



## ADVOCATE FOR MASSAGE THERAPY AS A RECOGNIZED AND RESPECTED HEALTHCARE PROFESSION

March 16, 2019

**To:** WSMTA Board of Directors and Members

**From:** WSMTA Government Relations Program Director, Robbin Blake, LMT (rblake@mywsmta.org)

**Re:** March 8, 2019 Board of Massage (BOM) Meeting Notes

---

**Board Members Attending** -- Stephanie Dickey, LMT (Chair), Anthony Sharpe (Public Member), Tonya Cox (LMT)

**Change in DOH Members** -- Susan Gragg attended for the first time -- she is the DOH's interim Executive Director of the Board of Massage.

### Rules Development Workshop

- WAC 246-830-005 Definitions -- Added a definition of Linens. It includes blankets and all non permeable fabrics used in the practice of massage. These are all single use items and have to be cleaned or thrown away between clients.
- There was a review of WACs that are open for revision, but in general there wasn't really any material changes, primarily just a clean up language.
- There is a special BOM meeting scheduled for April 12, 2019 and at that we will do a comprehensive review of the proposed rule amendments.

### Legislative Bills

- **SHB 1082 and SSB 5097** -- Concerning the licensure and certification of massage therapists and reflexologists. Massage Therapists and Reflexologists would be required to carry government issued ID on or near them while practicing massage or reflexology. According to several DOH and BOM members, they stated that they believed this bill was stalled/dead due do discussions on weekly legislative phone calls.
- **SHB 1198** -- Requiring health care providers sanctioned for sexual misconduct to notify patients. Should this bill be passed, and it's currently actively going through the House, it would require health care providers who where charged with sexual misconduct to provide their patients with a copy of the sanction as well as other details and have patients sign a permission to treat form before their next session with the health care provider.

### Renewal Fee Increase

- It is expected that LMT renewal fees will increase from their current \$108.50 to \$168.50 (the base fee is \$150 and include \$18.50 for the Heal-WA.org fee). This increase is expected to take place in October 2019. For years the Board of Massage has been running in the red (fees coming in from new and renewing massage therapists do not cover the expenses to run the Department of Health section for Massage Therapy). Fees are going up for most professions, for the ones that are not, they typically have either experienced a recent and large increase in therapists, like physical therapists, or their legal expenses have decreased due to fewer legal issues coming to the attention of the Department of Health. Massage Therapy has had almost no growth for the last 5 years, but

expenses keep increasing. The Department of Health is mandated by law to have each of its boards and commissions generate enough income to cover their expenses.

**Program Reports**

- There are 13,833 active LMTs in Washington state with 390 pending