

These minutes have not been reviewed or approved by the Board.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY
October 3, 2025

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Board of Massage Therapy was called to order by Steven Carper, Chair, at 9:00 a.m. in the State Office Building, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lower-Level Goldenrod Room, Lincoln, Nebraska. The meeting was conducted In-Person and by WebEx. The following members answered roll call.

Steven Carper, Chair
Holly Doring, Member
Michele Helaney, Secretary – Via WebEx
Elizabeth Bailey, Member

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened. Also present were: Sean Loving, Program Manager; Heather Ord, Health Licensing Coordinator; Ivette Lopez Quintana, Administrative Technician; Marly Sandberg, Department Legal; Abby Hoy Nissen, Assistant Attorney General; Tricia Allen, Hayle Alvarado, and Mark Meyerson, Investigators from the Investigations Unit.

Carper announced that there is a copy of all the public documents being reviewed at this meeting available in the meeting room pursuant to the Open Meetings Act.

In accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411 of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, copies of the agenda were e-mailed to the Board members and other interested parties, posted on the DHHS website at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>, and posted in the Licensure Unit on September 19, 2025.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Doring moved, seconded by Bailey, to approve the agenda as presented. Voting aye: Carper, Doring, Helaney, and Bailey. Voting nay: none. Abstain: none Absent: none. Vacant positions: 2 Motion carried.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 15, 2025

Doring moved, seconded by Bailey, to approve the agenda as presented. Voting aye: Carper, Doring, Helaney, and Bailey. Voting nay: none. Abstain: none Absent: none. Vacant positions: 2 Motion carried.

5. CLOSED SESSION Investigative Reports and Other Confidential Information

Bailey moved, seconded by Doring, to enter into closed session at 9:02 a.m. for the purpose of hearing discussions of an investigative/confidential nature and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of the individuals. Carper repeated the motion and purpose. Voting aye: Carper, Doring, Helaney, and Bailey. Voting nay: none. Abstain: none Absent: none. Vacant positions: 2 Motion carried.

Break: 9:48 a.m.
Return from Break: 9:51 a.m.

6. OPEN SESSION Application review and recommendations (initial licensure, reinstatement, convictions, administrative penalties, and mail ballot reports)

APPLICATIONS

Amber Wootan – Massage Therapist

Doring moved, seconded by Bailey, to recommend denial of the application for the Initial Massage Therapist license. The basis for the denial is Failure to meet the requirements for practicing two hundred (200) hours each year as a full-time massage therapist. Voting aye: Carper, Doring, Helaney, and Bailey. Voting nay: none. Abstain: none. Absent: none. Vacant positions: 2
Motion carried.

Christine Michelle – Massage Therapist Reinstatement

Doring moved, seconded by Bailey, to recommend reinstating Michelle's license with censure, \$1000 administrative penalty, \$1000 civil penalty to be paid within 1 year, and completion of the jurisprudence exam within 90 days. The basis for the censure, administrative penalty, civil penalty, and the completion of the jurisprudence exam is due to practicing for 120 days without an active license. Voting aye: Carper, Doring, Helaney, and Bailey. Voting nay: none. Abstain: none. Absent: none. Vacant positions: 2
Motion carried.

L.H. Massage – Massage Therapy Establishment

Doring moved, seconded by Bailey, to recommend approval of the establishment license with censure, \$1000 administrative penalty, \$1000 civil penalty to be paid within 1 year, and completion of the jurisprudence exam within 90 days. The basis for the censure, administrative penalty, civil penalty, and the completion of the jurisprudence exam is due to operating for two (2) years without an active establishment license. Voting aye: Carper, Doring, Helaney, and Bailey. Voting nay: none. Abstain: none. Absent: none. Vacant positions: 2
Motion carried.

7. UPDATES AND REPORTS

a.**Legislation:** There are no updates at this time.

b.**Nebraska Chapter of American Massage Therapy Association (NE-AMTA):** Briana Cudly emphasized NE-AMTA is not in favor of the compact. There is no online license verification for the compact; the compact feels rushed, as many states do not require a massage therapy license, and the NE-AMTA prefers the background checks and the thorough licensure process.

c.**Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB):** Seth Dinkel mentioned that the 20th anniversary annual meeting is taking place in Kansas City, Missouri, from October 5 through the 7th of 2025. Both Doring and Carper are attending. Sandberg attended a webinar pertaining to professional back scratching, education fraud that could be connected to human trafficking, and the number of apprentices is going up, which could be connected to human trafficking. Sandberg also mentioned that if an establishment has been revoked, they cannot have another establishment for a certain amount of time.

d.**American Massage Therapy Association Nebraska Chapter Report Out:** Board members acknowledged receiving the report.

e.**Statistics: Examinations, Licensing, Administrative Penalties, Renewals, Disciplinary and Non-Disciplinary Information, and School Report (attached to agenda)**

8. Licensed Massage Therapy Establishment Discussion (172 NAC 82 002.05)

Neb. Rev. Stat. 38-1716 states “No person shall operate or profess or attempt to operate a massage therapy establishment unless such establishment is licensed by the department under the Massage Therapy Practice Act. The department shall not issue or renew a license for a massage therapy establishment until all requirements of the act have been complied with. No person shall engage in any of the practices of massage therapy in any location or premises other than a licensed massage therapy establishment except as specifically permitted in the act”. Sandberg mentions that establishments cannot operate without a license. She also mentioned that in order to change the list of exceptions, the statutes and regulations will possibly need to be changed. where the regulations cannot contradict the statutes.

Wisell states that the board will need to change the statutes before the regulations.

The board would like to look into making statute changes.

9. Public comments

Elizabeth from L.H. Massage states that she was told by the chiropractor of the chiropractor's office, where she has her establishment, that since the chiropractor already had an establishment license, she did not need to obtain one for her massage therapy establishment. She later found out that the chiropractor does not have an established office, and L.H. Massage ceased operating, and Elizabeth ceased practicing immediately until her establishment is licensed.

Seth Dinkel of FSMTB continued to discuss the agenda for the annual meeting and potential continuing education courses for the future.

Helaney announced this was her last board meeting due to the end of her ten (10) year appointment and thanked the board and staff for the opportunity to serve on the Board of Massage Therapy.

10. Adjournment

The upcoming meeting is scheduled for December 5, 2025. No further information was presented, and the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 10:49 am.

Board of Massage Therapy
Summarized by: Heather Ord, Health Licensing Coordinator, Licensure Unit