SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY MEETING MINUTES
Monday, July 20, 2026
Via Microsoft Teams

1. Call to Order

President Fallon Helm called the meeting to order at 9:00 am CST. 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:	Fallon Helm – via Teams Meeting Ashley Kesterson – via Teams Meeting Leslie Nuckles, via Teams Meeting Mariah Pokorny, via Teams Meeting
Others Present:	Kate Boyd, Executive Secretary – via Teams Meeting Beverly Katz, Staff Legal Counsel – via Teams Meeting
Guests Present:	Elise Baine, Peggy Sproat, Rhanda Heller, Bridget Myers, Chantelle Emond

3. Approval of Agenda

Mariah Pokorny made a motion, seconded by Les Nuckles, to remove Item 8. Executive Session (a) Disciplinary Action Case 2026-002 and to approve the amended meeting agenda. **MOTION PASSED**. Roll Call Vote (Helm yea; Kesterson yea; Nuckles yea; Pokorny yea)

4. Open Forum

Rhanda Heller addressed the board during open forum. The two subjects she spoke about were the open board position and the board's budget.

5. Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes (April 29, 2026, June 11, 2026, and June 17, 2026)

Les Nuckles made a motion, seconded by Ashley Kesterson, to approve the minutes of the April 29, 2026, June 11, 2026, and June 17, 2026 meetings as presented. **MOTION PASSED**. Roll Call Vote (Helm yea; Kesterson yea; Nuckles yea; Pokorny yea)

6. Executive Secretary Report

Executive Secretary Kate Boyd reported the following:

a. Financial Report for the Month and Year Ending June 30, 2026 – The available funds for the remainder of the fiscal year are $51,419.98, and the cash center balance is $$6,126.04.

b. Status of Administrative Rules Changes – Executive Secretary Kate Boyd reported that the administrative rules have been forwarded to the Department of Health, and we are waiting to the signed document to proceed.

c. 2026 License Renewals – All of the preliminary work has been done for the annual license renewal process that begins August 1, 2026. This includes updates to the renewal form to include reporting and uploading of continuing education certificates. The database company, Albertson Consulting has done the necessary updates. Also, the request has been sent to the appropriate person in the Department of Health to get the website updated effective August 1, 2026 with the renewal portal. An email will be sent to all active licensees on July 31, 2026 informing them of the following:

- The renewal portal will be open beginning August 1, 2026
- There will be a link to the renewal portal in the email
- Reminder that licensees need eight hours of approved continuing education to renew their license this year and that continuing education must be completed by September 30, 2026
- All licenses expire September 30, 2026. Licenses that are submitted for renewal by September 30 are valid and the licensee can continue to use their license.
- There is a thirty-day grace period to renew expired licenses October 1-30, 2026. However, their license will remain expired and they cannot legally work as a massage therapist until their license is renewed and they receive their new license.
- Licenses that are not submitted for renewal by October 30, 2026 will remain expired. If the individual wishes to pursue licensure after that date will need to apply as a new applicant.
- A link to the inactive license application will be included in the email.

7. Warm Bamboo Massage

Board member Ashley Kesterson discussed warm bamboo massage. This is currently listed in the Board's policies as an unapproved course for continuing education credit and is also not an approved course for FSMTB (Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards). Ashley stated that she believes warm bamboo massage does fall within the scope of practice in South Dakota, but she questions if continuing education credits can be accepted since it is listed as an unacceptable course. Without the course being accepted by the Board of Massage Therapy, it cannot be added to a South Dakota licensee's malpractice or professional liability insurance. She is aware of one continuing education provider in South Dakota who offers a warm bamboo massage course, but the certificates the participants receive state that it is for hot stone massage. Ashley herself has taken the course, along with other licensees, and offers it in her massage practice. However, she completed other continuing education for her 2026 license renewal since it is not an approved course for South Dakota.

The consensus of the board was to write a letter to the course provider for a list of the names of South Dakota licensees who have taken the course. Letters will be written to each licensee who took the course for their required eight-hours of continuing education to renew their license in 2026. Executive Secretary Kate Boyd cautioned the board about taking retroactive action to

approve the courses that have previously been taken while warm bamboo massage was listed in the board's policies as unacceptable for continuing education credit. Providers of continuing education can contact the board to discuss subject matter that they believe should be acceptable and to pursue board action to remove a course from the unacceptable list. It was agreed to place warm bamboo massage on the agenda for the next meeting for further discussion on how to proceed moving forward.

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

Mariah Pokorny made a motion, seconded by Les Nuckles to go into executive session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(3) and ARSD 20:76:01:06 to review three application for licensure, T11092, T11104, and T11105. **MOTION PASSED**. Roll Call Vote (Helm yea; Kesterson yea; Nuckles yea; Pokorny yea)

Executive Session began at 9:28 am. The board ended Executive Session at 9:55 am and the public meeting resumed.

Les Nuckles made a motion, seconded by Ashley Kesterson to approve license applications T11104 and T11105. **MOTION PASSED**. Roll Call Vote (Helm yea; Kesterson yea; Nuckles yea; Pokorny yea)

9. Next Meeting Date – October 28, 2026

The next board meeting date was set for October 28, 2026. Warm bamboo massage will be on the agenda. There may be a need for a hearing regarding proposed administrative rules prior to then.

10. 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)

The meeting was adjourned at 10:01 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Executive Secretary Kate Boyd and Secretary Mariah Pokorny