

**GEORGIA BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
February 21, 2008**

The Georgia Board of Massage Therapy Committee Board meeting was held on Thursday, February 21, 2008 11:00 a.m., at The Professional Licensing Boards Division offices located at 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, App. Specialist II
Amanda Allen, Board Secretary
Pam Candler, Application Specialist
Yvonne LeSane, Application Specialist

Absent:

Attorney General's Office

Janet Jackson, AAG (via video-conference)

The Board posted today's meeting as a "Committee" meeting due to potential conflicts of Board members and the possibility of not having a quorum.

Ms. Johnson called the Committee Board meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. for the review of pending applications.

Agenda:

Ms. Phillips moved, Ms. Lescak seconded, and the Board voted to approve the agenda. None opposed, motion carried.

Announcements:

Ms. Johnson announced that Ms. Marlene Gaskill, Consumer Member would not be able to attend today's meeting due to prior obligations.

Ms. Lescak moved and Ms. Phillips 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 pertaining to Applications. 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.

Applications:

Review of all “pending” applications for licensure. Recommendations will be voted on during the February 22, 2008 scheduled Board meeting.

Additional Business:

Following the review of applications during today’s closed committee meeting, the Board discussed the possibility of rescheduling the April 18, 2008 Board meeting to April 11, 2008. Vote to be taken during the February 22, 2008 meeting.

Mr. Earles moved, Ms. Phillips seconded, and the Board voted to adjourn today’s committee meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Minutes recorded by:

Amanda Allen, Board Secretary

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: _____

GEORGIA BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
February 22, 2008

The Georgia Board of Massage Therapy board meeting was held on February 22, 2008 09:00 a.m., at The Professional Licensing Boards Division offices located at 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, App. Specialist II
Amanda Allen, Board Secretary
Pam Candler, Application Specialist
Yvonne LeSane, Application Specialist

Absent:

Attorney General's Office

Janet Jackson, AAG

Guest Attendees:

Rebecca Corbet, Ritz Carlton
Amy Knighton, Ritz Carlton
Wendy Norton, Ritz Carlton
Dueley Sayward, Ritz Carlton
Michael T. Flinn, Attorney at Law
Dr. Penny Honeycutt
Ross Miller

Ms. Johnson established that a quorum of the Board was present and called the Board meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Agenda:

Ms Lescak moved, Ms. Phillips seconded, and the Board voted to approve the agenda with late items added. None opposed, motion carried.

Announcements:

No announcements

Public Rules Hearing: RULE 345-4-.04(4)(b & c), INACTIVE STATUS, AND RULE 345-4-.05(c & d), REINSTATEMENT OF A LICENSE:

Mr. Zimmerman provided an overview of the “rules process” to the guests in attendance.

The Board voted that the formulation and adoption of these rules do not impose excessive regulatory cost on any licensee and any cost to comply with the proposed rules cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the objectives of the applicable laws.

The Board also voted that it is not legal or feasible to meet the objectives of the applicable laws to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses as listed in O.C.G.A. §50-13-4(3) (A) (B) (C) (D). The formulation and adoption of these rules will impact every licensee in the same manner and each licensee is independently licensed, owned and operated in the field of Massage Therapy.

SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE GEORGIA BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY RULES CHAPTER 345-4: LICENSE RENEWAL, CONTINUING EDUCATION, INACTIVE STATUS AND REINSTATEMENT OF LICENSE; RULE 345-4-.04(4)(b & c), INACTIVE STATUS AND RULE 345-4-.05(3)(c & d), REINSTATEMENT OF A LICENSE.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the proposed amendments is to correct the inconsistencies in the current rule language regarding continuing education hour requirements for the inactive status and reinstatement of a license, and professional references requirements.

MAIN FEATURES: The main features of the proposed amendments are to provide clear and consistent guidelines for the required Continuing Education hour requirements for requests for a license to be placed in Inactive Status and/or an application for the reinstatement of an inactive license. The rules will be corrected to require individuals to obtain a total of twenty-four (24) continuing education hours within one year of the date of the request for reinstatement of an inactive or lapsed license to practice massage therapy in the state of Georgia. In addition, the proposed amendments will add “healthcare” to the professional references rule in order to allow more flexibility in who may provide a professional reference for an applicant.

THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE GEORGIA BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY RULES, CHAPTER 345-4 LICENSE RENEWAL, CONTINUING EDUCATION, INACTIVE STATUS AND REINSTATEMENT OF LICENSE; RULE 345-4-.04(4)(b & c), INACTIVE STATUS AND RULE 345-4-.05(3)(c & d), REINSTATEMENT OF A LICENSE.

NOTE: Underlined text is proposed to be added; lined through text is proposed to be deleted.

345-4-.04 Inactive Status. Amended.

(1) Licensees may request in writing to the Board that their active license to practice as a massage therapist in Georgia be placed on inactive status.

(2) An individual whose license status is inactive shall not practice as a massage therapist within the state of Georgia.

(3) An individual whose license is under any sanction may not transfer to inactive status while the sanctions are in effect.

(4) Licensees shall request in writing to the Board for the reinstatement of their massage therapy license. The following requirements must be met:

(a) submission of an application provided by the Board including any applicable fee(s);

(b) submission of evidence of ~~twelve (12)~~ twenty-four (24) hours of Board approved continuing education ~~for each year or portion of a year in which their license has been inactive.~~ within one (1) year of the date of the reinstatement application.

~~(c) These hours must be completed during the one (1) year period preceding the date of application for reinstatement of the license;~~

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-3, 43-1-7, 43-1-19, 43-1-22, 43-1-24, 43-1-25, 43-24A-3, 43-24A-7, 43-24A-8, 43-24A-10, 43-24A-14, 43-24A-17 and 43-24A-20

345-4-.05 Reinstatement of a License. Amended.

(1) Reinstatement of an expired or lapsed license is within the discretion of the Board.

(2) An applicant for reinstatement of a lapsed license must submit a completed application provided by the board, payment of the required fee and evidence satisfactory to the Board that the applicant:

(a) is at least 18 years of age; and

(b) has a high school diploma, GED, or recognized equivalent; and

(c) is a citizen of the United States or a permanent resident of the United States, and

(3) in addition, the following:

(a) photograph of the applicant. Only a passport type (3"X 3") photo taken within the past twelve months will be accepted; and

(b) authorization to perform a criminal background check; and

(c) submission of evidence of ~~twelve (12)~~ twenty-four (24) hours of Board approved continuing education ~~for each year or portion of a year in which their license has been in expired or lapsed status. These hours must be completed during the one (1) year period preceding the date of application for reinstatement of the license~~ within one (1) year of the date of the reinstatement application; and

(d) three (3) references: Two (2) professional references from licensed healthcare professionals or instructors from a massage therapy program, and, one (1) personal reference (excluding immediate family). All references must have known the applicant for two (2) years; however, for applicants who have graduated from a massage therapy program within one (1) year of the date of their application, the licensed professional references or instructors must have known the applicant for only a minimum of six (6) months; and

(e) **one** of the following:

1. verification of current licensure, in good standing, from another jurisdiction, state, territory of the United States, or foreign country submitted directly to the Board from the issuing state regulatory and/or licensing board ; **or**

2. verification of active practice as a massage therapist by submitting documentation of active practice within the five (5) years immediately preceding the date of the reinstatement application on a form provided by or approved by the Board.

(f) The Board may impose any limits, sanctions, restrictions or other disciplinary actions as a condition of reinstatement it deems necessary.

(g) Additional verification of any requirements or credentials as the Board may deem necessary.

Authority: O.G.C.A. §§ 43-1-3, 43-1-7, 43-1-19, 43-1-22, 43-1-24, 43-1-25, 43-24A-3, 43-24A-7, 43-24A-8, 43-24A-10, 43-24A-14, 43-24A-17 and 43-24A-20

Chair asked if the guests in attendance had any questions or comments regarding the proposed amendments as presented. There were neither questions nor discussion on the proposed rule amendments by the guest attendees.

