

# **Board of Massage Therapy Virtual Meeting Minutes**

## **December 6, 2024**

### **1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Steven Carper, Chair, called the meeting of the Board of Massage to order at 9:02 a.m. on December 6, 2024, in the Lower-Level Goldenrod Conference Room at the Nebraska State Office Building located at 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska. Pursuant to 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> on December 4, 2024, and posted in the Nebraska State Office Building East Vestibule on December 4, 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  
Michele Helaney, Secretary (via Webex)

### **Staff Present:**

Claire Covert-ByBee, Program Manager  
Kirsten Coniglio, Health Licensing Specialist  
Kim Stuhmer, Board of Health Liaison  
Abby Hoy-Nissen, Assistant Attorney General  
Trevor Klaassen, Investigations  
Dennis Scott, Investigations  
Teresa Hampton, DHHS Legal Attorney

### **Members of the Public Addressing the Board**

Briana Cudley, American Massage Therapy Association Nebraska Chapter,  
grchair@amtane.org

### **2. Adoption of Agenda**

**Motion:** Doring moved, seconded by Bailey, to adopt the agenda. Voting aye: Doring, Bailey, Carper, and Helaney. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

### **3. Reaffirmation of Mail Ballot**

The meeting minutes of October 18, 2024, were approved November 7, 2024. Voting aye: Bailey, Carper, and Doring. Voting to Abstain: Helaney. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

### **4. Closed Session**

Doring moved, seconded by Bailey, to move into closed session at 9:08 a.m. to hear discussions regarding confidential information and to protect the reputation of individuals named or referenced in such discussions. Voting aye: Bailey, Carper, Doring, and Helaney. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Board returned to open session at 10:01 a.m.

### **5. Board Recommendations on Applications**

In the matter of the reinstatement application for the Massage Therapist license of Chelsie Wilson, the Board recommends reinstating the license with censure and passing of a jurisprudence exam within 6 months based on unlicensed practice for an extended period of time. Motion made by Doring, seconded by Bailey. Voting aye: Doring, Bailey, Carper, and Helaney. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

In the matter of the application for a Massage Therapy Establishment license for Wild Sage, owned by Chelsie Wilson, the board recommends issuing the establishment license with a \$1000.00 (one thousand dollar) civil penalty based on operating an unlicensed establishment for an extended period of time. Motion made by Doring, seconded by Bailey. Voting aye: Bailey, Doring, Carper, and Helaney. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

### **6. American Massage Therapy Association Nebraska Chapter Report Out**

Cudley reported that the 2025 State Convention will be held April 11 and April 12 in York, Nebraska, and that AMTA-NE membership sits at just under 700 licensed massage therapists. AMTA-NE currently has no legislation to discuss and has received no complaints about licensure.

### **7. Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards Report Out**

Carper had no news to report. Covert-ByBee shared that the FSMTB has developed a massage therapy establishment toolkit that will benefit the Licensure Unit.

### **8. FSMTB REACH Remediation Courses**

Carper shared the following: REACH remediation course outlines are easily accessible online, but course content is not; FSMTB offers custom jurisprudence exams built per state upon request; REACH courses may be incorporated by the Board as requirements for discipline. The website is <https://reach4ce.org/course-catalog>.

## **9. Legislative Update**

Covert-ByBee shared that the 2025 Legislature is scheduled to convene on January 8, 2025.

## **10. Licensure Application Processing Report**

The Application Processing Report is offered for informational purposes only.

## **11. Update of New Licensure Database**

The Department continues to work with the vendor and the database is slated to go live in the last week of February 2025.

## **12. 2025 Meeting Dates**

The following 2025 meeting dates were approved by the Board: February 7, March 28, June 6, August 15, October 3, and December 5, 2025.

## **13. Election of Officers**

**Motion:** Doring moved, seconded by Bailey, to elect the following slate of officers and consultants to a one-year term pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 38-169 and Department request: Steven Carper, Chair; Holly Doring, Vice Chair; Michele Helaney, Secretary; Michele Helaney, Investigative Consultant; Holly Doring, Education Consultant. Voting aye: Bailey, Carper, Doring, and Helaney. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

## **14. Notice of Publication**

**Motion:** Doring moved, seconded by Bailey, that, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411 of the Open Meetings Act, the notice of meetings of this Board be posted virtually on the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Licensure Board Meeting Agenda page, posted physically on the Board Meeting Agenda billboard in the lobby of the Nebraska State Office Building, and disseminated to a list of stakeholders and interested parties. Voting aye: Bailey, Carper, Doring, and Helaney. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

## **15. Voting for Delegates**

**Motion:** Doring moved, seconded by Bailey, to elect Carper as delegate and Doring as alternate delegate to the 2025 Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards annual conference held October 5 through October 7 in Kansas City, Missouri. Voting aye: Bailey, Carper, Doring, and Helaney. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

## **16. Per Diem**

*These minutes have been approved by the Board of Massage*

**Motion:** Bailey moved, seconded by Doring, that, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 38-171, each member of the Board shall receive in 2025 a per diem of \$50.00 for each Board meeting. Voting aye: Bailey, Carper, Doring, and Helaney. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

### **17. Public Comment**

Briana Cudly commented on the remediation courses developed by the Federation of Massage Therapy State Boards.

### **18. Topics for next meeting**

Topics identified for the next meeting include Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards Report Out, Legislative Update, Update on the New Licensure Database, Licensure Application Processing Report, Public Comment, and the American Massage Therapy Association Nebraska Chapter Report Out.

### **19. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 am

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Helaney, Secretary