

**GEORGIA BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY  
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
November 16, 2012**

The Georgia Board of Massage Therapy board second day of meeting was held Friday, November 16, 2012, at The Professional Licensing Boards Division offices located at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia.

**The following members were present:**

Jane H. Johnson, Chair  
Kathy Lescak, Vice-Chair  
Jennifer C. Clay  
Denise Taylor  
Freddy Seagraves, Consumer Member

**Administrative Staff Present:**

Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director  
Stephanie Mason, Assistant Attorney General (Via Teleconference)

Ms. Johnson established that a quorum of the Board was present and called the Board Hearings to order at 9:27 a.m.

**Agenda: Ms. Lescak motioned, Mr. Seagraves seconded, and the Board voted to approve the agenda as presented. None opposed, motion carried.**

**Correspondence:** None Presented

**Chair Report:** Ms. Johnson presented the Board with a list of items she would like to see the Board review, discuss and over the next several months, meetings, begin to fine tune and develop processes and procedures not only to assist staff in their processing of applications quickly and efficiently, but to assist the individual applicants in applying for license and completing renewal requirements.

1. CPR – Should the Board accept as part of the “hands on” requirement for continuing education hours for renewals? Following discussion, the Board agreed on the following policy to be put into effect until the Board rules on Continuing education can be revised to include CPR:

**CPR Course/Certification Policy – Continuing Education Hours:**

CPR courses offered by the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross will be accepted by the Board and count toward the “Hands On” hours required up to a maximum of 4 hours. Certificates of completion and certification must be provided by the licensee as verification of the hours; there is no requirement the courses have a National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (NCBTMB) assigned provider number.

**Effective: 11-16-2012**

**Ms. Lescak motioned, Mr. Seagraves seconded and the Board voted to adopt the above policy effective immediately. None opposed, motion carried.**

2. Clarification of the Boards expectation/acceptance of what constitutes ‘Hands On’ CE Hours – still confusion among both vendors and licensees. In addition, additional language in rules regarding ethics hours, and hours on Georgia laws and rules is to be considered. Ms. Johnson agreed to continue to research this and will bring additional information to future meetings.
3. Discussion on accepting continuing education hours from providers other than just those who have a current National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (NCBTMB). The Board requested time to review the recent NCBTMB correspondence regarding CE’s; this will be an ongoing discussion item.
4. Florida Massage Therapy Licensees – Mass suspensions: Mr. Zimmerman to review the listing of individuals whose Florida licenses were suspended in this emergency suspension by the state due to fraudulent transcripts being obtained from one school (employee) to confirm Georgia licensure; files to be reviewed for transcripts.
5. Board Website: Ms. Johnson relayed concerns over webpage content; making the page and links offer good, easily navigated content; removal of old rules long adopted. Mr. Zimmerman explained the websites were in the process of revisions by the Secretary of State’s office IT staff, and that these changes would soon be implemented. Additional information to follow.
6. Background Checks and Reported Offenses: Ms. Johnson requests the Board develop a listing of certain infractions, the Board’s responses and common disciplinary actions to be considered from private letters of concern to possible revocation of licenses. This would assist staff in application processing. Mr. Zimmerman to provide Board with listing another Board utilizes as a “guide” with this also to be an ongoing discussion item.
7. Exemptions to licensure – O.C.G.A. 43-24A-19: Investigators still running into issues with individuals claiming to conduct practices that do not require licensure. Review statute for possible language amendments in the future.
8. FSTMB Annual Meeting – attended by Ms. Johnson; next year to be held in Texas.

**Proposed New Rule – 345-3-.01 Provisional Permits - DRAFT:**

Mr. Zimmerman presented a draft of the proposed new rule for the issuance of provisional permits now required by law (effective 05-02-2012; O.C.G.A. 43-24A-9 Provisional permits). In addition, the fee amount was discussed again with an amount agreed upon. Mr. Zimmerman will continue to work on the application for the new provisional permit.

The fee amount was then discussed with the Board determining the fee is to be set at \$125.

Following a consensus on the new rules language and fee, a vote was called for by Chair Ms. Johnson.

**Ms. Lescak motioned, Mr. Seagraves seconded and the board voted to post, upon receipt of the memo of statutory authority from the Attorney General’s office, the proposed rule for Provisional Permits for the required minimum of thirty (30) days for public view and comment, with a public hearing to be scheduled the next meeting date following the thirty (30) day minimum. In addition, the fee is to be set at \$125. None opposed, motion carried.**

**Massage Therapy School Report:**

Ms. Lescak provided the Board with information on Massage Therapy Education Programs and a discussion on the current rules, procedures and processes by which current programs become ‘Recognized’ by the Board as meeting the established criteria. The Board tabled further discussion until ore information could be provided by Ms. Lescak.

Ms. Taylor also agreed to assist in this research. The application for CE Providers currently used (GA only schools), other Boards CE rules, providers and processes to be researched and recommendations presented to the full Board at a later date.

**There being no additional business to discuss, Ms. Lescak motioned, Mr. Seagraves seconded, and the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 12:40 p.m.**

**Minutes recorded, reviewed and edited by:** Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director

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

**BRIG ZIMMERMAN**  
Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director  
Professional Licensing Boards Division

These minutes were approved on: November 15, 2012