

**MEETING AGENDA  
SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY**

**Wednesday, April 29, 2026 -- 9:00 am CST**

The meeting will be held via Microsoft Teams  
Click here to join the meeting:

[\*\*Join Teams Meeting\*\*](#)

Or Call: 1-605-679-7263, ID 278 006 025#

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Open Forum
5. Approval of the Draft Meeting Minutes (February 11, 2026)
6. Executive Secretary Report
  - a. Financial Report for the Month Ending March 31, 2026
  - b. Report of FSMTB Executive Directors Summit (April 23-24, 2026)
  - c. Dismissal of Complaint 2026-001  
April 11, 2026  
Lack of probable cause to support a determination that a violation occurred
7. Administrative Rules Changes – Recognized Facilities (Massage Therapy Schools in SD)
8. Executive Session – pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(3) Consulting with legal counsel
9. Next Meeting Date – July 29, 2026 – Proposed Agenda Items
10. Adjourn

# SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY HEARING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

Via Microsoft Teams

## 1. Call to Order

President Fallon Helm called the meeting to order at 9:15 am CST. Members of the public could join the meeting via Microsoft Teams or tele-conferencing.

## 2. Roll Call & Introduction of New Board Member

Leslie Nuckles was introduced as a new licensee member of the board, replacing Al Trace who resigned last Fall. Beverly Katz was introduced as Interim Legal Counsel, replacing Megan Borchert.

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

**Members Present:** Fallon Helm – via Teams Meeting  
Ashley Kesterson – via Teams Meeting  
Leslie Nuckles, via Teams Meeting  
Mariah Pokorny, via Teams Meeting  
Thor Thonvold – via Teams Meeting

**Others Present:** Kate Boyd, Executive Secretary – via Teams Meeting  
Beverly Katz, Staff Legal Counsel – via Teams Meeting  
Kaitlin Sherer, SD Department of Health – via Teams Meeting

**Guests Present:** Elise Baine, Angela Taylor, Olivia Johnson, Olawa Rae-Bruhjell, Jennifer Mata, Rhanda Heller, Nina Wells, Bridget Myers, Darci Davis, Emily Burke, Brittney Rausch, Erika Bier, Kallyn Reinert

## 3. Approval of Agenda

Executive Secretary Kate Boyd pointed out that agenda item 11, shows the next meeting date as April 19, 2026. It should read April 29, 2026. Thor Thonvold made a motion, seconded by Les Nuckles, to approve the agenda as amended. **MOTION PASSED.** Roll Call Vote (Helm yea; Kesterson yea; Nuckles yea; Pokorny yea; Thonvold yea)

## 4. Open Forum

Rhanda Heller spoke during open form on the following subjects: carry-over items from last meeting; budget, and status of proposed legislation from 2025.

## 5. Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes (November 19, 2025)

Kate Boyd pointed out one correction to the meeting minutes. Page four, the fourth motion approving applications, should show Application T110AB instead of T11043. Mariah Pokorny made a motion, seconded by Thor Thonvold, to approve the November 19, 2025 meeting

minutes as amended. **MOTION PASSED.** Roll Call Vote (Helm yea; Kesterson yea; Nuckles yea; Pokorny yea; Thonvold yea)

## **6. Executive Secretary Report**

Executive Secretary Kate Boyd reported the following:

**a. Financial Report for the Month Ending January 31, 2026** – The available funds for the remainder of the fiscal year are \$44,480.18, and the cash center balance is \$16,680.20. She is a private contractor. As such, expenses related to salary and benefits are for other individuals from the Department of Health who support the board.

**b. 2026 Massage Therapy Legislative Bill** – The draft massage therapy legislation developed by the board during 2025 was not approved to be introduced.

**c. Dismissal of Complaint 2025-003** – Complaint 2025-003 was investigated by the violations committee and the committee voted to dismiss the complaint. Per state law, the board must be notified within thirty days of the dismissal or at the next board meeting, whichever is first. Board members received notification at the time the complaint was dismissed. It is shown here to have a formal record of the dismissal.

**7. Continuing Education** – The meeting packets included information on the current continuing education policy.

Executive Secretary Boyd asked the board to clarify if new applicants who have completed continuing education in another jurisdiction during the current two-year continuing education need to complete continuing education dated after this licensure in South Dakota to renew that first year. The consensus was that if the continuing education occurred during the current continuing education cycle, the new licensee does not need to complete further continuing education that first renewal year.

Individuals seeking to reactivate their license must complete eight hours of approved continuing education completed in the two years preceding their reactivation application as part of the reactivation process. Do those seeking reactivation still need to complete required continuing education to renew that first year. The consensus was that an applicant who completed continuing education to reactivate still needs to complete the required continuing education that first year.

