



PENNSYLVANIA STATE BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY



Secretary Carol Aichele

www.dos.state.pa.us

July 2014

Disciplinary Actions

Greetings from the State Board of Massage Therapy

The primary responsibility of the Board is to protect the public. The Board carries out this responsibility by screening applicants for licenses, promulgating regulations, and imposing discipline on licensees who violate the applicable laws and regulations related to the practice of massage therapy.

This newsletter enables us to pass along information to you, the licensed professional. It contains valuable information, however we need your help to get the word out. We request that you assist us in disseminating this information by communicating to other Massage professionals that you have received this newsletter and that the information within has proved useful. Remind them if they have not received this newsletter to contact the State Board of Massage Therapy and update their contact information.

We have approximately 9,050 licensed Massage Therapists in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, yet we still get complaints concerning violations of the rules and regulations, and questions concerning the state laws concerning our profession, and general how-to's. The information is available on our website, including massage therapy law, regulations, current publications and notices.

The year 2015 is a renewal year for Massage Therapists in the Commonwealth. Approximately 90 days before the expiration date of your license, notification of the impending renewal should arrive. If it does not, it is still your responsibility to renew in a timely fashion. You are encouraged to take

advantage of the on-line renewal option. The process is self-explanatory and quite efficient. Remember, the renewal fee is \$75.00, you must have 24 continuing education hours including ethics during the immediately preceding two years and a current certification in CPR.

The Board would like to welcome our new Board Members, Thomas Kramer, Tammy Gillette and Jamie Smith. As I begin a new year as chairperson of the Board I want to again express what an honor it is to be a part of this Board. How unique each one of the board members is with respect to the knowledge that they bring to each session, and their dedication to serving the citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Remember that this is your professional license. If you are aware that another licensee is engaging in activities which do not appear to be appropriate for a licensed Massage Therapist, or that massage therapy is being practiced without a license, there is a process to report misconduct, inappropriate behavior, illegal activity, etc. on the PA Department of State's website. If you need assistance, please post the question and someone will get back to you. We need each other to make a difference. Prostitution and human trafficking should not use massage therapy as a place to hide.

Thank you for believing in Massage Therapy,

Respectfully

Becky D. Lesik LMT, Chairperson

State Board of Massage Therapy

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2014 FSMTB Standards Setting Meeting

Phoenix, Ariz.

Times have changed!

When I began my career as a massage therapist in 1986, I worked in central Pennsylvania and there were only a handful of massage therapists in the area. At the time, massage was considered a luxury, if it was considered at all. When asked my profession the response was usually, "Oh" and "Did you have to go to school for that"? Times have changed and so has the importance of our profession.

As a practitioner, it is an exciting time to be a massage therapist. The acceptance of massage as a viable modality addressing health and wellness issues is opening doors for practitioners in hospitals, nursing homes, chiropractic offices, rehabs, spas, comprehensive wellness centers, and physician offices to name a few.

This became even more apparent to me, when I had the honor of participating in the Federation of State Massage Therapy Board's (FSMTB) MBLEx Standard Setting Meeting in Phoenix, Ariz. Pennsylvania is one of 41 states that use the MBLEx exam to test the entry level knowledge of future massage therapists, thus ensuring, safe, and competent therapists enter the profession.

FSMTB is a not for profit corporation whose membership is made up of massage therapy regulatory boards in the United States. The mission of FSMTB is to provide programs and services that assist its member boards in public protection through regulation of the profession

of massage therapy. The MBLEx is one such program and FSMTB has an obligation to ensure the integrity of the MBLEx and of the licensure process undertaken by massage therapy licensure applicants. This is essential to the profession and the public served.

Our task at this meeting was to work with the Federation's psychometricians and test development staff to review and determine the examination standard that licensure applicants must meet; thus ensuring that the practice of massage and bodywork therapy is provided to the public safely and competently. There were about 25 massage therapists and subject matter experts from around the country in attendance with an impressive caliber of professionalism and educational knowledge.

Over a two day period, we were guided step by step through a process that began with an initial overview, presentation of the body of work, group discussion, consensus, evaluation, more discussion, and then a final agreed upon outcome. It was a seamless process expertly guided by the very competent and clear psychometricians. I've never participated in a standard setting process and I came away from the meeting inspired, impressed and eager to be involved in what I see as an exciting future for our profession.

Everyone I met was passionate about massage therapy and committed to raising the standards of the profession. I believe every person can make a difference and if every massage therapist reading this newsletter embodies the same passion and commitment, I saw evidenced at this meeting, our profession can continue to move forward toward the respect and recognition of the importance of massage as a viable health care modality.

In so, joining forces with other professions to enhance the health and well-being of the public.

The professionalism of Massage Therapy continues to deepen and broaden with the launching of (ELAP), The Entry-Level Analysis Project, a research project initiated by the Coalition of National Massage Therapy Organizations in March 2012.

