

Board of Massage Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2024

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Steven Carper, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Board of Massage to order at 9:01 am on October 18, 2024, in the Lower-Level Goldenrod Conference Room, at the Nebraska State Office Building located at 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska. 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 October 7, 2024 <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>, and posted in the Nebraska State Office Building East Vestibule on October 7, 2024.

Carper announced that this is an open meeting, and the Open Meetings Act is posted.

Members Present: The following members answered roll call:

Steven Carper, Chair
Holly Doring, Vice Chair
Elizabeth Bailey, Public Member

Staff Present:

Claire Covert-ByBee, Program Manager
Kim Hitzel, Licensure Board Coordinator
Katherine Amyot, DHHS Legal Attorney
Abby Hoy-Nissen, Assistant Attorney General
Mindy Lester, Assistant Attorney General
Trevor Klaassen, Investigations
Mark Meyerson, Investigations
Carla Cue, Investigations
Anna Harrison, DHHS Compliance Monitor
Teresa Hampton, DHHS Legal Attorney
Annika Gleason Schoch, DHHS Legal Attorney (via Webex)

Members Absent:

Michele Helaney, Secretary

Members of the Public Addressing the Board

Briana Cudley, Nebraska Chapter – American Massage Therapy Association
402-690-8434

2. Adoption of Agenda

Motion: Moved by Doring, seconded by Bailey to adopt the agenda. Voting aye: Doring, Bailey, and Carper. Voting Nay: none. Motion carried.

3. Reaffirmation of Mail Ballot

The meeting minutes for August 2, 2024, were approved August 19, 2024. Voting aye: Carper, Doring, and Bailey. Voting to Abstain: Helaney. Voting Nay: none.

4. Closed Session

Doring moved, seconded by Bailey to move into closed session at 9:02 am to hear discussions regarding confidential information and to protect the reputation of individuals named or referenced in such discussions. Voting aye: Carper, Doring, and Bailey. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Board returned to Open Session at 10:52 am.

5. Board recommendations on Applications

In the matter of the massage therapist reinstatement application for Shakeida Bullis, license #4042, Doring moved, Bailey seconded to recommend offering to reinstate license #4042 under censure massage therapist license and to require Shakeida Bullis to take the jurisprudence exam within 90 days based on Shakeida Bullis practicing on an expired massage therapist license and practicing without a licensed massage therapy establishment license. Voting aye: Doring, Carper, Bailey. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

In the matter of the massage therapy establishment application license for Organic Bodywork, LLC owned by Shakeida Bullis, Doring moved, Bailey seconded to recommend approving the massage therapy establishment license with a \$1000 civil penalty based on operating a massage therapy establishment without a license. Voting aye: Doring, Bailey, and Carper. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

In the matter of the massage therapy establishment license application for Favorite Massage, Doring moved, Bailey seconded, to recommend denying the license application based on operating a massage therapy establishment for 3 years without a massage therapy establishment license. Voting aye: Doring, Bailey, and Carper. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

In the matter of the reinstatement application for the massage therapist license for Benjamin Mistleou, license #3959, Doring moved, Bailey seconded to recommend approval of the reinstatement application. Voting aye: Doring, Bailey, and Carper. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

These minutes have been approved by the Board of Massage

In the matter of the application for a massage therapist license for Jacqueline Phillips, Doring moved, Bailey seconded, to recommend approval of the application. Voting aye: Doring, Bailey. Voting nay: none. Voting to abstain: Carper. Motion carried.

In the matter of the application for massage therapist license for Antonio Sierra, Doring moved, Bailey seconded, to recommend approval of the application. Voting to approve: Bailey, Carper, and Doring. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

6. Nebraska Chapter of the American Massage Therapy Association Report Out

Brianna Cudley from the NE-AMTA reported she attended the National Meeting in Tampa, FL. and that there are 679 members. The next national meeting will be held in Dallas, TX in August of 2025.

Cudley asked several questions about Continuing Education requirements. Covert-ByBee stated that most thorough information about Continuing Education can be found in the regulations and statues which are located on the Department website at [Massage Therapy](#) and at the Secretary of State website at [Nebraska Rules and Regulations](#).

7. Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards Report Out

Carper presented a handout with information from the National meeting that he attended October 3-5, 2024, in Washington, DC.

There will be an Executive Summit meeting April 3-4, 2025, in Scottsdale AZ.

The FSMTB meeting will be October 5-7, 2025, in Kansas City, MO.

8. Massage Therapy as a Healthcare Correspondence to Governor

A letter, approved by the Board July 22, 2024, in opposition to the taxation of massage therapy services, was sent to all state senators and provided as testimony at the public hearing for LB 1 by Chair Carper. The letter may be found in the Massage Therapy Public Documents at [Licensing Board Meeting Agendas & Minutes](#).

9. Legislative Update

There are no updates at this time.

10. Licensure Application Processing Report

The Application Processing Report is offered for informational purposes only.

11. Update of New Licensure Database

The Department has been working with the vendor on testing the new database system. The database should go live in early 2025.

14. Topics for Next Meeting

These minutes have been approved by the Board of Massage

Topics identified for the next meeting include Legislative Update, FSMTB update, New Licensure Database Update, AMTA NE Update, License Application Processing Report, 2025 meeting dates, Election of Officers, Voting for Delegates, Per Diem, Notice of Public meeting, and Public Comments. The next meeting will be held December 6, 2024.

13. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

14. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 11:47 am

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Doring, Vice Chair