

**MASSAGE, BODYWORK AND SOMATIC THERAPY  
MINUTES  
REGULAR OPEN COMMITTEE MEETING  
MAY 4, 2005**

A meeting of the Massage, Bodywork and Somatic Therapists was held on May 4, 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 9:20 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Deborah Overholt  
Donda Kraus-Sternberg  
Alan Vonderahe

**ALSO PRESENT**

George J. Hebert, Executive Director, New Jersey Board of Nursing  
Ginger Provost, Deputy Attorney General  
Carol Onajide, Education Specialist, New Jersey Board of Nursing  
Anthony Miragliotta, Deputy Director and Charles Manning, Regulatory Analyst, Division of Consumer Affairs attended a portion of the meeting to participate in the discussion of Assembly Bill 4034.

**COMMITTEE MEMBER NOT PRESENT**

Carol Alexander

**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 May 4, 2005 Massage, Bodywork and Somatic Therapy Examining Committee Meeting with the following amendments:

- to discuss Assembly Bill 4034 - new business
- to discuss the committee's position on taking action against individuals who use titles and/or initials contained, in the regulations and statute and who are not certified by the State - new business

**AFTER DISCUSSION, THE COMMITTEE UPON A MOTION MADE BY DEBORAH OVERHOLT AND DULY SECONDED BY DONDA KRAUS-STERNBERG, VOTED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA OF THE MAY4, 2005 MASSAGE, BODYWORK AND SOMATIC THERAPY EXAMINING COMMITTEE MEETING AS AMENDED. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

A reading and approval of the Open Committee Meeting Minutes of April 6, 2005.

**AFTER DISCUSSION, THE COMMITTEE UPON A MOTION MADE BY DEBORAH OVERHOLT AND DULY SECONDED BY DONDA KRAUS-STERNBERG, VOTED TO APPROVE THE OPEN MASSAGE,**

BODYWORK AND SOMATIC THERAPY EXAMINING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 6 2005. THE MOTION CARRIED.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Anthony Miragliotta and Charles Manning discussed with the committee:

Assembly Bill 4034 - Requires certification to render massage, bodywork or somatic therapy services. This bill is being sponsored by Peter Barnes, Patrick Diegnan and Gordon Johnson, Jr.

The Committee suggested that the effective date for this bill be amended so that it would become effective one year from the date the Committee has adopted regulations effectuating the purposes of this bill. The Committee suggested that the bill be amended to prohibit uncertified individuals from using any title or designation that indicates the individual is performing massage, bodywork and somatic therapy services. The Committee suggested that the definition of "massage, bodywork and somatic therapies" be amended to state that "massage, bodywork and somatic therapies do not include the diagnosis or treatment of illness, disease, impairment or disability unless a healthcare professional refers a patient to a massage, bodywork and somatic therapist." The Committee also suggested grandfathering provision be extended to one year from the date the Committee has adopted regulations regarding this bill.

The Committee voted to support this bill. It believes that this bill will protect the public by ensuring that every individual who provides massage, bodywork and somatic therapy services is properly prepared to provide such services.

AFTER DISCUSSION, THE COMMITTEE UPON A MOTION MADE BY DEBORAH OVERHOLT AND DULY SECONDED BY DONDA KRAUS-STERNBERG, VOTED TO SUPPORT PENDING LEGISLATION, ASSEMBLY BILL 4034 WITH THE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDED SUGGESTIONS THAT ARE LISTED ABOVE. THE MOTION CARRIED.

**APPEARANCE:**

Carl J. Donaldson, Jr., N.D., N.C.T.M.B., Essex County College gave a detail description of the courses and course hours of the Massage Therapy program that is being offered at Essex County college.

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

2. The committee received and reviewed additional information submitted by the following applicants:

- Abby Grizler
- Fatima Tranquilli
- Julie Martinez

AFTER DISCUSSION, THE COMMITTEE UPON A MOTION MADE BY DEBORAH OVERHOLT AND DULY SECONDED BY DONDA KRAUS-STERNBERG, VOTED TO APPROVE THE APPLICANTS LISTED ABOVE FOR CERTIFICATION. THE MOTION CARRIED.

3. The committee discussed the issue of individuals who are using titles that are listed in the Massage, Bodywork and Somatic Therapy regulations but are not certified by the committee.

AFTER DISCUSSION, THE COMMITTEE UPON A MOTION MADE BY DEBORAH OVERHOLT AND DULY SECONDED BY DONDA KRAUS-STERNBERG, VOTED THAT A NOTICE BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE COMMUNITY ADVISING THAT AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2005 THE REGULATIONS PROHIBITING THE USE OF CERTAIN DESIGNATIONS OR TITLES IDENTIFIED IN N.J.A.C. 13:37-16.1(c) AND N.J.A.C. 45:11-65 WILL BE ENFORCED BY THE COMMITTEE. THE MOTION CARRIED.

## **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Information packets from the American Medical Massage Association.

## **OPEN FORUM:**

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

There was no one from the public present.

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 THE APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION. THE MOTION CARRIED.

## **OPEN SESSION RESUMED:**

The committee reviewed the following applications:

### 1. Suzanne Buteux

AFTER DISCUSSION, THE COMMITTEE UPON A MOTION MADE BY DEBORAH OVERHOLT AND DULY SECONDED BY DONDA KRAUS-STERNBERG, VOTED TO APPROVE MS. BUTEUX FOR CERTIFICATION. THE MOTION CARRIED.

### 2. Donda Kraus-Sternberg

AFTER DISCUSSION, THE COMMITTEE UPON A MOTION MADE BY DEBORAH OVERHOLT AND DULY SECONDED BY ALAN VONDERAHE, VOTED TO APPROVE MS. KRAUS-STERNBERG FOR CERTIFICATION. DONDA KRAUS-STERNBERG DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCEEDINGS. THE MOTION CARRIED.

### 3. Eduard Shekhtman

AFTER DISCUSSION, THE COMMITTEE UPON A MOTION MADE BY DEBORAH OVERHOLT AND DULY SECONDED BY DONDA KRAUS-STERNBERG, VOTED TO SEND A LETTER TO THE SCHOOL REQUESTING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE PROGRAM CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF EDUARD SHEKHTMAN. THE MOTION CARRIED.

The committee discussed coming up with a way to keep the massage therapy schools informed of the regulations regarding courses and course hours that are required by individuals who are seeking to be certified by the committee.

After discussion, The Committee upon a motion made by Deborah Overholt and Duly Seconded by Donda Kraus-Sternberg, voted to send a letter to all schools registered by the Department of Education to teach massage, bodywork and/or somatic therapy to advise them of the educational requirement for certification by the state. The Motion Carried.

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion 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 June 1, 2005.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Alan Vonderahe  
Committee Chairman

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