

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Via Microsoft Teams

1. Call to Order

President Fallon Helm called the meeting to order at 9:00 am CDT. Members of the public could join the meeting via tele-conferencing or Microsoft Teams.

President Fallon Helm read the roll and a quorum was established.

Members Present: Fallon Helm – via Teams Meeting
Kallyn Reinert – via Teams Meeting
Thor Thonvold – via Teams Meeting
Al Trace – via Teams Meeting

Members Absent: N/A

Others Present: Kate Boyd, Executive Secretary – via Teams Meeting
Steve Blair Staff Legal Counsel – via Teams Meeting

Guests Present: Ralph Wiedeman, Heather Herrick, Adrian Shock, Angela Taylor, Dana Schleich, Rhanda Heller, Bridget Myers, Olawa Rae-Bruhjell, Tonia McGeorge, Brittany Smith, Christine Hooper, Rebecca Wells, Brittany Smith, Ashley Hernandez

2. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Kallyn Reinert, seconded by Al Trace, to approve the agenda as presented. **MOTION PASSED.** Roll Call Vote (Helm yea; Reinert yea; Thonvold yea; Trace yea)

3. Open Forum

Rhanda Heller suggested that the Board seek input from licensees on budget, enforcement, and consider two-year licensing. Olawa Rae-Bruhjell asked how licensees who attend the board meetings are able to receive their continuing education certificate showing two hours of continuing education. Executive Secretary Boyd stated that licensees can email or call the office to request a certificate from the Board.

4. Approval of March 20, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Kallyn Reinert made a motion, seconded by Al Trace, to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2024 meeting. **MOTION PASSED.** Roll Call Vote (Helm yea; Reinert yea; Thonvold yea; Trace yea)

5. Executive Secretary Report and Updates

Financial Report for the month ending April 30, 2024 - Executive Secretary Kate Boyd reported that the financial report for the month ending April 30, 2024, showed the available budget for the remainder of FY 2024 of \$17,346.95 and cash center balance of \$24,392.73 (reserve funds). She added that the bulk of revenue comes in during the months of August – October when license renewals are being processed. The reserve funds are lower toward the end of the fiscal year of June 30 annually.

Report of Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB) Executive Summit - Ms. Boyd reported on her attendance at the FSMTB Executive Summit held April 3-5, 2024 in Savannah, Georgia. This summit provided the opportunity to meet other state's board administrator and to share common issues and concerns. Many states are pursuing an increase in their education requirements. Among the presentations and topics presented during the meetings were: the importance of and need for licensing standardization and uniformity; the development of a nationwide compact for massage therapy licensing; the Future of Regulation; overview of FSMTB; a nursing diploma scam presented by a special agent of the US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General, The current state of Massage Education—identifying the issues, and brainstorming of solutions to the challenges in massage therapy licensing and regulation.

CE Broker to track continuing education – Ms. Boyd informed the board that she has had a couple of meetings with CE Brokers, an organization that can track continuing education for licensees. In the latest meeting, she was given a demonstration of their website and how the system works. They provide continuing education tracking services to numerous other boards and agencies that require continuing education. There is no fee to the state or the licensees to use their service. This repository would eliminate the need for licensees to upload or mail in certificates with their license renewal. The Continuing education provider can also submit the continuing education hours for classes they teach. CE Brokers would work with our board so their system knows what continuing education courses meet South Dakota's requirements. The system can be customized to each board's needs so we could get it set up that when a licensee attempts to renew their license on-line, they will be prevented from doing so if they haven't completed the required hours of continuing education. This would, however, require some computer programming. She suggested that mandatory on-line renewal of licenses be implemented at the same time as the use of CE Broker as a repository for continuing education. She suggested and the board agreed to invite a representative from CE Brokers to attend the July 24, 2024 board meeting.

On-line renewal of licenses – Ms. Boyd recommended that beginning in 2025, the Board require all licensees to renew their licenses online. The current system of allowing mailed in paper renewals requires a great deal of additional processing time. Approximately 25 percent of renewals are still being received through the mail. She stated that CE Broker as a repository for continuing education and online renewals would work well together. She doesn't believe we should continue to allow paper renewals. We need to prepare our licensees for a change so it is not feasible to require this for 2024 renewals that are only two months away from beginning. Other licensing boards in South Dakota has started requiring all licensees to renew their licenses online. Board members stated that they have been wanting to move to mandatory on-line renewal of licenses for some time.

6. Round-table Meetings – Increase in Education Hours

President Fallon Helm reported on the round-table meetings that had been held in March with representatives from the South Dakota massage therapy schools. She was the board representative, along with Executive Secretary Kate Boyd. Also in attendance were representatives of the national massage therapy organizations. The purpose of the round-table meetings was to consider drafting legislation to increase massage therapy education hours from the current 500 to be more in alignment with the hours the schools are actually teaching, and also to allow students at accredited school to qualify for Title IV education funding when the US Department of Education changes from the 150% rule to 100% rule (meaning students only qualify for Title IV funding if their school does not require more hours of education than what the State licensing board requires).

The round-table participants were in agreement to seek legislation to increase the hours to 625 or 650 hours. A representative of the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB) that their organization along with other national organizations met over a lengthy period of time and that the legally defensible number of hours is 625. The round-table school participants indicated they could accept 625 hours but preferred 650 hours. In board discussion, it was noted that South Dakota students sometimes leave after their education is complete to become licensed in a different state. It was suggested we should take that not consideration when deciding the number of hours to put in the draft legislation. Executive Secretary Boyd stated that she will obtain a report from FSMTB of the number of hours each state currently requires.

There was consensus from the Board to have staff begin drafting legislation and that they will decide on the number of hours at the July meeting.

7. Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB) Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the FSMTB will be held October 3-5, 2024 in Washington, DC. FSMTB will pay all expenses for one delegate to attend the conference. It is open to board members and administrative staff of State Boards of Massage Therapy. President Fallon Helm stated she would like to attend this year and she thought that Executive Secretary Kate Boyd should attend as well. We will need to put in an out-of-state travel request to pay one individual's expenses.

8. Next Meeting – July 24, 2024

The next meeting agenda will include CE Broker discussion and well as draft legislation to increase minimum education hours. If there are other items, it was suggested they call or email the office.

11. Adjourn

Al Trace made a motion, seconded by Thor Thonvold to adjourn. **MOTION PASSED.** Roll Call Vote (Helm yea; Reinert yea; Thonvold yea; Trace yea)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Executive Secretary Kate Boyd and Secretary Al Trace