

**GEORGIA BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY
Board Meeting Agenda
Professional Licensing Boards
237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, GA
Friday, December 13, 2019 - 9:00 a.m.**

The Georgia Board of Massage Therapy met on Friday, December 13, 2019. The following members were present:

Board Members Present

Craig Knowles, BAS, LMT, BCTMB, CNMT, Chair
Pam Nichols, LMT, CNMT, HNC, Vice Chair
Cindy King, LMT, CMT, NMT, Board Member
Jane Boyles Curry, Consumer Board Member

Administrative Staff Present

Adrienne Price, Executive Director
Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist

Attorney General's Office Present

Melissa Tracy, Assistant Attorney General

Board Members Absent

Jennifer Clay, LMT, CNMT, Board Member

Visitors Present

Margaret Sharenko, Director, Atlanta School of Massage
Dwight Bunn, LMT
Andrew Dacres, International School of Skin, Nailcare, and Massage Therapy
Lisa Woode
Mark McCray
S.C. Chinn

Call to Order Mr. Knowles established that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

OPEN SESSION

Agenda Mrs. King motioned, Ms. Nichols seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the meeting agenda as amended.

Open Session Minutes

1. November 22, 2019 Board Teleconference Minutes

Ms. Nichols motioned, Ms. Curry seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the November 22, 2019 open session Board teleconference minutes as presented.

2. November 22, 2019 Investigative Committee Meeting Minutes

Mrs. King motioned, Ms. Nichols seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the November 22, 2019 open session investigative committee meeting minutes as presented.

Licenses to Ratify: October 3, 2019 – December 6, 2019

Ms. Curry motioned, Mrs. King seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to ratify the licenses by application and by reinstatement that were issued in accordance with Board Rules and Policies between Board meetings.

Correspondence – Notification of Scam Calls to MTs – Kathleen Dawn Boyce, MT004619

Mrs. King motioned, Ms. Nichols seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to notify the writer that the Board appreciates them taking the time to notify the Board regarding this information.

Correspondence – MBLEx Concerns – Ty Davis, Assistant to the President, Gwinnett College Sandy Springs

Mrs. King motioned, Ms. Curry seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to notify the writer that the Board is in receipt of the letter and will forward it to the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards for a response.

Discussion – Webinar: Innovative Approaches to Disrupting Massage Parlor Trafficking, National Attorneys General Training & Research Institute (NAGTRI) and Polaris

The Board accepts the correspondence relevant to NAGTRI, as information.

Discussion – Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB) – In Touch Newsletter December 2019

The Board accepts the correspondence relevant to FSMTB, as information. It was the consensus of the Board that the members will review the bylaws and policies in order to have a discussion at the next meeting about whether any resolutions should be submitted from the Board in 2020.

Petition for Rule Variance – BR 345-4-.05 – Dowling, James MT006854

Mrs. King motioned, Ms. Nichols seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the petition for variance of BR 345-4-.05 based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

Petitions for Rule Waiver

1. Rule Waiver – BR 345-4-.05(c)(ii) & BR 345-4-.02 –Woode, Lisa MT008376

Ms. Nichols motioned, Ms. Curry seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the petition to waive BR 345-4-.05(c)(ii) & BR 345-4-.02 based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

2. Rule Waiver – BR 345-4-.05 – Greer, Marie Kathleen MT009180

Mrs. King motioned, Ms. Curry seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the petition to waive BR 345-4-.05 based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

3. Rule Waiver – BR 345-4-.05 – Johnson, Sheena Shavon MT007465

Ms. Curry motioned, Ms. Nichols seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the petition to waive BR 345-4-.05 based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

4. Rule Waiver – BR 345-8-.03(e) – Davis, Steven

Mrs. King motioned, Ms. Curry seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the petition to waive BR 345-8-.03(e) based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

5. Rule Waiver – BR 345-4-.05 – Nuruddin, Sanetra MT005636

Ms. Nichols motioned, Mrs. King seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the petition to waive BR 345-4-.05 based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

Education Report – C. Knowles

1. Augusta School of Massage – USDOE Final Audit Determination

Ms. Curry motioned, Mrs. King seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the information regarding Augusta School of Massage – Final Audit Determination, as information.

