



ADVOCATE FOR MASSAGE THERAPY AS A RECOGNIZED AND RESPECTED HEALTHCARE PROFESSION

September 30, 2018

To: WSMTA Board of Directors and Members

From: WSMTA Board Member, CPP Program Member, Robbin Blake, LMT (rblake@mywsmta.org)

Re: September 28, 2018 Board of Massage (BOM) Meeting Notes

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**Credentialing Report by Joanne Miller:**

- 13,819 active LMTs, 394 pending applicants as of Sept 1.
- Goal is to have a 14 day turnaround on new applicants, due to staffing issues the actual is that 90% are processed within 18 days.

**2019 Board of Massage Meeting Dates:**

- Jan 11 -- Kent
- Mar 8 -- Tumwater
- May 3 -- Everett
- Jul 19 -- Spokane
- Sep 6 -- Yakima
- Nov 1 -- Vancouver

Note regarding about the WAC topics below--there were more clarification/grammar modifications than listed below, only the changes of any significance were mentioned in the notes below.

**WAC 246-830-430 Education and training:** The BOM accepted AMTA-WA's suggested language changes for Pathology and regarding hydrotherapy. No other changes.

**WAC 246-830-475 Continuing education requirements:** changes:

- Section 1. "To renew a license, a massage therapist must complete twenty-four hours of continuing education every two years consistent with **the reporting period (timeframe) identified in WAC 246-12 Part 7.**
- Section 1bi. The professional roles and boundaries requirement was eliminated and "professional roles and boundaries" was added to Section 1b as a suggested topic.
- Section 1d regarding "remaining hours" was deleted and section 2 was amended to state, "For the purposes of this chapter, **the remaining hours** of continuing is defined... The reason for this is that it was unclear whether section 2 applied to the whole WAC 246-830-475 or just to section 1d. This change created clarification.

**WAC 246-830-550 Standards of practice--Limitations:** The BOM accepted the language submitted by WSMTA to replace this chapter without any further change.

**WAC 246-830-555 Breast massage:** No changes:

**WAC 246-830-570 Record Retention:** In the July BOM meeting, the AMTA-WA's lobbyist had provided language that made it not the massage therapist who was responsible for record retention, but the "holder" of the records. The reason for this is that massage therapists who are employees do not "possess" their records, the employer does, so massage therapists who are employees are not able to fulfill the responsibility in this WAC. The language that the AMTA-WA lobbyist presented made it the responsibility of the possessor of the files to follow the WAC. In the BOM meeting on 9/28/18, the BOM members and DOH Staff Members talked a lot about various different topics related to this WAC -- who owns the records, what other RCWs existed related to clinics/hospitals/etc that might help this section, did the BOM/DOH have the ability to regulate other people who might possess the records who were not massage therapists. At the end of the discussion, the BOM decided to table this WAC and have DOH staff do research and they would then take this WAC discussion back up in the next meeting.

**WAC 246-830-xxx** The title was changed to, "Massage of the gluteal cleft and perineum". Both WSMTA and AMTA-WA presented this to make the language succinct and simple, instead of having a difficult term, "floor of the perineal region". The BOM made a few minor language changes that was more about cleaning up language than changing content. The Physical Therapy Lobbyist and the Physical Therapy "Pelvic Floor" Expert made comments that they thought massage therapists did not have the training to do anything with the perineum. They suggested the massage RCW should be changed to disallow this. The Pelvic Floor PT had much less issue regarding the gluteal cleft. Before the public comment section, before the PTs made their comments, the BOM had asked the Pelvic Floor PT how much CE she thought massage therapists should have and she said something about at least 50 hours. She kept equivocating that animal massage therapists need 50+ hours so should massage therapists learning about this area. The BOM left the required CE at 16 hours.