The Coalition was comprised of:

- ❖ Alliance for Massage Therapy Education
- ❖ American Massage Therapy Association
- ❖ Associated Bodywork & Massage Professionals
- ❖ Commission on Massage Therapy Accreditation
- ❖ Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards
- ❖ Massage Therapy Foundation
- ❖ National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage & Bodywork

The project goals were to define knowledge and skill components of entry-level education and recommend the minimum number of hours, schools should teach to prepare graduates for safe and competent practice in the massage profession. Completed in December of 2013 and released in February of 2014, the project published two documents, which describes ELAP work group findings and recommendations. You can read the Coalition Statement in response to the project and review *The Core: Entry-Level Analysis Project Report* (Final Report) and *The Core: Entry-Level Massage Education Blueprint* (the

Blueprint) available to download at www.elapmassage.org. Alternately, you can watch informational webinars about the project.

These are only two of many professional and educational initiatives and projects active in our field. I encourage you to become involved in your professional organizations, continually strive to deepen your knowledge base, and always maintain your professional ethics. It's an exciting time to be a massage therapist; embrace the change!

New Board member

Camille Baughman has a B.S. in Education from Shippensburg University, and an MA in Applied Healing Arts from the Maryland University, formerly Tai Sophia Institute. She is a licensed Massage Therapist trained at the Florida School of Massage, an educator and wellness consultant since 1986. Camille has a Massage Therapy practice in Carlisle with seven massage therapists, and maintains her own hands-on client base. She is on staff at Harrisburg Area Community College Massage Therapy Program and the Lancaster School of Massage; where she teaches ethics and communication skills to future Massage Therapists. She also offers CEU classes in ethics, communication, and awareness. She was a Pennsylvania American Massage Therapy Association board member, House of Delegates elected delegate for the National American Massage Therapy Association (multiple years), and consultant for the development of Harrisburg Area Community College's Massage Therapy Program. She is the past recipient of the Pennsylvania state AMTA 2003 Distinguished Service Award, and the 2005 and 2009 Humanitarian Award.

New Commissioner

On November 8, 2013, Governor Corbett nominated Travis Gery to be the Commissioner of Professional and Occupational Affairs and appointed him Acting Commissioner. He was unanimously confirmed by the Senate on January 28, 2014. As Commissioner, he carries out the statutory duties set forth in the Administrative Code and is responsible for directing the staff of the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs charged with providing administrative support and services to the 29 Licensing Boards and Commissions within the Bureau's jurisdiction. He also serves as a full, voting member on 27 of the Boards.

Immediately prior to assuming the duties and responsibilities of Commissioner, Travis served as Executive Deputy Chief Counsel to the Department of State. In that role he provided legal advice to the Commissioner on all matters relating to the 29 Boards and Commissions administered by the Bureau. He was also the head of the Bureau's Legal Office comprised of 38 attorneys assigned to the Prosecution Division, 15 attorneys assigned to the Counsel Division and 41 support staff. As such, he supervised and directed the investigations and prosecutions of licensees for violations of the applicable practice acts and regulations and the provision of legal advice and counsel to the 29 Boards and Commissions.

Prior to his appointment as Executive Deputy Chief Counsel, Travis was a member of a Philadelphia law firm where he litigated civil matters in State and Federal courts. He also has significant experience as a criminal prosecutor at Federal, State and County level. He was an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of West Virginia,

a Pennsylvania Deputy Attorney General, an Assistant District Attorney in Cumberland County, PA, rising to the position of Chief Deputy District Attorney, and an Assistant District Attorney in Dauphin County.

From 1990 to 1993, while on active duty in the United States Navy, Judge Advocate General's Corps, he served as Senior Trial Counsel, Senior Defense Counsel, and Head of Civil Law at the Naval Legal Service Office, New London, CT. He is currently a Commander in the United States Navy Reserve. He has been awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal twice, the Navy Commendation Medal twice, and the Meritorious Service Medal twice. He has also been awarded the Naval War College Diploma in National Security and Strategy.

Travis received his J.D. from Widener University School of Law in 1989, graduating with honors. He received his B.A. from Dickinson College in 1986.

He lives in Pottstown, PA with his wife and four children. He has no free time because when not at the office he and his wife are always either at, going to or coming from some gymnastics arena, ball field or other sporting event.

Continuing education waiver requests for 2014 graduates

Although the Board believes that all massage therapists can benefit from continuing education, those massage therapy licensees who graduated from massage therapy school in 2014 are permitted to apply for a waiver of the continuing education requirement for their licensure renewal in January 2015. Upon receipt of notification that the license is due to be renewed, a licensee who graduated in 2014 may request a waiver of all or part of the

continuing education requirement by submitting in writing, a signed/dated letter to the Board requesting this waiver, along with proof that the licensee graduated in 2014. Those licensees requesting a waiver should wait until they receive an approval from the Board before renewing their license.

Licensees who graduated prior to 2014 will have to meet the continuing education requirement as a condition of licensure renewal in 2015.

A request for waiver of the continuing education requirement should be sent to The State Board of Massage Therapy, PO Box 2649, Harrisburg, PA, 17105.