

**GEORGIA BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
January 16, 2008**

The Georgia Board of Massage Therapy Board Conference Call meeting was held on January 16, 2008, 01:00 p.m., Section 310, The Professional Licensing Boards Division offices, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia.

The following members were present:

Jane H. Johnson, Chairman
Kathy V. Lescak, Vice Chairman
Melony Phillips, Cognizant
Steve Earles

Absent:

Marlene Gaskill, Consumer Member

Administrative Staff Present:

Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director
Serena Gadson, Application Specialist II
Janet Jackson, Assistant Attorney General

Absent:

Amanda Allen, Board Secretary

Ms. Johnson established that a quorum of the Board was present and called the Board meeting to order at 01:01 p.m.

Agenda: Ms Phillips moved, Ms. Lescak seconded, and the Board voted to approve the agenda with late agenda items added as presented. None opposed, Motion carried.

Mr. Earles moved and Ms. Lescak seconded, and the Board voted to enter into Executive Session in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 43-1-2(k) (1) (2) to receive and review information and recommendations pertaining to Applications, Education Programs and Assistant Attorney General's Reports. Voting in favor of the motion were those present who included Board members Phillips, Earles, Lescak, and Johnson. The Board concluded Executive Session in order to vote on these matters and to continue with the public session.

Janet Jackson, Assistant Attorney General:

Thomas L. Jones – Public Consent Agreement for Licensure:

Ms. Lescak moved, Mr. Earles seconded and the Board voted to accept the faxed copy of the consent agreement and to only issue the license upon receipt by the Board's Executive Director of the original signed, notarized form, and then, only upon legal docketing of said form. None opposed, motion carried.

Additional Business Discussed with Ms. Jackson:

Board Chair, Ms. Johnson, requested AAG Jackson provide the Board with advice on the Board's practice act/statute regarding the following:

1. Employment of unlicensed individuals by business entities:

Comments: The Board only licenses individuals, not business entities. Such practice by business entities may constitute a misdemeanor. A suggestion may be for the Board to consider submission of any such complaints received regarding a business entity be sent to the local municipality and/or the Cosmetology Board if appropriate.

2. Publication of the “Yellow Book” and listing/placement of licensed Massage Therapists:

Comments: The Board has no jurisdiction over the “Yellow Book” publication. A suggestion may be for the Board to consider the development of a policy or a statement regarding any proposed misprints or inappropriate listings in such publications. Possibly for placement on the Board’s web page and/or as a “Press Release”

Additional Business Discussion – Proposed repeal/amendment to O.C.G.A. § 43-24A-12 and 13:

The Board Chair, Ms. Johnson, requested further discussion and the reconsideration of the Board’s previous discussions during their December 2007 meeting regarding proposed changes to the statute. Ms. Johnson explained that the Board has a narrow window for the legislation to be able to act on their proposed changes and she wants the Board to be unanimous in their decision.

Following discussion, the Board decided that the Chair and Executive Director should follow up with the Director of Legislative Affairs, Office of Secretary of State with the proposed repeal of O.C.G.A. § 43-24A-12 and amendments to O.C.G.A. § 43-24A-13 as decided upon. Specifically, the Board requests the removal of the Reciprocity subchapter, O.C.G.A. § 43-24A-12, reserving the subchapter number for later use. In addition, the removal of sub paragraph (4)(B) in O.C.G.A. § 43-24A-13 and the striking of the word “or” in (4)(A) in O.C.G.A. § 43-24A-13.

Ms. Phillips moved, Mr. Earles seconded and the Board voted to proceed as recommended above on the proposed statute repeal and amendment. None opposed, motion carried.

Education Representative Board Members Report:

Recommendation that the following massage therapy education programs be approved pending the receipt of the discussed requested additional information:

1. Emerald Coast Massage School, Florida
2. Scherer Institute of Natural Healing, New Mexico

Recommendation that the following massage therapy education program be approved pending the confirmation/clarification by the administrative staff of information regarding faculty members and clinical instructors:

3. International School of Skin and Nails, Georgia

Recommendation that the following massage therapy education programs be approved:

1. North Georgia Technical College, Georgia
2. Southern Union States Community College, Alabama

Mr. Earles moved, Ms. Gaskill seconded and the Board voted to approve the recommendations of the Educational Representative as presented above on the reviewed massage therapy educational programs. None opposed, motion carried.

Applications:

Ms. Gadson provided the Board with an overview of the process and procedures the Board members need to follow when reviewing application files for approval or denial. The status of “Pending” and “Approved Pending” were explained in an attempt to clarify what the designations mean to the Application Specialist reviewing the files.

In addition, Ms. Gadson presented the following applicants files for discussion:

POST JULY '07 APPLICATIONS PRESENTED TO BOARD:

The applications presented to Board today were applications needing additional review and discussion of the previous decisions made during the applications review in the December 13, 2007 meeting. The Board made the following corrections:

Obtained by Endorsement:

L.D.W. – Approved Pending

Obtained by Application:

N.L.R.– Pending

Thomas, Lisa R. – Approved

Tiller, Rachel L. – Approved

Tillman, Lydia – Approved

C.T. – Pending

Welfeld, James E. – Approved

I.W. – Approved Pending

R.W.– Approved Pending

M.B.Y. – Approved Pending

G.J.Z. – Approved Pending

There being no additional business to discuss, Ms. Phillips moved, Ms. Lescak seconded, and the Board voted to adjourn today’s conference call meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Minutes recorded by: Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director
Serena Gadson, Applications Specialist II

Minutes reviewed and edited by: Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director

Jane H. Johnson, Chair
Georgia State Board of Massage Therapy

Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director
Professional Licensing Boards Division

These minutes were approved and signed on: _____