The Board reviewed the current continuing education policy and reaffirmed the list of approved courses and those courses not acceptable for continuing education credit to renew a massage therapy license.

## **8. Approval of South Dakota Massage Therapy Schools – Should we seek an administrative rule change.**

The Board's proposed legislation for 2026 included a provision for approval of massage therapy schools. The feedback we received was that the Board can pursue this through an administrative rule change. Presently, the approved schools are listed in administrative rule. There is no pathway for a new school to be approved. Our former legal counsel forwarded to the

Executive Secretary a document she had previously prepared for an administrative rule change to address: (1) removing the names of approved schools in administrative rule, and (2) pathway for a school to become a recognized facility in South Dakota. The consensus was to pursue administrative rules changes regarding recognized facilities.

#### **10. Appointment of Board Member as Education Committee**

We do not accept a transcript or Verification of Education form directly from an applicant. When an applicant from out-of-state received their massage therapy education at a school no longer in business, it often is difficult to obtain a Verification of Education form. The transcript must be received from a state agency in that state or from an education verification clearinghouse. The Executive Secretary requests that a Board member be appointed as the Education Committee to review the transcript in those cases. The Education Committee would not be approving applications. The Education Committee would be reviewing the transcript and determining if the applicant meets South Dakota education requirements. This will not affect the frequency with which an application is submitted to the Board for approval. Board member Les Nuckles was appointed as the Education Committee.

#### **11. Next Meeting Date – April 29, 2026**

Carry-over items to the next meeting include, (1) exploring an administrative rule change to remove the list of in-state schools from the administrative rules and to create a pathway for approval of new schools; (2) consideration of updated legal questions on applications; and, (3) legal counsel education of board member on applicants with criminal backgrounds.

#### **13. Adjourn**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:42 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Executive Secretary Kate Boyd and Secretary Mariah Pokorny

March 2026

BA20JB60

MONTHLY

PAGE 1,671

BUDGET UNIT 09211

AVAILABLE FUNDS  
AS OF: 03/31/2026  
FY YEAR REMAINING: 25.2%  
PAY DAYS REMAINING: 6

DATE 04/04/2026

BUDGET UNIT NAME BOARD OF MESSAGE THERAPY - INFO

COMP	ORIGINAL APPROPRIATION	APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS	YEAR-TO-DATE COMMITMENTS	YEAR-TO-DATE ENCUMBRANCES	YEAR-TO-DATE EXPENDITURES	AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS	CASH BALANCE
6503-I	129,102.00	0.00	0.00	26,980.35	59,712.51	42,409.14	8,213.47
BUDGETED TOT	129,102.00	0.00	0.00	26,980.35	59,712.51	42,409.14	
ALL COMP TOT	129,102.00	0.00	0.00	26,980.35	59,712.51	42,409.14	

TOTAL BUDGETED:

OBJECT OF EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT BUDGETED	COMMITMENTS YEAR-TO-DATE	ENCUMBRANCES YEAR-TO-DATE	MONTHLY EXPENDITURES	YEAR-TO-DATE EXPENDITURES	BUDGET AVAILABLE	PCT AVL
EMPLOYEE SALARIES	4,707.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,324.00	2,383.00	50.6
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	2,433.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	177.78	2,255.22	92.7
TRAVEL	3,371.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,371.00	100.0
CONTRACTUAL SVCS	115,591.00	0.00	26,980.35	808.39	55,569.71	33,040.94	28.6
SUPPLIES & MATRLS	2,700.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,641.02	1,058.98	39.2
CAPITAL OUTLAY	300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	300.00	100.0
TOTALS	129,102.00	0.00	26,980.35	808.39	59,712.51	42,409.14	32.8

BREAKOUT BY COMPANY:

COMPANY 6503-I PROFESSIONAL & LICENSING BOARDS

COMPANY	EMPLOYEE SALARIES	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	TRAVEL	CONTRACTUAL SVCS	SUPPLIES & MATRLS	CAPITAL OUTLAY	PS SUBTOTALS	OE SUBTOTALS	COMPANY 6503-I TOT
5101000	4,707.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,707.00
5102000	2,433.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,433.00
5203000	3,371.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,371.00
5204000	115,591.00	0.00	0.00	26,980.35	808.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	143,479.74
5205000	2,700.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,700.00
5207000	300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	300.00
PS SUBTOTALS	7,140.00	0.00	0.00	26,980.35	808.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	35,018.74
OE SUBTOTALS	121,962.00	0.00	0.00	26,980.35	808.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	150,758.74
COMPANY 6503-I TOT	129,102.00	0.00	0.00	26,980.35	808.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	155,677.48