2. Touch for Healing Reiki School of Massage – Faculty Amendment Request

Ms. Nichols motioned, Ms. Curry seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the faculty amendment for the massage therapy education program.

3. The Elaine Sterling Institute – USDOE Admonishment RE Financial Aid

The Board tabled discussion for Executive Session.

4. Coastal Pines Technical College – Renewal Recognition Status

Ms. Nichols motioned, Ms. Curry seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to renew the recognition status if, upon receipt of requested documentation, the Cognizant determines that the core curriculum offered is in compliance with the Board statutes and rules.

Executive Director’s Report – A. Price

Executive Director’s report addressed the following topics with the Board:

- Budget Cuts
- Investigations Now Access All Costs
- FSLA Law and Processing of Licensure

Ms. Price reported that statistics will be provided during the next board meeting.

Mrs. King motioned, Ms. Nichols seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the Executive Director’s Report as presented.

Board’s Chair Report – C. Knowles

Mr. Knowles verbally reported on conversations he has had with representatives of the Georgia Reflexology Organization and informed them that he does not believe their chances of becoming a stand-alone board in Georgia would be too favorable given the current regulatory climate and challenges boards are currently facing with limited financial and human resources. He further stated he informed the organization that before they try to proceed in Georgia, they need to do more research and should possibly consider being regulated under an existing board for licensure, or as an advisory group with a registration process, rather than a licensure process.

Mr. Knowles reported that he has been part of working on inner agency training with National Attorneys General Training & Research Institute (NAGTRI) and Polaris in regards to human trafficking. He has been invited to attend the January 13, 2020 meeting of the Grace Commission [Georgians for Refuge, Action, Compassion, and Education (GRACE)], which works to combat human trafficking in Georgia and the world.

Mr. Knowles is also working with the Gwinnett County Sherriff’s Office and Henry County Women’s groups to provide education and support from all agencies. He asked each Board member to share their knowledge of any groups/agencies that offer services related to the investigating human trafficking or offer support services for those who are victims of human trafficking to him by January 12, 2020 so that he may present those resources to the GRACE Commission.

Ms. Curry motioned, Mrs. King seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the Board’s Chair Report as presented.

Miscellaneous Discussion – 2020 Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards (FARB) Forum

The Board accepts the correspondence in regards to the 2020 FARB Forum, as information.

Ms. Nichols motioned, Mrs. King seconded, and the Board voted to enter into Executive Session in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-2 (k); 43-1-19 (h) and 50-14-2 (1) to receive and review information

pertaining to applications, pending cases investigative reports and enforcement matters and to receive the Assistant Attorney General's report. Voting in favor of the motion were those present who included Board members: Craig Knowles, Pam Nichols, Cindy King and Jane Curry.

At the conclusion of Executive Session on Friday, December 13, 2019, 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

Education Report

The Elaine Sterling Institute – USDOE Admonishment RE Financial Aid

Ms. Nichols motioned, Mrs. King seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to table pending additional information.

Scheduled Board Appointments

11:00 a.m. Personal Appearance Applicant 2782575

Ms. Nichols motioned, Ms. Curry seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to rescind previous motion to deny and table pending additional information. Inform the applicant of the option to submit petition for rule waiver.

11:30 a.m. Personal Appearance Applicant 2780072

Ms. Curry motioned, Ms. Nichols seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to rescind previous motion to deny, table pending additional information and extend the application expiration date until the February 21, 2020 Board meeting. Inform the applicant of the option to submit a petition for rule waiver.

12:30 Personal Appearance Applicant 2663551

Ms. Nichols motioned, Mrs. King seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to rescind previous motion and issue the license with a Letter of Concern regarding a failure to disclose any and all arrests.

Executive Session Minutes

1. November 22, 2019 Executive Board Teleconference Minutes

Mrs. King motioned, Ms. Curry seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the November 22, 2019 executive session Board teleconference minutes as presented.

2. November 22, 2019 Investigative Committee Executive Meeting Minutes

Mrs. King motioned, Ms. Curry seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the November 22, 2019 executive session investigative committee meeting minutes as presented.

