

OKLAHOMA STATE BOARD OF COSMETOLOGY AND BARBERING

ADVISORY BOARD ON MASSAGE THERAPY
REGULAR BOARD MEETING AGENDA
October 19, 2023
10:00 a.m.
2401 N.W. 23rd, Suite 84
Testing Center
Oklahoma City, OK 73107
Laura Grisso-Eyster, Chair – Presiding

1. Call to order, roll call, and determination of quorum

Chair Grisso-Eyster called the meeting to order. A quorum was established with roll call. The following members were present.

Laura Eyster, Chair
Kelli Lene, Vice Chair
Marilyn Ihloff
Pam Matherly
Bob Rowe

Note: Marilyn Ihloff arrived at 10:06

2. This regularly-scheduled meeting of the Oklahoma Advisory Board on Massage Therapy (“Board”) has been convened in accordance with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act.

Chair Eyster verified that agenda had been properly posted and agenda-ized.

Board Staff

Malena Curtsinger, Executive Director
John Funderburk, Principal Assistant
Janelle Hastings, Administrative Assistant

Board’s Legal Advisor

Kylie Cooper

Visitors

Mary Elizabeth Leblanc
Chuthamani Phimrat-Jackson
Astrud Ray-Kubier
Jennifer Conkwright
Karen Harr

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- Possible discussion, revision, and vote to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2023, Board meeting.
A motion was made by Ms. Matherly and seconded by Ms. Lene to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2023, Board meeting.

Voting: Kelli Lene, yes; Marilyn Ihloff, yes; Pam Matherly, yes. Motion passed.

- Public comment – The Board allows for members of the public to comment on items of business before the Board and properly noticed in the posted agenda. Each speaker is limited to three (3) minutes. Cumulatively, public comment shall not exceed fifteen (15) minutes. Anyone wishing to speak may sign-up in advance of the meeting.

Mary Elizabeth Leblanc – Establishment authority would have an economic impact to the board. AMTA estimates between 3,000 and 8,000 massage therapists practicing but only 1,743 currently licensed the Board would not be able to afford the additional staff to accommodate establishment authority.

- Executive Director’s Report – Malena Curtsinger
Staffing and agency update

Agency is running smoother now that two new licensing coordinators were hired: Mimi and Liz. John has done a great job training new staff. Staff have worked a few Saturdays and agency is now around 60 days out for licensing when it was between 90 to 120 days. Lori Cutchin is no longer with the agency and position is currently being recruited. Met with OMES to get issues with online renewal resolved to reinstate since there is a delay with the new software, Thentia.

- Legislative update – Laura Grisso-Eyster

Cosmetology Board met on September 11th. Need to find legislators to sponsor the legislation. Bill request deadline is December 8th. The Cosmetology Board will meet on November 13th to review the Massage legislation.

- Discussion and possible action to request legislation based on legislative committee report.

Introducing same bill as last year. Will introduce two versions, one with establishment authority and another without establishment authority. Requesting staggered terms for Board members, reciprocity license for license as long as it is equal to or greater than our requirements.

A motion was made by Ms. Matherly and seconded by Mr. Rowe to submit legislation with changes to the Cosmetology Board

Voting: Kelli Lene, yes; Marilyn Ihloff, yes; Pam Matherly, yes. Motion passed.

- Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards, FSMTB, conference report – Laura Grisso-Eyster

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Joel Rogers attended this conference. Laura discussed with Joel the agency's current legislation and legislation the Board is seeking. Laura asked Joel to ask other State's what they have done and are doing about establishment licensure and examinations. Joel was able to make connections with several States that offer more than just the MBLEx exam so that the Board can research other options for examination. Currently there are about 40% of states that require Massage establishment licenses and majority of other States are seeking establishment licensure.

9. Discussion and possible action to approve or disapprove the establishment of regularly-scheduled ABMT meetings in 2023, every other month on the third Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m.

February 15th
April 18th
June 20th
August 15th
October 17th
December 19th

Tabled until December meeting due to typo in agenda.

10. New business which could not have been reasonably foreseen prior to posting of meeting agenda, per 25 O.S. § 311(A)(10)

No new business

11. Board adjournment
10:40AM

Note: The Board may, at its discretion, discuss, vote to approve, vote to disapprove, vote to table, change the sequence of any agenda item, or vote to strike or not discuss any agenda item. Any conflicts of interest must be disclosed prior to discussion, and the conflicted Board member must recuse from all discussion and votes pertaining to that item.