42,409.14

AGENCY: 09 HEALTH  
BUDGET UNIT: 09211 BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY - INFO

COMPANY	CENTER	ACCOUNT	BALANCE	DR/CR	CENTER DESCRIPTION
6503	092100061840	1140000	8,213.47	DR	BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY
COMPANY/SOURCE TOTAL 6503 618			8,213.47	DR *	
COMP/BUDG UNIT TOTAL 6503 09211			8,213.47	DR **	
BUDGET UNIT TOTAL 09211			8,213.47	DR ***	

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
 REVENUE SUMMARY BY BUDGET UNIT  
 FOR PERIOD ENDING: 03/31/2026

AGENCY 09 HEALTH  
 BUDGET UNIT 09211 BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY - INFO

CENTER	COMP	ACCOUNT	DESCRIPTION	CURRENT MONTH	YEAR-TO-DATE
COMPANY NO 6503					
COMPANY NAME PROFESSIONAL & LICENSING BOARDS					
092110061840	6503	4293101	RENEWAL FEES	675.00	59,790.00
092110061840	6503	4293102	INACTIVE FEES	.00	525.00
092110061840	6503	4293103	TEMPORARY FEES	.00	1,125.00
092110061840	6503	4293104	REACTIVATION FEE	.00	520.00
092110061840	6503	4293106	APPLICATION FEES	.00	5,800.00
092110061840	6503	4293990	LICENSING FEES	.00	3,835.00
ACCT: 4293			BUSINESS & OCCUP LICENSING (NON-GOVERNMENTAL)	675.00	71,595.00 *
ACCT: 42			LICENSES, PERMITS & FEES	675.00	71,595.00 **
092110061840	6503	4595001	MISC INCOME COPIES-LISTS	.00	600.00
ACCT: 4595				.00	600.00 *
ACCT: 45			CHARGES FOR SALES & SERVICES	.00	600.00 **
092110061840	6503	4920045	NONOPERATING REVENUES	.00	1,131.50
ACCT: 4920			NONOPERATING REVENUE	.00	1,131.50 *
ACCT: 49			OTHER REVENUE	.00	1,131.50 **
CNTR: 092110061840				675.00	73,326.50 ***
CNTR: 092110061				675.00	73,326.50 ****
CNTR: 0921100				675.00	73,326.50 *****
COMP: 6503				675.00	73,326.50 *****
B UNIT: 09211				675.00	73,326.50 *****

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
MONTHLY REVENUE AND JOURNAL VOUCHER REPORT  
FOR PERIOD ENDING: 03/31/2026

AGENCY 09 NOT ON TM700 FILE  
BUD UNIT 09211 BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY - INFO

COMP	CENTER	ACCOUNT	DOCUMENT ID	POST DATE	APPROVAL, VENDOR, OR PO #	EFFECT DATE	AMOUNT	DR CR
COMPANY NO 6503								
COMPANY NAME PROFESSIONAL & LICENSING BOARDS								
6503	092110061840	4293101	C0961496	03/04/2026	424854	03/04/2026	165.00	DR
6503	092110061840	4293101	C0961496	03/04/2026	424854	03/04/2026	165.00	CR
6503	092110061840	4293101	C0961496	03/04/2026	424854	03/04/2026	165.00	CR
6503	092110061840	4293101	C0961541	03/11/2026	425202	03/06/2026	165.00	DR
6503	092110061840	4293101	C0961541	03/11/2026	425202	03/06/2026	165.00	CR
6503	092110061840	4293101	C0961569	03/18/2026	425743	03/12/2026	215.00	DR
6503	092110061840	4293101	C0961569	03/18/2026	425743	03/12/2026	215.00	CR
6503	092110061840	4293101	C0961645	04/01/2026	427047	03/26/2026	65.00	DR
6503	092110061840	4293101	C0961645	04/01/2026	427047	03/26/2026	65.00	CR
6503	092110061840	4293101	C0961661	04/01/2026	427188	03/30/2026	65.00	DR
6503	092110061840	4293101	C0961661	04/01/2026	427188	03/30/2026	65.00	CR
TOTAL ACCOUNT GROUP NET CHANGE							675.00	CR *
6503	092110061840	520418000000000000	DP602084	03/20/2026		03/16/2026	297.00	DR
6503	092110061840	520496000000000000	D0960658	03/04/2026	F27042	03/02/2026	10.49	DR
6503	092110061840	520496000000000000	D0960658	03/04/2026	F27042	03/02/2026	10.49	DR
6503	092110061840	520496000000000000	D0960658	03/04/2026	F27042	03/02/2026	10.49	CR
6503	092110061840	520420000000000000	FM612069	04/03/2026		03/31/2026	336.50	DR
6503	092110061840	520453000000000080	PCEX009066	04/01/2026		03/24/2026	10.00	DR
6503	092110061840	520420700000000000	PL602055	03/18/2026		03/13/2026	154.40	DR
TOTAL ACCOUNT GROUP NET CHANGE							808.39	DR *
TOTAL COMPANY--NET CHANGE							133.39	DR **

