



Washington State Board of Massage

Business Meeting Minutes
May 5, 2023 | 9:00 a.m.

The Board of Massage scheduled a board business meeting held in person at Lacey Community Center and via Webinar on Friday, May 5, 2023. Notice was provided in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Board Members

Heidi Williams, LMT, chair
Autumn Christina Straker, LMT, vice chair
Annika Samuelsen, LMT
Chimere Figaire-Correa, LMT
Lynna Fuller, LMT
Sherise Gueck-McKinney, LMT

Staff Present

Megan Maxey, Program Manager
Davis Hylkema, Assistant Program Manager
Joan Simmons, Administrative Assistant
Kristi Knieps, Assistant Attorney General
Heidi Hughes, Policy Analyst
Shelly Buchanan, Supervising Staff Attorney

Guest Speaker

Debra Persinger, PhD, Executive Director, FSMTB
Tommy Simpson III, DOH Resources Military Liason

Guests

Ashley Hernandez	Lydia Benson	Julie Onofrio, LMT
Ashley Shenk, LMT	Jackie Guilbeault	Karen Gohlsen
Bryan DeForrest, LMT	Jamie Hannam, LMT	Karen James, LMT
Greg Norton	Maryann Brathwaite, LMT	Stephanie Dickey, LMT
Maria Isabel Hernandez, LMT	Marybeth Berney, LMT	Therese Livella, LMT
Leslie Emerick	Robbin Blake, LMT	Tom Benson
Louise Markham	Sonya Bennett, LMT	

OPEN SESSION – 9:00 a.m.

1. Call To Order – Heidi Williams, LMT, Chair

The board meeting was called to order by Heidi Williams, LMT, chair, at 9:02 a.m.

1.1. Introductions and Meeting Ground Rules.

The board and staff introduced themselves. Ms. Williams read the Meeting Ground Rules.

1.2. Approval of the Agenda.

Program Staff requested an amendment to the agenda to add a report on the FSMTB Member Board Executive Summit at the end of the agenda.

MOTION: A motion was made to approve the May 5, 2023, agenda as amended. The motion was seconded and passed.

1.3. Approval of the March 10, 2023, Business Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: A motion was made to approve the March 10, 2023, business meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and passed.

1.4. Approval of the March 21, 2023, Special Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: A motion was made to approve the March 21, 2023, special meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and passed.

2. Public Forum

Members of the public who indicated an interest in speaking were offered the opportunity to provide comments to the board.

Comment shared included:

- Robbin Blake with WSMTA shared appreciation for the meeting information that was shared in advance and having public comments in sections of the topics.
- Maryann Braithwaite, Executive Director for NW Career Colleges Federation shared they have a conference in May 18 – 19, 2023 along with her contact information.

3. School Program Reviews – Heidi Williams, LMT, Chair

Reviewing Board Members (RBMs) presented the following school program requests for full board consideration.

- Institute For Structural Medicine
 - The RBMs made different recommendations for program approval. Ms. Samuelsen recommended a deficiency letter and Ms. Straker recommended approval.
 - There was significant discussion about the RBMs reviews.

MOTION: A motion was made to approve the Institute for Structural Medicine. The motion was seconded and did not pass.

Voting outcome:

- Heidi Williams – In favor
- Autumn Christina Straker – In favor
- Annika Samuelsen – Oppose
- Lynna Fuller – Oppose
- Sherise McKinney – Oppose
- Chimere Figaire-Correa – Oppose

MOTION: A motion was made to send a deficiency letter to the Institute for Structural Medicine. The motion was seconded and passed.

Voting outcome:

- Heidi Williams – Oppose
 - Autumn Christina Straker – Abstain
 - Annika Samuelsen – In favor
 - Lynna Fuller – In favor
 - Sherise Gueck-McKinney – In favor
 - Chimere Figaire-Correa – In favor
- Biomechanics School of Myotherapy and Massage 700-hour program, Tumwater campus
 - The RBMs recommended approval.

