

Georgia Board of Massage Therapy  
Legislative Subcommittee Meeting  
Teleconference Minutes  
Wednesday, December 28, 2016  
1:00 - 3:00 PM EST

**Call to Order**

Craig Knowles called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM EST and identified members as present or absent.

**Subcommittee Members Present**

Craig Knowles	Georgia Board of Massage Therapy
Jane Johnson	American Massage Therapy Association Georgia Chapter (AMTA-GA)
Judy LeFave	American Massage Therapy Association Georgia Chapter (AMTA-GA)
Laura Embleton	Associated Bodywork & Massage Professionals (ABMP)
Libby Eason	The International Association of Structural Integrators (IASI)
Deborah Nimmons	The International Association of Structural Integrators (IASI)

**Subcommittee Members Absent**

Laura Delanoy	Associated Bodywork & Massage Professionals (ABMP)
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**Administrative Staff Present**

Adrienne Price	Executive Director, Georgia Board of Massage Therapy
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**Agenda**

Knowles reviewed the agenda with the members present and asked if there were any additions or deletions. Hearing none, Knowles indicated that he will proceed with the agenda as established. LeFave made a motion to adopt the agenda and Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Minutes**

Members acknowledged the 12-16-2016 Legislative Subcommittee Meeting Amended Minutes.

Members reviewed the 12-21-2016 Legislative Subcommittee Meeting Minutes and a motion was made to adopt the minutes by LeFave and Embleton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Review and Report of Input from Identified Stakeholders**

1. Eason reported no new information from FGNA, AOBTA, or APTA. Knowles informed the subcommittee that the correspondence from FGNA that included suggested language would be addressed during the meeting when the subcommittee reaches the area in the proposed draft that the correspondence references. He further indicated that he realized that some of the comments from this group were about what city and county governments impose on certain professions. Knowles remarked that it is important for everyone to realize that if a profession or modality is not regulated under the massage statute, then it is more likely that the county and city governments will draft additional laws relevant to those professions in any way they see fit and there would be nothing the Board could do about that but if it is in the law, the law supersedes city and county ordinances.

2. Nimmons provided a link (<http://www.federationmbs.org/LegPak-2016-07.pdf>) to the Federation MBS legislative packet for the subcommittee to take notice of, including language how each member organization recommends they be regulated, including the possibility of exemption. This includes the statement that all member organizations support each other in self-determination regarding regulation.

### **Review of Language**

The Subcommittee revisited the following lines:

- 1) The exemption language submitted by FGNA (line 402)
- 2) "Bodywork" or "Bodyworker" definition (line 63-72)
- 3) Certification Definition and Recertification (lines 73, 156-169 & 248)
- 4) Massage therapy and Bodywork licensing language (line 79)
- 5) Mobile Massage and Bodywork Considerations (line 299)

### **Discussion – Liability Insurance Requirements for Therapists**

Price confirmed that massage therapists are not presently required to obtain liability insurance in Georgia; but there are statutes in other professions that do include this requirement. It was the consensus of the subcommittee that the language requiring liability insurance be added.

### **Continued Line by Line Review of the Draft Proposed Amendment**

The subcommittee started reviewing the Draft on line # 393, completed the numbered lines and stopped at Section 3.

The use of the titles "massage therapy and bodywork" or "bodywork" were discussed in an effort to better understand qualifying requirements for licensure, education, and continuing education so that massage therapists may practice bodywork techniques learned in formal training. Bodyworkers may qualify under a specific certification related to a chosen bodywork category.

It was the consensus of the subcommittee that Reflexology should not be exempted from licensure and those practicing reflexology will have to meet the standards of a national Reflexology organization.

### **Miscellaneous**

Member Assignments for the January 5, 2016 1:00-3:00 PM EST meeting are as follows:

1. Eason to refine the movement therapy exemption language and refine the energy work exemption language for the next meeting.
2. LeFave to contact AMTA-GA Attorney Stan Jones regarding use of the terms massage therapy and bodywork license and bodywork license. In addition, to speak with him about providing sample language for requiring liability insurance for the subcommittee to review and discuss during the next meeting.

The subcommittee established Wednesday, January 11, 2016 1:00-3:00 PM EST as a future meeting date.

The next meeting is on Thursday, January 5, 2016 at 1:00 – 3:00 PM EST

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM EST.

Minutes recorded by Johnson and adopted by the Subcommittee on 01/05/2017.

The minutes were approved by the Board on 01/13/2017.