Ms. Lescak moved, Mr. Earles seconded, and the Board voted to adopt the proposed rule amendments as posted to Rule 345-4.04 and 345-4.05 License Renewal, Continuing Education, Inactive Status, and Reinstatement of License. None opposed, motion carried.

Minutes:

Mr. Earles moved, Ms. Phillips seconded, and the Board voted to approve the October 18, 2007, November 01, 2007, November 02, 2007, November 15, 2007, and November 19, 2007 Minutes with corrections. None opposed, motion carried.

Correspondence:

Correspondence received between Board meetings were reviewed, discussed and responses provided to the following individuals by the Administrative Staff:

- Ashley White, Georgia Academy of Massage, LLC:
- Mary Peacock
- Savannah Technical College:
- Georgia State Board of Occupational Therapy
- Jennifer Booker:

Ms. Phillips moved, Ms. Lescak seconded and the Board voted to allow the Administrative Staff to respond to all correspondence presented to the Board as directed. None opposed, motion carried.

Discussion: House Bill 1055:

The Board initiated language, presented to the legislature on behalf of the Board by the SOS Director of Legislative Affairs, for HB1055 to repeal **O.C.G.A.43-24A-12 License by Reciprocity** (sub-chapter number to be “reserved” for future use) and to amend specific sub-chapter language in **O.C.G.A.43-24A-13 License by Endorsement**. For discussion, if the proposed bill is passed, is it retroactive back to the effective date of the statute (July 2006)? Consensus: No, if the bill passes, it becomes effective either the date

specified or the start of the next state fiscal year (July 1, 2008). Until such time, the statute as written is in effect.

SOS Legal Section Report to Board:

The legal staff of the Professional Licensing Board's division provided the Board with an overview of the Boards authority under their Practice Act and General Provisions statute with regard to disciplinary actions and Cease and Desist Orders.

Board Policy- Continuing Education hours:

Discussion regarding a specific "start" date for the Board to accept CE hours for this initial biennium renewal period; expiration date October 31, 2008. The Board desires the CE hours for this initial, renewal period be obtained within the two years prior to the 2008 renewal period in order that the hours are current. CE hours for all future renewals shall be obtained within the two year active period prior to the October 31, every even year renewal date of the license.

Ms. Lescak moved, Mr. Earles seconded and the Board voted to approve the following policy with regard to a specific "date range" or time line for individuals to have obtained the required CE hours for the initial, renewal period only. None opposed, motion carried to adopt the following policy:

BOARD POLICY:

For the initial, renewal period of October 31, 2008 only, the Board will accept Continuing Education hours obtained on or after July 1, 2006 and before October 31, 2008.

Board Policy- Unlicensed Practice:

The Board entered discussion regarding receipt of applications indicating unlicensed practice by individuals. The Board determined that any applications received on or after March 1, 2008 that indicate possible unlicensed practice will be pursued and disciplined to the full extent the Board is allowed under their practice act and the general provisions statute if proven.

Ms. Lescak moved, Ms. Phillips seconded, and the Board voted to approve the following policy with regard to applicants who indicate they are employed and compensated for massage therapy services but who are not licensed:

BOARD POLICY:

Applications received indicating possible unlicensed practice on or after March 1, 2008 will be pursued, investigated and disciplined to the full extent of the law as the Board is allowed under the Massage Therapy Practice Act and the General Provisions statute governing all boards.

Executive Director's Report:

1. Mr. Zimmerman updated the Board with regard to the new administrative complaint and Cease & Desist Orders processing procedures set in place by the Office of Inspector General.
2. Mr. Zimmerman informed the Board that he had contacted Mr. Bill Crews, Non-Post Secondary Commission to inquire about the status of the Board's request with regard to their annual inspections of post secondary educational programs and the incorporation of the Board's minimum, baseline requirements for massage therapy education programs. NPEC is currently waiting on additional information from their counsel representative and the NPEC Board's acceptance of the proposal. Mr. Zimmerman informed the Board that he would continue to update them in this matter.
3. Ms. Janet Jackson, AAG recommended to the Board that the Board continue to work with the Investigations Division and to request a formal "training session" between their department and the Board so that they may adequately train an investigator on the proper techniques used by a Massage Therapist during a session. Mr. Zimmerman stated that he would continue to work with the Investigations Division on scheduling a training session with their department.
4. Mr. Zimmerman stated he would work with Ms. Jane Johnson on drafting a statement that will be placed on the Massage Therapy website regarding the "Yellow Book." listing/placement of licensed Georgia MT's under an incorrect heading of "Non-Therapeutic" Massage Therapists. Ms. Johnson stated she would continue to work with the publisher on remedying this unfortunate situation for Georgia licensees.
5. The proposed 100% Continuing Education Audit was tabled until future meetings due to time constraints this meeting date.

Ms. Phillips moved, Mr. Earles, seconded and the Board voted to accept the Executive Director's report as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Ms. Phillips moved and Mr. Earles seconded, and the Board voted to enter into Executive Session in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 43-1-2(k) (1) (2), O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2 (1) and O.C.G.A. § 43-1-2 (k)(4) to receive and review information pertaining to Applications, receive a requested Board appearance by a denied applicant for licensure, to receive the Attorney General's Report and Cognizant Member's Report. 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.

Applications:

Grandfather Applicants – (June 30, 2007)

Ms. Phillips moved, and Ms. Lescak seconded, and the Board voted to take the following action on applications for licensure by official transcripts: None opposed, motion carried.

Applications: A-I (Pamela Candler, Applications Specialist)

Akers, Andrea	Approved
Atkison, Abigail	Approved
Ayers, Brent Alan	Approved
Black, Sandy	Approved
S.M.B.	Denied
N.B.	Pending
Carroll, Davey	Approved
R.C.	Approved Pending
Deuley, Sayward	Approved
Dobbs, Peggy	Approved
Foster, Jocelyn	Approved
Griffin, Robert W.	Approved

Applications: J-Q (Serena Gadson, Applications Specialist)

Jones, Barbara J.	Approved
Jones, Stephanie M.	Approved
Jones, Vera	Approved
Kemp, Stephanie	Approved
Lamkin, Joanne C.	Approved
G.C.L.	Denied
Mack, Misha M.	Approved
Mitchell, Eric A.	Approved
Morgan, Frederick L.	Approved
Morrison, Holly A.	Approved
Peavy, Chong O.	Approved
Perdomo, Patricia M.	Approved
Petermann, Sheila R.	Approved
Proctor, Jennifer	Approved

Applications: R-Z (Yvonne LeSane, Applications Specialist)

Reeves, Katherine	Approved
R.R.	Pending
G.R.	Pending
Robinson, Nancy Lee	Approved
Rothwell, Sondra	Approved
Sims, Joan	Approved
Summers, Sherry	Approved
Terrell, Janet	Approved
Thomas, Neadra	Approved
Warner, Victoria	Approved
D.W.	Approved Pending
Wetzel, Kelsey	Approved
Wild, Louis	Approved

Ms. Phillips moved, and Ms. Lescak seconded, and the Board voted to take the following action on applications for licensure by membership with professional massage therapy association: None opposed, motion carried.

Applications: R-Z (Yvonne LeSane, Applications Specialist)

Reaver, Natasha Approved

Ms. Phillips moved ,and Ms. Lescak seconded, and the Board voted to take the following action on applications for licensure by National Board Certification (NCETMB/NCBMTB): None opposed, motion carried.

Applications: A-I (Pamela Candler, Applications Specialist)

Delgado, Luz Approved

Applications: J-Q (Serena Gadson, Applications Specialist)

Norton, Wallenda A. Approved

Applications: R-Z (Yvonne LeSane, Applications Specialist)

Trenchel, Ashley Approved
Upham, Melissa Approved
Walden, Cynthia Approved

Ms. Phillips moved, and Ms. Lescak seconded, and the Board voted to take the following action on applications for licensure by local government business license/tax forms: None opposed, motion carried.

