County College and applicant requesting information regarding the transcript with regards to law and ethics and that she should be advised that she needs to submit a certification that her education included all of the requirements for certification and take a law course or take the NCBTMB Test. #4- February 23, 2009 – email from Dan Ludwig, LMT, LPN regarding travelling massage therapist. Mr. Ludwig is licensed in another state and will be travelling with his team to New Jersey and wanted to know if there is a requirement to be licensed in New Jersey in order to perform massage. The statute does not prohibit any person from performing massage therapy if the massage therapy is performed for no more than 45 days in a calendar year and provided that the person is licensed in his or her home state. However under the current certification statute anyone can practice as long as the prohibited titles are not used.

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Open Forum - Cynthia Sinicropi-Balena, LMT, CMT, AMTA-NJ – commented on the information that is being displayed on the website and believes it is not accurate. Ms. Sinicropi-Balena also stated that the proposed regulation amendments are not posted on the website. Another concern was that the massage community might not be able to locate the information. Ms. Sinicropi-Balena agreed with the Committee that all applicants should take the NCBTMB examination to qualify for certification and no therapists from other states should be allowed to come into New Jersey to perform massage therapy without a license.

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The motion should state the following - After discussion, the Committee upon a motion made by Deborah Overholt and duly seconded by Donda Kraus-Sternberg, voted to deny reinstatement of certification for the certificants who have expired certifications listed above based upon the criminal history information and until each certificant comes forward to address the concerns of the Committee. The motion carried.

After discussion, the Committee upon a motion made by Deborah Overholt and duly seconded by Donda Kraus-Sternberg, voted to approve the February 25, 2009 Open Committee Meeting Minutes as amended. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The Committee reviewed and discussed the certification application of Kimberly Williams. The Committee asked Ms. Williams several questions including whether or not ethics and law was taught at the Institute for Health Education.

After discussion, the Committee upon a motion made by Deborah Overholt and duly seconded by Donda Kraus-Sternberg, voted to approve the application for certification for Kimberly Williams based upon her interview and information provided to the Committee. The motion carried.

A discussion ensued regarding the transcript breakdown of Institute for Health Education

After discussion, the Committee upon a motion made by Deborah Overholt and duly seconded by Donda Kraus-Sternberg, directed that a letter be sent to the Institute for Health Education requesting school to stipulate the hours of ethics and law on the transcript. The motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. December 8, 2009, letter from Bethany Lowrie, Assistant Director of Education, National Massage Therapy Institute, regarding Cristina A. Giordano-Kinsman. The intent of the letter was to provide the Committee with a breakdown of course hours that was completed by Cristina Giordano-Kinsman.

A discussion ensued regarding the letter and the Committee determined that the letter did not provide information on the 70 hours of electives that Ms. Giordano-Kinsman needs to complete in order to be certified. The Committee directed that staff contact the school to obtain where on the transcript that it states that Ms. Giordano-Kinsman completed 70 hours of electives and the breakdown of the courses.

INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES:

1. March 11, 2009 – News Release from NCBTMB regarding the use of its certification tests as the National Standard for Entry-Level Licensure Exams.

OPEN FORUM:

There was no public in attendance.

After discussion, the Committee upon a motion made by Deborah Overholt and duly seconded by Donda Kraus-Sternberg, voted to go into closed session to review matters under investigation and applicants with criminal history. The motion carried.

OPEN SESSION RESUMED:

The following applicants have been approved for certification:

Anis, Rita
Drobel, Jenna

After discussion, the Committee upon a motion made by Deborah Overholt and duly seconded by Donda Kraus-Sternberg, voted to approve the applications of the applicants listed above for certification. The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Deborah Overholt and duly seconded by Donda Kraus-Sternberg to adjourn the Massage, Bodywork and Somatic Therapy Examining Committee Meeting. Whereupon the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. The next Massage, Bodywork and Somatic Therapy Examining Committee Meeting will be held on April 29, 2009 9:00 a.m., in the Sussex Conference Room, 6th Floor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alan Vonderahe
Committee Chairman