AGENCY 09 HEALTH  
BUDGET UNIT 09211 BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY - INFO

COMP	CENTER	ACCOUNT	DOCUMENT NUMBER	POSTING DATE	JV APPVL #, OR PAYMENT #	SHORT NAME	VENDOR NUMBER	VENDOR GROUP	AMOUNT	DR/ CR
COMPANY NO 6503										
COMPANY NAME PROFESSIONAL & LICENSING BOARDS										
6503	092110061840	520418000000000000	DP602084	03/20/2026					297.00	DR
	OBJSUB:	5204180							297.00	DR **
6503	092110061840	520420000000000000	FM612069	04/03/2026					336.50	DR **
	OBJSUB:	5204200							336.50	DR **
6503	092110061840	520420700000000000	PL602055	03/18/2026					154.40	DR **
	OBJSUB:	5204207							154.40	DR **
6503	092110061840	520453000000000080	PCEX009066	04/01/2026					10.00	DR **
	OBJSUB:	5204530							10.00	DR **
6503	092110061840	520496000000000000	D0960658	03/04/2026	F27042				10.49	DR
6503	092110061840	520496000000000000	D0960658	03/04/2026	F27042				10.49	DR
6503	092110061840	520496000000000000	D0960658	03/04/2026	F27042				10.49	CR
	OBJSUB:	5204960							10.49	DR **
OBJECT: 5204 CONTRACTUAL SERVICES										
GROUP: 52 OPERATING EXPENSES										
COMP: 6503										
CNTR: 092110061840										
CNTR: 092110061										
CNTR: 0921100										
B. UNIT: 09211										
									808.39	DR ***
									808.39	DR ****
									808.39	DR *
									808.39	DR *****
									808.39	DR *****
									808.39	DR *****
									808.39	DR *****

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
MONTHLY OBJECT/SUB-OBJECT REPORT BY BUDGET UNIT  
FOR PERIOD ENDING: 03/31/2026

AGENCY	09	HEALTH	COMP	ACCOUNT	DESCRIPTION	CURRENT MONTH	YEAR-TO-DATE
BUDGET UNIT	09211	BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY - INFO					
CENTER-5	09211	BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY - INFO					
CENTER	COMP	ACCOUNT	DESCRIPTION	CURRENT MONTH	YEAR-TO-DATE		
COMPANY NO	6503	510103000000000000	BOARD & COMM MBR'S FEES	.00	2,324.00		
COMPANY NAME	PROFESSIONAL & LICENSING BOARDS						
ACCT: 5101	EMPLOYEE SALARIES			.00	2,324.00	*	
092110061840	510201000000000000	OASI-EMPLOYER'S SHARE		.00	177.78		
ACCT: 5102	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS			.00	177.78	*	
ACCT: 51	PERSONAL SERVICES			.00	2,501.78	**	
092110061840	520405000000000000	COMPUTER CONSULTANT		.00	6,245.00		
092110061840	520409000000000000	MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT		.00	41,983.65		
092110061840	520418000000000000	COMPUTER SERVICES-STATE		297.00	2,793.00		
092110061840	520420000000000000	CENTRAL SERVICES		336.50	1,563.87		
092110061840	520420400000000000	RECORDS MGMT SERVICES		.00	344.02		
092110061840	520420700000000000	HUMAN RESOURCES SERVICES		154.40	424.44		
092110061840	520453000000000080	TELECOMMUNICATIONS SRVCS		10.00	180.00		
092110061840	520496000000000000	OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICE		10.49	2,035.73		
ACCT: 5204	CONTRACTUAL SERVICES			808.39	55,569.71	*	
092110061840	520502000000000000	OFFICE SUPPLIES		.00	359.40		
092110061840	520531000000000000	PRINTING-STATE		.00	259.10		
092110061840	520535000000000000	POSTAGE		.00	1,022.52		
ACCT: 5205	SUPPLIES & MATERIALS			.00	1,641.02	*	
ACCT: 52	OPERATING EXPENSES			808.39	57,210.73	**	
COMP: 6503	PROFESSIONAL & LICENSING BOARDS			808.39	59,712.51	***	
CENTER: 092110061840				808.39	59,712.51	****	
B UNIT: 09211				808.39	59,712.51	*****	