Applications: A-I (Pamela Candler, Applications Specialist)

W.B. Pending
Chapman, Antoinette Approved
R.F. Approved Pending
S.G. Denied
Isaac, Andrea Leigh Approved

Applications: J-Q (Serena Gadson, Applications Specialist)

H.L.L. Denied
E.K.M. Denied

Applications: R-Z (Yvonne LeSane, Applications Specialist)

C.R. Pending
L.S. Denied
T.S. Approved
B.W. Denied
J.W. Denied

Ms. Phillips moved, and Ms. Lescak, seconded and the Board voted to take the following action on applications for licensure by state licensure in another state or jurisdiction: None opposed, motion carried.

Applications: A-I (Pamela Candler, Applications Specialist)

Adkins, Denise J.	Approved
Flanagan, William	Approved

Applications: R-Z (Yvonne LeSane, Applications Specialist)

C.R.	Approved Pending
U.T.	Pending

Applications:

Non-Grandfathered Applicants – Post July 1, 2007

Ms. Phillips moved, and Ms. Lescak seconded, and the Board voted to take the following action on non-grandfathering applications for licensure: None opposed, motion carried.

Licensure by Application:

Applications – A-I (Pamela Candler, Applications Specialist)

Beshears, Amanda	Approved
Bullock, Temple E.	Approved
Y.C.	Petition for Waiver or Variance Denied
J.S.C.	Approved Pending
R.G.C.	Pending
A.C.C.	Pending
J.L.C.	Approved Pending
K.P.C.	Pending
J.F.	Approved Pending
K.A.G.	Approved Pending
R.J.G.	Approved Pending
S.M.G.	Approved Pending
S.J.G.	Denied
J.S.H.	Denied
A.H.	Approved Pending
T.H.	Approved Pending
R.K.H.	Approved Pending
Hunter, Marie	Approved

Applications – J-Q (Serena Gadson, Applications Specialist)

T.J.	Approved Pending
K.S.L.	Approved Pending
B.G.O.	Pending

Applications – R-Z (Yvonne LeSane, Applications Specialist)

A.R.	Approved Pending
Smith, James	Approved
A.V.	Approved Pending

Licensure by Endorsement:

Applications – A-I (Pamela Candler, Applications Specialist)

Acker, Douglas	Approved
Caldwell, Marilyn G.	Approved
Cameron, Melanie	Approved
Evers, Jeremiah	Approved
Hayes, Amy E.	Approved
J.H.	Approved Pending

Applications – J-Q (Serena Gadson, Applications Specialist)

Keiger, Wendell V.	Approved
Lenington, Nannette M.	Approved
C.L.M.	Approved Pending
K.L.N.	Pending
C.R.P.	Approved Pending

Applications – R-Z (Yvonne LeSane, Applications Specialist)

Springer, Melynda	Approved
A.S.	Approved Pending
T.T.	Pending
J.W.	Approved Pending
Williams, Lisa	Approved
A.X.	Approved Pending

Licensure by Reciprocity:

Applications – A-I (Pamela Candler, Applications Specialist)

Baughman, Sandra Elizabeth	Approved
Baxter, Marie	Approved

Applications – J-Q (Serena Gadson, Applications Specialist)

Pulos, Kim-Angela	Approved
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Applications – R-Z (Yvonne LeSane, Applications Specialist)

B.S.	Approved Pending
K.S.	Denied
C.W.	Approved Pending
H.Y.	Pending

Application Status Update – Serena Gadson, Applications Specialist II:

Ms. Gadson presented the Board with a listing of all applications still pending for licensure issuance. The information provided included all applications that have been reviewed by the

Board that are still pending due to the applicants' having not submitted requested documents and/or verifications.

Ms. Gadson informed the Board that all applicants' with files pending over one (1) year will be notified in writing of the applications' expired status in accordance with Board policy. These individuals will be required to reapply with the current application, and under the current, post July 1, 2007 rules.

