SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, October 28, 2026
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 Microsoft Teams or tele-conferencing.

2. Roll Call

Executive Secretary Kate Boyd read the roll and a quorum was established.

Members Present: Sherry Haas – via Teams Meeting
Fallon Helm – via Teams Meeting
Ashley Kesterson – via Teams Meeting
Leslie Nuckles, via Teams Meeting
Mariah Pokorny, via Teams Meeting

Sherry Haas was welcomed as a new board member.

Others Present: Kate Boyd, Executive Secretary – via Teams Meeting
Beverly Katz, Staff Legal Counsel – via Teams Meeting
Renee Stellagher, Prosecuting Attorney – via Teams Meeting

Guests Present: Chantelle Williamson, Rhanda Heller, Bridget Myers, Sara Ernster, Olawa Rae-Bruhjell, Seth Dinkel, Christina Vieth, Joanna Bott, Ava Johnson, Bob Mercer

3. Approval of Agenda

Les Nuckles made a motion, seconded by Mariah Pokorny, to approve the agenda as presented. **MOTION PASSED**. Roll Call Vote (Haas present but not voting; Helm yea; Kesterson yea; Nuckles yea; Pokorny yea)

4. Open Forum

Chantelle Williamson addressed the board about warm bamboo massage. She requested that the board approve warm bamboo massage for continuing education credit and provided details about bamboo massage. Sara Ernster and Christina Vieth also addressed the board to lend support to Ms Williamson's request.

5. Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes (July 20, 2026)

Mariah Pokorny made a motion, seconded by Les Nuckles, to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2026 meeting as presented. **MOTION PASSED**. Roll Call Vote (Haas, present but not voting; Helm yea; Kesterson yea; Nuckles yea; Pokorny yea)

6. Executive Secretary Report

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Executive Secretary Kate Boyd reported the following:

a. Financial Report for the Month ending September 30, 2026 – The available funds for the remainder of the fiscal year are $55,659.41, and the cash center balance is $29,687.43.

b. Report of 2026 License Renewals – Executive Secretary Kate Boyd had included a handout outlining 2026 license renewals vs 2025 renewals. The renewals for 2025 came in much earlier than in 2026. The difference is that 2026 was a continuing education year and many licensees were scrambling to complete their continuing education right before their license expired on September 30, 2026. Additionally, the number of inactive license applications was much higher in 2026 because licensees who had not done their continuing education applied for inactive status so they had more time to complete their continuing education before applying for reinstatement.

7. FSMTB Annual Conference Report

President Fallon Helm and Executive Secretary Kate Boyd reported on their attendance at the FSMTB annual conference held October 21-23, 2026. President Helm highlighted topics that she had found interesting, including a report about the IMpact (Interstate Massage Compact) with a review of recent developments and the initiative's current status. There was a session where boards shared challenges and successes they had encountered during the past year. Executive Secretary Boyd had spoken about the challenge of dealing with unlicensed activity, given the fact that boards do not have authority over unlicensed individuals. Law enforcement and State's Attorneys do not always view professions such as massage therapy as being a danger. She also highlighted that the networking with other regulators was a significant part of attendance.

Executive Secretary Boyd added that the keynote speaker was a physician who struggled with drug addiction. The movie Dopesick is based on his life. His presentation was excellent and went very in-depth about addiction. She also stated that she had shared with two FSMTB staff members that she had just learned that we do not have approval to move forward with either of the draft legislative bills that were developed in 2025. It was suggested that we encourage the cities to enact licensing or registration for the massage therapy businesses. That, coupled with the state's licensure of massage therapists, may assist the board when dealing with unlicensed activity and allegations of prostitution.

8. Warm Bamboo Massage

The Board reviewed a request from licensee Chantelle Williamson to approve warm bamboo massage as acceptable for continuing education. Following discussion, Mariah Pokorny made a motion, seconded by Les Nuckles to approve warm bamboo massage education as an acceptable continuing education course. **MOTION PASSED**. Roll Call Vote (Haas yea; Helm yea; Kesterson yea; Nuckles yea; Pokorny yea)

9. Scratch Therapy

Sherry Haas lead a discussion about Scratch Therapy, a service that some massage therapists, cosmetologists, and estheticians are now offering. In most cases the practitioner inserts their fingers into artificial nails and scratches the clients head and body.

10. Election of Officers

Les Nuckles made a motion, seconded by Mariah Pokorny, to elect the following slate of officers: President – Fallon Helm; Vice President – Ashley Kesterson; and Secretary – Mariah Pokorny. **MOTION PASSED**. Roll Call Vote (Haas yea; Helm yea; Kesterson yea; Nuckles yea; Pokorny yea)

11. Schedule 2027 Quarterly Meeting Dates

The board reviewed a list of possible quarterly meeting dates for 2027 and agreed upon the following dates, with all meetings scheduled for 9:00 – 11:00 am Central time:

January 20, 2027
April 14, 2027
July 28, 2027
October 27, 2027

12. Executive Session - pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(3) Consulting with legal counsel

Les Nuckles made a motion, seconded by Sherry Haas to go into executive session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(3) to consider Complaint Case 2026-002 – (SDCL 1-25-2(3) & 1-27-1.5(5)). **MOTION PASSED**. Roll Call Vote (Haas yea; Helm yea; Kesterson yea; Nuckles yea; Pokorny yea)

Executive Session began at 10:05 am. The Board ended Executive Session at 10:51 pm and the public meeting resumed.

Sherry Haas made a motion, seconded by Les Nuckles to approve the proposed informal disposition agreement for Case 2026-002. **MOTION PASSED**. Roll Call Vote (Haas yes; Helm yea; Kesterson yea; Nuckles yea; Pokorny abstain)

9. Next Meeting Date – January 20, 2027

The next board meeting date was set for January 20, 2027.

10. Adjourn

Les Nuckles made a motion, seconded by Sherry Haas to adjourn. **MOTION PASSED**. Roll Call Vote (Haas yea; Helm yea; Kesterson yea; Nuckles yea; Pokorny yea)

The meeting was adjourned at 10:01 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Executive Secretary Kate Boyd and Secretary Mariah Pokorny