MOTION: A motion was made to grant pending approval to Biomechanics School of Myotherapy and Massage 700-hour program, Tumwater campus, subject to approval by the Workforce Training Board. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

4. Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB) Presentation – Debra Persinger, PhD, Executive Director, FSMTB

Dr. Persinger gave a presentation to the board on the Massage and Bodywork Licensing Examination (MBLEx) and answered questions from the board.

5. Licensing for Military Service and Military Service Spouse Members – Tommy Simpson III, DOH Military Resources Liaison

Mr. Simpson gave a presentation to the board on licensure of military service and military service spouse members and answered questions from the board.

6. Licensure by Endorsement Rules Workshop – Megan Maxey

6.1. Public Comment

Members of the public were given the opportunity to address the board on this agenda item. Comments shared included:

- Request to consider rules change for licensing by endorsement for out of state applicants (as stated in the email included in the meeting packet).
- Request for more clarity and create something to include military spouses in regard to licensing by endorsement.

- Request for consideration that transfer programs may not be the best option for individuals who have met or exceeded Washington state's requirements. There is concern that these schools are requiring students to complete their transfer program at a high cost creating a financial burden.

6.2. The board held a rules workshop on WAC 246-830-035, Licensing by endorsement for out-of-state applicants.

- Ms. Maxey provided a recap of the petitions that commenced the rule making process for licensing by endorsement.
- The board worked on draft language.
- Ms. Maxey will provide the draft language provided during the discussion to present at the next meeting.

7. Rule Petition – Megan Maxey

The board reviewed a rule petition about allowing licensed massage therapists to perform intravaginal pelvic floor massage.

The board opened the floor to receive public comment. Comments shared included:

- Concern for growing gaps in access for women's health and the lack of therapists providing pelvic floor and intravaginal massage. She shared her personal experience and said she would have benefitted from said services if they were available.
- Multiple support to advocate this service.
- Informed the board it has been legalized in Oregon.

Ms. Maxey reminded the board that the definition of massage and massage therapy in RCW 18.108.010(6) states that massage is "a health care service involving the external manipulation or pressure of soft tissue for therapeutic purposes. ...Massage therapy does not include...genital manipulation."

Ms. Knieps also noted that the board does not have authority to change the profession's scope of practice. A change in scope of practice would need to be passed by the legislature.

MOTION: A motion was made to deny the petition to allow licensed massage therapists to perform intravaginal pelvic floor massage. The motion was seconded and passed.

Voting outcome:

- Heidi Williams – In favor
- Autumn Christina Straker – In favor
- Annika Samuelsen – In favor
- Lynna Fuller – Abstain
- Sherise Gueck-McKinney – In favor
- Chimere Figaire-Correa – Absent

8. Signature Delegation Agreement – Megan Maxey

This item was tabled for the next meeting.

9. 2024 Board Meeting Dates and Locations – Megan Maxey

This item was tabled for the next meeting.

10. FSMTB Annual Meeting – Megan Maxey

Board members selected a delegate to attend the FSMTB 2023 Annual Meeting that will be held in San Diego, California, September 28 – 30, 2023.

Annika nominated Sherise Gueck-McKinney to attend as alternate delegate.

MOTION: A motion was made to send Heidi Williams as the voting delegate and Sherise Gueck-McKinney as the alternate delegate to attend the FSMTB 2023 Annual Meeting in San Diego, California, September 28 – 30, 2023. The motion was seconded and passed.

11. FSMTB Member Board Executive (MBE) Summit Report

This item was tabled for the next meeting.

12. Program Report

12.1. Budget

- This item was tabled for the next meeting.

12.2. Rules Update

- This item was tabled for the next meeting.

12.3. Credential Counts

- This item was tabled for the next meeting.

12.4. Future Agenda Items

- Rules hearing for continuing education.
- Rules workshop for licensure by endorsement.
- Rules workshop for education and training
- Add CE requirements in newsletter and/or board's website

12. Adjournment

MOTION: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 2:27 p.m. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Submitted:

Approved:

Megan Maxey, Program Manager

Heidi Williams, LMT, Chair