Licensure by Endorsement

The Board discussed the licensure process for "Endorsement Applicants" from states that require massage therapy licensure and whose licensure requirements meet or exceed the Georgia licensure requirements. Following discussion and review of the AMTA listing of the requirements for each of the other thirty seven (37) US states who require licensure to practice massage therapy, the Board developed the following listing of states individuals can endorse from into Georgia with a current, unencumbered license:

State	Apply By Method	Exam
Alabama	Endorsement	NCETMB
Arizona	Endorsement	NCETMB
Connecticut	Endorsement	NCETMB
**Delaware	Endorsement	NCETMB
District of Columbia	Endorsement	NCETMB
Florida	Endorsement	NCETMB
Illinois	Endorsement	NCETMB
Iowa	Endorsement	NCETMB, MBLE _x
Maine	Endorsement	NCETMB
Mississippi	Endorsement	NCETMB
Missouri	Endorsement	NCETMB
Nebraska	Endorsement	NCETMB
Nevada	Endorsement	NCETMB
North Carolina	Endorsement	NCETMB
North Dakota	Endorsement	NCETMB
Rhode Island	Endorsement	NCETMB
South Carolina	Endorsement	NCETMB, MBLE _x
South Dakota	Endorsement	NCETMB, MBLE _x
Tennessee	Endorsement	NCETMB
**Texas	Endorsement	NCETMB, MBLE _x
Utah	Endorsement	NCETMB, <u>and</u> Utah Massage Law and Rule Exam
Virginia	Endorsement	NCETMB
Washington	Endorsement	NCETMB, MBLE _x
West Virginia	Endorsement	NCETMB

**All applicants who applying from Delaware and Texas will be required to have 500 hours from an approved massage therapy program. Any applicant who applies with only 300 hours will

require Board review for approval. Both states may have applicants who only obtained 300 hours. An official transcript will be requested from applicants of these states.

<u>State</u>	<u>Application</u>	<u>Exam</u>
Hawaii	Application	State Exam
Massachusetts	Application	TBD-to be determined
New York	Application	State Exam
Ohio	Application	State Exam

Applicants applying from above listed states will be required to apply by Application only; will also require Board review for approval.

<u>State</u>	<u>Endorsement/Application</u>	<u>Exam</u>
Arkansas	End/Application	NCETMB, MBLEEx, State Exam
Maryland	End/Application	NCETMB, NCCAOM, State Exam
New Jersey	End/Application	NCETMB, diploma from state approved school
New Mexico	End/Application	NCETMB, State Exam
Wisconsin	End/Application	NCETMB, State Exam

Applicants from the above listed states who applies for Georgia licensure who were issued a license in that state by taking only the state exam will be required to apply by Application; will require Board review for approval.

<u>State</u>	<u>Endorsement/Application</u>	<u>Exam</u>
Kentucky	End/Application	NCETMB, or NCCA approved certifying exam
Louisiana	End/Application	NCETMB, or written and oral exam
New Hampshire	End/Application	NCETMB, Practical Exam
Oregon	End/Application	NCETMB, MBLEEx, Practical Exam

Applicants from the above listed states who apply and were licensed under certifying exam, practical exam, or by written and oral exam only in the above listed states will be required to apply by Application; will require Board review for approval.

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Board Policy – Administrative Issuance of Licenses by Endorsement:

Following discussion the Board voted on the above listing of states meeting or exceeding Georgia requirements for licensure and whose licensees may apply by endorsement for their Georgia license.

Ms. Phillips moved, and Ms. Lescak seconded, and the Board voted to approve the following policy with regard to administrative issuance of licenses through Endorsement for those applicants whose application is complete and does not require a Board review. None opposed, motion carried:

BOARD POLICY:

Applications by Endorsement from the above listed states who meet all the requirements for licensure by endorsement, have paid the fee and provided all supporting documents and verifications may be issued administratively and subsequently ratified between board meeting dates. In addition, any applicant whose criminal background check reveals arrests and/or convictions, whose application indicates/reports a prior arrest and/or conviction must be presented to the Board for final approval or possible disciplinary actions as deemed necessary by the Board.

Ms. Gadson informed the Board that the Application for Licensure would be updated.