Attorney General's Report – M. Tracy

Ms. Nichols motioned, Mrs. King seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the Attorney General's Report as presented.

Legal Services Memo

1. Requests for Reconsideration

- a) **MT200054** Mrs. King motioned, Ms. Nichols seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to deny the request for reconsideration and uphold previous motion.
- b) **MT200031** Mrs. King motioned, Ms. Nichols seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to deny the request for reconsideration and uphold previous motion.

2. Cases for Ratification

- a) **MT200051**
- b) **MT200052**
- c) **MT200055**

Ms. Curry motioned, Mrs. King seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the orders upon receipt.

Investigative Committee Report

Mrs. King motioned, Ms. Nichols seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the following recommendations made in executive session.

- MT200037** Issue the license.
- MT200036** Deny licensure. Notify Florida Board and FSMTB as discussed.
- MT190022** Refer to Investigations.
- MT200002** Close the case.
- MT200010** Schedule an Investigative Interview.
- MT200020** Refer to the Attorney General’s office for a hearing or voluntary surrender or indefinite suspension with terms and conditions as discussed.
- MT200025** Refer to the Attorney General’s office for a hearing or voluntary surrender or indefinite suspension with terms and conditions as discussed.
- MT200034** Deny licensure, based on making a false representation on the application to the Board [O.C.G.A. 43-1-19(a)(2)].
- MT200035** Refer to the Attorney General’s office for a hearing or voluntary surrender or indefinite suspension with terms and conditions as discussed.

Miscellaneous Executive Discussion

- 1. **MT170069** Mrs. King motioned, Ms. Nichols seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the order as received.
- 2. **MT200081** Ms. Nichols motioned, Mrs. King seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to refer to the Attorney General's office for memorandum of advice and refer to investigations.

Applications for Board Review

Ms. Nichols motioned, Mrs. King seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the following recommendations made in Executive Session.

- Applicant 2839521** Issue the license.

- Applicant 2821992** Issue the license with a Letter of Concern regarding false attestation for criminal history on application for licensure.
- Applicant 2826461** Schedule Applicant Interview.
- Applicant 2832990** Schedule Applicant Interview.
- Applicant 2825117** Table pending additional information.
- Applicant 2583527** Grant request for Inactive Status.
- Applicant 2802645** Reinstate license with a Letter of Concern regarding false attestation on application for reinstatement.
- Applicant 2833929** Table pending additional information.
- Applicant 2812618** Refer to Legal Services for a Private Consent Agreement for Reinstatement of Licensure with a fine of \$500 for unlicensed practice from November 1, 2018 – March 1, 2019.
- Applicant 2788197** Reinstate with Letter of Concern regarding false attestation on application for reinstatement.

Mrs. King motioned, Ms. Curry seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the following recommendations made in Executive Session.

- Applicant 2837115** Deny based on failure to demonstrate successful completion of a Board recognized education program [O.C.G.A. § 43-24A-8(b)(6) and BR 345-8-.03(6)].
- Applicant 2827960** Deny based on failure to demonstrate successful completion of a Board recognized education program [O.C.G.A. § 43-24A-8(b)(6) and BR 345-8-.03(6)].
- Applicant 2837121** Deny based on failure to demonstrate successful completion of a Board recognized education program [O.C.G.A. § 43-24A-8(b)(6) and BR 345-8-.03(6)].
- Applicant 2840098** Deny based on failure to demonstrate successful completion of a Board recognized education program [O.C.G.A. § 43-24A-8(b)(6) and BR 345-8-.03(6)].
- Applicant 2824455** Deny based on failure to demonstrate successful completion of a Board recognized education program [O.C.G.A. § 43-24A-8(b)(6) and BR 345-8-.03(6)].
- Applicant 2803692** Schedule Applicant Interview.
- Applicant 2827866** Issue the license.

Adjournment With no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 1:18 p.m.

Minutes recorded by: Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist
Minutes reviewed and edited by: Adrienne Price, Executive Director
Minutes approved on: February 4, 2020

CRAIG KNOWLES
BOARD CHAIR

ADRIENNE PRICE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR