

# Washington State Board of Massage

*The mandate of the Board of Massage is to protect the public's health and safety, and to promote the welfare of the state by regulating the competency and quality of professional healthcare providers under its jurisdiction.*

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## Board Members

### Chair

Stephanie Dickey, LMT

### Vice Chair

Anthony Sharpe,  
Public Member

Tonya Cox, LMT

Heidi Williams, LMT

Vacant – LMT

## Welcome to the Board of Massage Newsletter

### Message from the Chair – Stephanie Dickey, LMT

Greetings! It is the end of a summer season and as the season ends, so does my role with the board.

It has been an interesting, challenging, and rewarding experience for me to serve as a member and find ways to protect the public. I have valued hearing and reading the sentiments and stories of so many active participants in the community.

My work is not done and I will remain involved in other capacities. Legislation is key going forward. Being a part of the organizations that I have had the pleasure to work with and hear from will be valuable.

If I take one thing away from my time, it is that there is so much to be aware of and do in our profession to make our clients safe and our profession recognized for what healing work truly is.

It has been my honor to serve on the Board of Massage for four years and in the role of board chair for the past year. I encourage everyone to get involved and stay involved. Sending warm regards to all as I move on to a new chapter.

*~ As always, it is our pleasure to serve the state of Washington as we continue to uphold our mission and dedication to public protection ~*

### Working With Our Veterans – Stephanie Dickey, LMT

I have been working for 10 years in mostly treatment/medical massage. In my practice I was recently introduced to a medical doctor in Washington, D.C. who told me about the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' new initiative called [Whole Health](#).

I was thrilled to hear that based on Veteran feedback and request, some of the VAs are now offering massage, acupuncture, and other complimentary therapies for veterans to help manage chronic pain, PTSD, and lifestyle habits.

Working with our veterans is one of the most rewarding areas of my work and I want to spread the information. If you are interested in participating, call first to make sure the benefit is being offered at your VA. If so, you will need to become a provider. More information can be found at <https://www.triwest.com/en/>.

### Stay Informed

To stay up-to-date and receive email notifications about rulemaking and other board activities, subscribe and encourage others to subscribe to the Health Systems Quality Assurance, Health Professions, Massage List at [GovDelivery](#).



## Rules Update

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The Board of Massage finalized the proposed rules for submission of a CR-102 packet, allowing for minor editorial changes by program staff that do not substantially alter their content. Stay tuned as we continue to move forward with the rules process.

The rules writing [process](#) is open to the public. The public is welcome to take part in helping us write rules. Public comment periods occur during open public board meetings.

[Send us your comments](#)

Access your  
Massage Laws



- [Chapter 18.108 RCW](#)
- [Chapter 246-830 WAC](#)
- [Chapter 18.130 RCW](#)
- [Chapter 246-12 WAC](#)
- [Chapter 246-16 WAC](#)

## Rules Flowchart

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There are many catalysts for rulemaking, including state or federal legislation, executive order, rules petition, five-year rules review (in accordance with [RCW 43.70.041](#)), court order, or board/commission request.

Before filing any documents with the code reviser, the program manager (PM) does research to determine the need for new, amended, or repealed rules. The PM must confirm statutory authority before commencing the rulemaking process.

**CR-101** (Pre-notice Statement of Inquiry) and supporting documentation are developed by PM, approved by department staff, and filed with the Office of the Code Reviser.

### Interim Program Development

- PM holds workshops, does research, and collects data to develop proposal and analysis supporting the new, amended, or repealed rules.
- Program gets approval of proposal from board/commission (B/C) to move forward with proposed language.
- PM takes potentially substantial changes back to B/C for further discussion and decision.

**Proposed rule language finalized**

**CR-102** (Proposed Rule-Making) and supporting documentation are developed by PM, approved by department staff, and filed with the Office of the Code Reviser.

### Interim Program Development

- PM sends notice of proposed rule, new/amended/repealed rule language, and hearing date to all stakeholders.
- After the hearing, PM summarizes public comments and works with department staff and B/C, if applicable, to determine if changes need to be made or if the rule(s) will be adopted with no changes.

**Proposed rule language adopted by the B/C and/or secretary**

**CR-103** (Rule-Making Order) and supporting documentation are developed by PM, approved by department staff, and filed with the Office of the Code Reviser.

- PM sends notice of adopted rule(s) to all stakeholders.
- Unless otherwise noted, rules become effective 30 days from the filing date.
- PM and PA develop an implementation plan.

## CE Audits and Costs Associated with Non-Compliance

The Department of Health randomly audits two percent of all actively renewing practitioners every month for compliance with continuing education requirements. This means about 20 to 25 audits per month for the massage profession. For cases of non-compliance, which is about 50 percent, a follow-up audit is conducted after the practitioner's next reporting period. This is on top of the two percent of random audits.

It is important to remember that your license is subject to disciplinary action for failure to comply with CE requirements and/or failure to comply with the audit documentation request ([WAC 246-12-190](#)). Disciplinary action may include a follow-up audit, a monetary fine, and probation or suspension of your license.

The massage program has developed a [CE tracking form](#) to help practitioners stay compliant with their CE.