Board Appearance:

(NOTE: The Board clarified for the applicant's attorney that today's appearance was not a formal hearing but an "appearance" before the Board by a denied applicant for licensure pursuant to the law – O.C.G.A.43-1-19(1)(a)(1) AND 43-1-19(j)).

C.H.; accompanied by Attorney, M.F. - Ms. Lescak moved, Ms. Phillips seconded and the Board voted to post the Petition for Waiver or Variance completed by the applicant for the mandatory fifteen (15) days requesting the Board to waive the document requirements listed in eligibility option number eight (8) and accept the affidavits provided. In addition, the Board is to conduct a conference call as soon as possible following the minimum required fifteen (15) day posting, for the Board to vote on the Petition. Three in favor; One opposed, motion carried.

A Conference Call will be scheduled for March 13, 2008 in order for the Board to vote on whether to accept the waiver/variance form.

Investigative Interview:

R.G. - Mr. Earles moved, Ms. Phillips seconded, and the Board voted to approve the application for licensure and issue license with a private letter of concern. None opposed, motion carried.

Assistant Attorney General's Report

Ms. Janet Jackson, Assistant Attorney General provided the Board with a status report which included information on any cases referred to her office for action, requests for advice and/or requests for authority for proposed rules

Mr. Earles moved, Ms. Lescak seconded, and the Board voted to approve the Assistant Attorney General's report as presented during executive session. None opposed, Motion carried.

Probation Report:

Fabio Fabian Eccardi- In compliance with all Board request.

Ms. Phillips moved, Ms. Lescak seconded, and the Board voted to accept the Probation Report as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Cognizant Report:

Ms. Phillips made her recommendations to the Board on the following complaint cases.

Complaint # 33323- Refer case to Investigations
Complaint # 33648- Refer case to Investigations
Complaint # 33327- Refer case to Investigations
Complaint # 33331- Refer case to Investigations
Complaint # 33332- Refer case to Investigations
Complaint # 33335- Refer case to Investigations

Ms. Lescak moved, Mr. Earles seconded, and the Board voted to accept the Cognizant recommendations as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Educational Advisor's Report

Ms. Phillips made her recommendations to the Board for the approval for recognition by the Board of the following Massage Therapy Educational Programs:

Advanced Career Training of Atlanta (both locations)
Alpha School of Massage, Jacksonville, FL.
Canadian College of Massage and Hydrotherapy, Toronto, ON.
Chattanooga Massage Institute, Hixson, TN
Emerald Coast Massage School, Mary Esther, FL.
Red Mountain Institute for the Healing Arts, Homewood, AL.
Swedish Institute, New York, NY.
School of Massage Arts, Nixa, MO.
Utah College of Massage, Salt Lake City, UT. (Main location only, 6 additional locations are still pending)

Ms. Phillips made her recommendations to the Board indicating that the following Massage Therapy educational programs currently do not meet the requirements set forth by the Board in Rule 345-8- Board Recognized Massage Therapy Educational Programs.

Alternatives for Health, Columbus, IN.
Excel Institute, Closter, NJ.

Mr. Earles moved, Ms. Lescak seconded, and the Board voted to accept the Educational Advisor's recommendations as presented above. None opposed, motion carried.

National Exam Discussion:

After an extensive discussion by the Board, Ms. Lescak moved, Ms. Phillips seconded, and the Board voted not to accept the American Medical Massage Association or the Martial Arts Academy, Inc. exam as a Board approved exams for licensure. The Board determined that both exams are not acceptable alternatives to NCBTMB or MBLEx exams. At this time, the Board decided to accept the NCB and MBLEx exam as the approved exams for licensure.

Additional Business Discussed:

Board Meeting Date: The Board requested the April meeting date be changed from the currently scheduled April 18, 2008 date to April 11, 2008.

Ms. Phillips moved, Mr. Earles seconded and the Board voted to change the scheduled meeting date from Friday, April 18, 2008 to Friday, April 11, 2008. None opposed, motion carried.

There being no additional business to discuss, Ms. Phillips moved, Mr. Earles seconded, and the Board voted to adjourn today's meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Minutes recorded by:

Amanda Allen, Board Secretary

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: _____