

GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY
Board Teleconference Minutes
March 18, 2015 - 2:00 PM

The Georgia Board of Massage Therapy met on Wednesday, March 18, 2015 via teleconference. The following members were present:

Board Members Present

Craig Knowles, Chair
Jennifer Clay, Vice Chair
Jane Johnson, Board Member

Administrative Staff Present

Adrienne Price, Executive Director
Tamara Elliott, Board Support Specialist
Kathy Osier, Licensing Supervisor

Call to Order Mr. Knowles established a quorum of the Board present and called the meeting to order at 2:00p.m.

OPEN SESSION

Agenda Ms. Johnson, Ms. Clay motioned seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the agenda as presented.

Discussion – Petition Waiver for BR 345-8-.03(1)(e) – Athens Institute for Massage, LLC

Ms. Clay motioned, Ms. Johnson seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to deny the petition for waiver of Board Rule 345-8-.03(1) (e) due to insufficient evidence of a substantial hardship.

Discussion – Petition Waiver for BR 345-8-.03(f) – Columbus Technical College

Ms. Clay motioned, Ms. Johnson seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the petition for waiver of Board Rule 345-8-.03(1) (f) effective March 18, 2015 if no public comments are received and add the program to the list of recognized massage therapy educational programs located within the state of Georgia. Notify the Program Director any students who may have enrolled in and/or graduated from the program prior to date of recognition will not be eligible for licensure.

Discussion – Helms Career Institute

Ms. Johnson motioned, Ms. Clay seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the curriculum changes presented and continue Board recognition status.

Ms. Johnson motioned, and Ms. Clay 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), O.C.G.A. § 43-1-2(k) (4), O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19(h) (2) & (4) to receive and review information pertaining to Applications. Voting in favor of the motion were those present who included Board members: Mr. Knowles, Ms. Clay, and Ms. Johnson.

At the conclusion of Executive Session on Wednesday, March 18, 2015 Mr. Knowles declared the meeting to be “open” pursuant to the Open and Public Meeting Act O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1 et seq. No votes were taken during executive session.

OPEN SESSION

Executive Discussion

1. **MT150092** Ms. Johnson motioned, Ms. Clay seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the Cognizant recommendation that the Board not accept any CE documentation submitted by this provider until the NCBTMB investigation is complete and a decision has been rendered.
2. **MT150093** Ms. Johnson motioned, Ms. Clay seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion release all application and investigative files relevant to the respondent of Case MT150093 to the Non-Public Postsecondary Education Commission (NPEC) with a request for an investigation.

Request for Reconsideration

1. **W.A.** Ms. Johnson motioned, Ms. Clay seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to uphold the previous motion to issue a Public Consent Order for failure to meet the continuing education requirements.

2. **W.H.** Ms. Johnson motioned, Ms. Clay seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion. to request the applicant to provide a detailed letter of explanation regarding the location of the school attended and the structure of the program so as to permit attendance across state lines. In addition, require the applicant to provide a complete copy of the program catalog to include course descriptions and course hours as well as proof that the program possesses a current, unencumbered Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission (NPEC) Authorization number to meet the requirements of BR 345-8-.01 and BR 345-8-.03.

Miscellaneous

1. Discussion – Board Rule 345-8-.02

Ms. Clay motioned, Ms. Johnson seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to refer BR 345-8-.02 as amended to the Attorney General’s Office for a memorandum of authority and if no objections noted, post the rule for a hearing.

345-8-.02 Faculty Requirements. Amended.

(1) In order to be a Georgia Board recognized massage therapy education program, the program must have a faculty that consists of a sufficient number of full and part-time instructors to ensure that the educational obligations to the student are fulfilled. Lab, clinical and community course core (lead) faculty must demonstrate competence in their respective areas of teaching as evidenced by a minimum of 2 years or 2000 hours of experience in their field. Faculty instructor(s) shall hold a current state license, if a state license is required to practice massage therapy in that state. Human sciences course core (lead) faculty (anatomy, pathology, physiology) is not required to hold a massage therapy license; however, the faculty member must demonstrate competence in their respective areas of teaching as evidenced by a minimum of 2 years or 2000 hours experience in their field and/or by appropriate degrees/certificates from approved colleges/schools/institutions.

(2) All program faculty members must teach at the physical address which has been provided to the Board on the program’s application to become a board recognized massage therapy education program.

(3) The Board must be notified of any program faculty changes within ten (10) days of the date the change becomes effective.

(4) If a school utilizes faculty assistants, in order to be a Board recognized massage therapy education program, it shall establish and maintain policies that set forth qualifications, duties and procedures for use of these personnel. Faculty assistants shall not be used as substitutes or replacements for regular faculty; shall not be responsible for the overall evaluation of any student; and shall work under the direct supervision of approved faculty. Faculty assistants shall hold a current license, if a license is required to practice massage therapy in that state.

(5) In order to be a Georgia Board recognized massage therapy education program, the ratio of students to faculty in the lab/clinical/community area shall not exceed 20 students to 1 instructor with no more than 10 student therapists and 10 students serving as clients. Lecture classes are not subject to this ratio.

(6) When student clinical practice is being performed on the general public, the supervising clinical faculty instructor(s) shall hold a current Georgia massage license.

Authority: O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-24, 43-1-25, 43-24-8, 43-24A-3, 43-24A-7, 43-24A-8, 43-24A-13, 50-13-3. History. Original Rule entitled “Faculty Requirements” adopted. F. Jan. 10, 2007; eff. Jan. 30, 2007. Repealed: New Rule of same title adopted. F. July 2, 2009; eff. July 22, 2009. Amended: F. Feb. 27, 2012; eff. Mar. 18, 2012.

2. Board Meeting Date Change Request

Mr. Knowles motioned, Ms. Johnson seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to change to the June 26, 2015 Board Meeting to June 12, 2015.

Adjournment With no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 3:01pm

Minutes recorded by:

Tamara Elliott, Board Support Specialist

Minutes reviewed and edited by:

Kathy Osier, Licensing Supervisor & Adrienne Price, Executive Director

Minutes approved on:

April 24, 2015

CRAIG KNOWLES
BOARD CHAIR

ADRIENNE PRICE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR