



ADVOCATE FOR MASSAGE THERAPY AS A RECOGNIZED AND RESPECTED HEALTHCARE PROFESSION

July 28, 2019

To: WSMTA Board of Directors and Members

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

Re: July 19, 2019 Board of Massage (BOM) Meeting Notes

School Program Reviews: Carrington College -- approved; Clover Park -- approved; Elite Cosmetology, Barber & Spa Academy (massage program and transfer programs) -- both approved; Northwest Academy for the Healing Arts -- approved

Somatic Education Training Program Review -- Body Intelligence, a craniosacral training program, had submitted an application for somatic education exemption from massage licensure. The BOM moved to request further information and the formatting needed to resubmit.

During the public comment section, I pointed out that this was a craniosacral program, which was a hands-on modality which has the ability to change structures and rhythmic flows within the body, not a somatic education program in which during sessions the session provider would cue the client to move in various ways to break movement habits and to affect change in the body via the client moving their bodies in specific ways.

Rules Update and Discussion: The Department of Health (DOH) staff presented to the BOM issues with the current rule change requesting clarification of intent or making recommendations. These changes were meant to be non-substantive and they mostly were.

2019 Meeting Locations: The BOM voted to change the September 2019 meeting to a teleconference meetings as well as in-person for DOH staff and anyone else who would choose to join.

Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB) Annual Meeting: Heidi Williams will attend the Annual FSMTB meeting in Atlanta October 3-5, 2019.

FSMTB Presentation by Lorena Haynes (Director of Government Relations for the FSMTB): Lorena ran through the new computer services that it is providing to its members. They are working on a state by state basis to become a national database of massage therapists. Each state would continue to maintain its own database and the FSMTB would upload from it to create a national database. As LMTs move from state to state, their full history can be accessed. The FSMTB database also has a continuing education section somewhat similar to CE Broker used in Florida and elsewhere. CE providers would need to pay a fee to join. All class evaluations would be given to students directly by FSMTB and the results would go directly to FSMTB from where the CE provider could review them. FSMTB would not review and approve classes like NCBTMB currently does, but if the student reviews were consistently low, FSMTB would first counsel the CE Provider to do better or eventually block them from providing CE if they did not respond accordingly and improve.

Fee Increase: Effective October 1, 2019, the fees for massage therapy will be:

- Initial Licensure -- changing from \$125 to \$210
- Renewal -- changing from \$90 to \$150
- Late renewal penalty -- changing from \$50 to \$75 (in addition to the renewal rate)

These fees are the flat rate and do not include other fees added on such as the fee for Heal-WA.

Budget: The biennium end reports were not yet available

Board Member Recruitment: Applicants are being reviewed by DOH and will go to the governor for selection.

Credentialing Report: There are currently 13,820 active LMTs and 365 in pending status.