# South Dakota Board of Massage Therapy

## DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULES FOR RECOGNIZED FACILITIES

April 29, 2026

The Board of Massage Therapy, at their February 11, 2026 meeting, expressed a desire to update the administrative rules to remove the list of recognized massage therapy facilities from administrative rule and develop a rule that allows for facilities to pursue approval by the board as a recognized facility. Shown below is a draft of rule changes. The board may modify this draft as they see fit. Note: This is the beginning of the rules revision process, not the final result.

**20:76:01:06. Required training.** An applicant for licensure as a massage therapist shall provide proof of required training on a form prescribed by the board and completed by the recognized facility where the training was received. Official transcripts evidencing that the applicant has completed the required training shall be provided by the recognized facility. The board may consider other evidence of training if the recognized facility has ceased operations. The required training for licensure includes:

- (1) One hundred twenty-five hours of training in the body's systems and anatomy, physiology, and kinesiology;
- (2) Two hundred hours of training in massage and bodywork assessment, theory, and application;
- (3) Forty hours of training in pathology;
- (4) Ten hours total of training in business and ethics, with a minimum of six hours in ethics; and
- (5) One hundred twenty-five hours of additional training in an area or related field that theoretically completes a massage program of study.

Fifty minutes of supervised classroom instruction is equal to one hour of training.

The board may approve an application from an applicant with required training from a combination of two or more recognized facilities. Online training is acceptable to meet the training requirements for licensure. At least 200 hours of hands-on training from a recognized facility must be completed at the training facility.

The board may recognize qualifying continuing education to fulfill required training for licensure.

**Source:** 34 SDR 332, effective July 9, 2008; 37 SDR 29, effective August 30, 2010; 43 SDR 181, effective July 10, 2017.

**General Authority:** SDCL 36-35-12(4), 36-35-24(2).

**Law Implemented:** SDCL 36-35-12.

**20:76:08:01. Recognized facilities.** The board may license an applicant who has completed the training required by § 20:76:01:06 from a recognized facility, the following South Dakota facilities: The board will maintain a current list of recognized South Dakota facilities and shall provide it upon request.

The board will continue to accept education and training from a facility that is no longer operational if it was recognized by the board while in operation.

- ~~— (1) Black Hills Health & Education Center;~~
- ~~— (2) Headlines Academy;~~
- ~~— (3) National American University;~~
- ~~— (4) Pam's Massage School;~~
- ~~— (5) South Dakota School of Massage Therapy;~~
- ~~— (6) Sioux Falls Therapeutic Massage & Education Center; and~~
- ~~— (7) Springs Bath House School of Massage Therapy.~~

**Source:** 38 SDR 177, effective April 26, 2012; SL 2013, ch 184, § 18, effective July 1, 2013; 43 SDR 181, effective July 10, 2017.

**General Authority:** SDCL 36-35-12, 36-35-24(2).

**Law Implemented:** SDCL 36-35-12(3), 36-35-24(2).

**20:76:08:02. Facilities that may be recognized by the board.** South Dakota facilities that wish to become a recognized facility to teach massage therapy education required by §20:76:01:06 must do the following:

- (1) Apply to the board on an application form provided by the board;
- (2) Submit the curriculum the facility will be using to teach massage therapy;
- (3) Include a list of instructors and their South Dakota massage therapy license number; and,
- (4) Reapply every three years to remain on the list of recognized facilities.

A recognized facility can only operate at the location listed on the application and is not transferable to a new owner. If a facility wishes to operate in more than one location or city, separate applications must be submitted for each location.

At its discretion, the board or its representative(s) have the authority to inspect any facility recognized by the board. Recognized facilities may be subject to disciplinary action.

The board may accept an applicant's training required by § 20:76:01:06 from a an out-of-state facility not recognized pursuant to § 20:76:08:01 if the facility provides official evidence it meets at least one of the following criteria:

- (1) The facility is licensed or approved by the state board of massage therapy in the state where that training facility is located; or
- (2) The out-of-state facility is accredited by an accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education.

The training that allows an applicant to take a national examination does not require the board to recognize the facility. As executive secretary, I am not certain what is intended by this statement. It seems contrary to SDCL 36-35-12 that includes the following requirement for licensure:

SDCL 36-35-12 ... (2) completion of no less than five hundred hours of training or study in the practice of massage with a facility or instructor recognized by the board; ...