

**MASSAGE, BODYWORK AND SOMATIC THERAPY  
MINUTES  
REGULAR OPEN COMMITTEE MEETING  
JUNE 1, 2005**

A meeting of the Massage, Bodywork and Somatic Therapists was held on June 1, 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 9:10 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  
Charles Manning, Regulatory Analyst, Division of Consumer Affairs attended a portion of the meeting to participate in the discussion of the regulations.

**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 June 1, 2005 Massage, Bodywork and Somatic Therapy Examining Committee Meeting with the following amendments:

- to discuss duration of license if approved at the end of the year
- to discuss changing the education requirement for newly issued licenses - new business
- to discuss monitoring continuing education on renewals - new business
- to discuss Alan Vonderahe's attending a meeting on the discussion of the application process with the Massage Community.

**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 JUNE 1, 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 May 4, 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 MAY 4, 2005. THE MOTION CARRIED.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. The committee discussed the feasibility of revising the education requirements in the regulations.
2. The Massage Therapy Law was enacted in November 1999 so November is the month for the biennial licensing cycle. The next renewal will be in November 2006. The regulations went into effective in 2004 and even though the first individuals were certified in 2005, the cost of certification is not prorated, therefore everyone must pay the full amount of \$195.00 to be certified.
3. The committee discussed the issue of random checks of continuing education for renewal. The regulations will have to be reviewed to see whether there are requirements to perform random checks.
4. The committee discussed the procedures for requesting approvals to attend meetings and it was suggested that they get in contact with Robert Campanelli, Director of Consumer Services, Ethic Liaison Officer before agreeing to speak at an engagement.

Alan Vonderahe seeks approval to speak at an informal gathering of AMTA Organization regarding the listing of the massage legislation and the State certification process for massage therapists.

AFTER DISCUSSION, THE COMMITTEE UPON A MOTION MADE BY DEBORAH OVERHOLT AND DULY SECONDED BY DONDA KRAUS-STERNBERG, VOTED TO APPROVE THE APPEARANCE OF THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN. THE MOTION CARRIED.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- The committee discussed the procedures of finding a replacement for Carol Alexander, who resigned from the committee. Members of the committee are appointed by the governor to serve a term of two years. Individuals who are interested in being a committee member must submit a letter of interest along with a C.V. to George J. Hebert, Executive Director of New Jersey Board of Nursing and he will forward them to the Director of the Division of Consumer.
- Application for certification - The requirements for proof of citizenship would be a copy of a social security card, an immigration card or birth certificate. This information should be added to the application.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Letter dated May 17, 2005 from Kimberly S. Ricketts, the newly appointed Acting Director, Division of Consumer Affairs, advising the committee that as the new Acting Director, she is available to meet with them to discuss any issues they have.

### **OPEN FORUM:**

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

- Rena Margulis, Dipl., ABT, NCTMB - expressed comments regarding the scope of practice for massage therapists. Ms. Margulis feels that if the pending legislation is approved, she and other massage therapists would not be able to assist patients with pain, range of motion issues or patients with impairments. She is very concerned about the restrictions this would place on her practice.
- Kenny Shinn, Massage Therapist - Inquired about how many applications the committee has received from individuals applying for certification. He stated that it is good idea that Alan Vonderahe has agreed to speak with

the AMTA to discuss issues regarding the application process and feels that regional meetings should be setup.

- Susan Ring, Massage Therapist - expressed concerns that there were no committee members at the May 20, 2005 Law and Public Safety meeting to comment on Assembly Bill 4034. Ms. Ring feels that the committee members should go out and speak on behalf of the massage profession and clarify the language to the legislature and to the media so that they better understand the work of the massage therapist. Ms. Ring feels that the committee should send a letter commenting on the Assembly Bill 4034. The committee should monitor the website to make sure all of the information is updated on a regular basis. She asked when the committee will have a full panel of six members and thanked Alan Vonderahe for agreeing to attend the meeting of massage therapists function even though it is not an AMTA meeting.

- Wendy Sullivan, Massage Therapist - expressed concerns that there were no representatives from the committee at the Law and Public Safety meeting to speak on behalf of the massage therapist profession. Ms. Sullivan feels that the committee should speak out and make people aware that massage therapy is legal profession. She thinks the language in the bill should be revised, because it will hurt the profession. Ms. Sullivan inquired about how many applications has the committee received for certification and wondered how the committee will be able to license everyone if the bill is passed.

- Cynthia Siniarpi-Balena, AMTA - feels that the committee should intervene and request changes be made to Assembly Bill 4034. If this bill goes through Ms. Balena feels that she will no longer be allowed to assist certain clients with their problems. Ms. Balena feels that the committee has an obligation on behalf of the massage therapist industry to speak out and suggest that changes be made to A4034. She also stated that some massage therapists have been working in this industry for many years and have established viable careers and income that they rely on. Ms. Balena stated that she is personally offended by the language in the bill. Ms. Balena informed the committee that not all people have access to a computer and applicants should be able to call in and receive an application by mail. Proof of citizenship should also be naturalization papers and voter registration cards. Ms. Balena requested clarification on the renewal cycle for massage therapists.

Alan Vonderahe, Committee Chairman thanked the members of the public for their comments. Mr. Vonderahe stated that the committee members are passionate about the work they do on the committee and do not get paid by the State for their work and participation on the committee. Mr. Vonderahe stated that if anyone is interested in becoming a member of the committee, to send a letter of interest to the Executive Director of the Board of Nursing.

**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. Carol Alexander
2. Michele Frost
3. Patricia Osmun
4. Ila Rasmussen
5. Ana Brunelli (subject to pending verification of temporary permit license she listed on application)

**AFTER DISCUSSION, THE COMMITTEE UPON A MOTION MADE BY DEBORAH OVERHOLT AND DULY SECONDED BY DONDA KRAUS-STERNBERG, VOTED TO APPROVE APPLICANTS 1 THROUGH 5 FOR CERTIFICATION. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

The following applicants require additional information in order to be considered for certification:

6. Bernard Cytryn

7. Jacek Kuchno
8. Katharine Raphael
9. Eva Spindel
10. Charles Easter
11. Michael Fanara
12. Sung Choi

Letter to the Attorney General

### **ASSEMBLY BILL 4034**

This bill requires certification to render massage, bodywork or somatic therapies.

The committee has concerns regarding the language in the bill because modalities which are not included in the regulations would be prohibited and would like to send a letter to the Attorney General addressing this issue.

**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 ATTORNEY GENERAL EXPRESSING CONCERNS**

**REGARDING THE AMENDED LANGUAGE IN ASSEMBLY BILL 4034 WHICH PROVIDES FOR A PERMISSIVE INFERENCE THAT ANY BUSINESS WHICH RENDERS MASSAGE, BODYWORK OR SOMATIC THERAPY IS CONDUCTING A HOUSE OF PROSTITUTION IF UNCERTIFIED PERSONS RENDERS SUCH SERVICES. 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 July 6, 2005.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Alan Vonderahe  
Committee Chairman



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