Below are the costs to the program associated with non-compliance of continuing education. *\* These costs do not reflect assistant attorney general charges*

	1 <sup>st</sup> deficient CE audit	2 <sup>nd</sup> deficient CE audit	3 <sup>rd</sup> deficient CE audit	Cost to Program*	Costs Recovered
2014	69			\$2,250.00	\$0
2015	51	8		\$14,396.40	\$3,750.00
2016	62	14		\$18,373.80	\$3,250.00
2017	88	7	1	\$26,382.30	\$2,250.00
2018	126	5	1	\$13,507.80	\$1,250.00

## License and Renewal Fee Increase FAQs

Effective October 1, 2019, the fees for initial licensure, license renewal, and late renewal penalty will increase.

Q: What will the new fees be?

A: The new fees can be found on the Massage Therapist Fee [webpage](#).

Q: Who has authority to set the fees?

A: The fees for **every** health profession fall under the jurisdiction of the secretary of health. ([WAC 246-12-330](#)), and not the Board of Massage.

Q: What factors have contributed to the need for the increase?

A: The main reason for the fee increase is high disciplinary costs for the massage profession. Costs associated with disciplinary spending include investigations, legal services, and attorney general services. Disciplinary costs associated with non-compliance with continuing education, sexual misconduct, and unlicensed practice of massage, are more significant in the massage profession.



### **Do You Have an Idea for the Newsletter?**

Please share any input on topics you'd like to see included in the newsletter with Megan Maxey at [megan.maxey@doh.wa.gov](mailto:megan.maxey@doh.wa.gov).

### **Apply Online**

The Department of Health has rolled out an online application for initial massage therapist credentials. You can check out the features of the online application portal on [YouTube](#). Information about how to access the online application for massage therapists is on the [department's website](#).

### **Renew Your Credential Online**

The majority of health professionals whose credentials are within 90 days of their expiration date may renew their **active status** license, registration, or certification online.

For more information about how to renew your credential online, please visit the [Renewals Online](#) webpage or contact our Customer Service Office at 360-236-4700 or [hsqa.csc@doh.wa.gov](mailto:hsqa.csc@doh.wa.gov).

### **Board Staff**

**Executive Director**  
[Renee Fullerton](#)

**Program Managers**  
[Megan Maxey](#)  
[Kris Waidely](#)

**Program Manager Associate**  
[Davis Hylkema](#)


**Program Support**  
[Brian Myers](#)




- [New Study Explores Integrative Health Delivery for Military Veterans](#)
- [26 Women Freed In Massive Seattle Massage Parlor Bust](#)
- [MBLEx Fee Increase Effective April 1, 2020](#)


## Meeting Dates\*


### 2019


 November 1 | Tumwater

### 2020

 February 21 | Tumwater

 May 15 | Kent

 August 21 | Tri-Cities

 November 13 | Kent

\* Dates and locations are subject to change.

For the most up-to-date meeting information, please visit the board's [meeting webpage](#).

## Are You Interested in Applying to Serve on a Board or Commission?

Board profiles, upcoming opportunities to serve, and applications are on the [Governor's webpage](#).

## How Do I...?

- [File a Complaint](#)
- [Look Up a Healthcare Provider](#)
- [Update My Contact Information](#)
- [See a List of Sanctioned Providers](#)



## New Law Related to Sexual Misconduct Violations

During the 2019 legislative session, Substitute House [Bill 1198](#) passed. This law affects health care practitioners sanctioned for sexual misconduct and becomes effective October 1, 2019.

When a health care practitioner has action taken against their license for unprofessional conduct involving sexual misconduct, they are required to notify any patient scheduled for an appointment with that license holder. This is required during the time the health care practitioner is under the formal disciplinary order or stipulation to informal disposition (STID). The patient notification must include a copy of the order or STID, a description of the sanctions, how long the license holder will be under the order or STID, and information on how the patient can get more information about the misconduct.

## Board Member Spotlight – Tonya Cox, LMT



Tonya L. Cox (Stiner) graduated from Apollo College in 2009. From there she went to work at Mosaic Salon Spa and Natural Rejuvenation in Spokane. While working at Natural Rejuvenation, Tonya won best massage therapist in the Spokane area and was in the Inlander newspaper. Tonya wanted to do more medical massage and since 2012 she has worked for University Chiropractic.

Tonya says, "I love my job, I love my clients. I can't see doing anything else. My career is very rewarding and it brings joy and fulfillment. To see people feeling good, be able to move when they couldn't, and how thankful and relaxed they are is the best. I'm blessed to be able to serve our community and help people."

Tonya is raising her niece (12) and nephew (11) with one of her own on the way. She also loves to ride her motorcycle and go camping.

## Useful Resources

- ◆ [Massage Therapy Website](#)
- ◆ [American Massage Therapy Association \(AMTA\)](#)
- ◆ [AMTA – Washington Chapter](#)
- ◆ [Associated Bodywork and Massage Professionals](#)
- ◆ [Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards](#)
- ◆ [National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork](#)
- ◆ [National Human Trafficking Hotline](#)
- ◆ [Washington State Massage Therapy Association](#)