

**GEORGIA BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY**  
**Board Zoom Meeting Minutes**  
**Friday, December 11, 2020 - 9:00 a.m.**

The Georgia Board of Massage Therapy met via Zoom meeting on Friday, December 11, 2020. The following members were present:

**Board Members Present**

Craig Knowles, BAS, LMT, BCTMB, CNMT, Chair  
Pam Nichols, LMT, CNMT, HNC, Vice Chair  
Jayne Boyles Curry, Consumer Board Member

**Board Members Absent**

No members absent.

**Visitors Present**

Danielle Pates  
Jacqueline Padilla  
Pat Neri  
Terri Barton  
Jane Johnson  
Matthew Mazurek  
Stephanie Bone  
Lisa H  
Megan Simmons  
Andre' Cross  
Laura Embleton  
Libby Eason  
Cindy Farrar  
Toni Roberts  
Christine Hooper  
Unidentified Participant (1)

**Administrative Staff Present**

Adrienne Price, Executive Director  
Charlotte Mason, Licensing Supervisor  
Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist  
Meagan Doss, Complaints/Compliance Analyst  
Beth Duffey, Licensing Analyst

**Attorney General's Office Present**

Melissa Tracy, Assistant Attorney General

**Call to Order** Mr. Knowles established that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

**OPEN SESSION**

**Agenda** Ms. Curry motioned, Ms. Nichols seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the Zoom meeting agenda as presented.

**Open Session Minutes**

**1. October 9, 2020 Board Teleconference Minutes**

Ms. Nichols motioned, Ms. Curry seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the October 9, 2020 open session Board teleconference minutes as presented.

**2. November 20, 2020 Open Session Investigative Committee Teleconference Minutes**

Ms. Curry motioned, Ms. Nichols seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the November 20, 2020 open session investigative committee teleconference minutes as presented.

**Licenses to Ratify: October 2, 2020 – December 4, 2020**

Ms. Nichols motioned, Ms. Curry 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.

**Discussion – GPRR Active Supervision Decision – 20-07-004 – MT Board Policy Manual – Approved**

The Board accepts the correspondence in reference to GPRR – Active Supervision Decision as information.

**Discussion – Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB)**

1. **2020 Annual Report**
2. **2020 Election Results**
3. **In Touch E Newsletter**

Mr. Knowles requested the Executive Director to follow up on the status of the Board’s ability to share information with FSMTB through the Massage Therapy Licensing Database (MTLD) and report back to the Board during the next meeting.

The Board accepts the correspondence in reference to FSMTB as information.

**Discussion – National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (NCBTMB)**

1. **Response to Georgia Board RE: Request for All Actions**
2. **11-01-20 Approved Provider Disciplinary Actions by State**
3. **11-01-20 Certificant Disciplinary Actions by State**
4. **11-01-20 School Compliance Report**
5. **12-01-20 Approved Provider Disciplinary Actions by State**
6. **12-01-20 Certificant Disciplinary Actions by State**
7. **12-01-20 School Compliance Report**

The Board accepts the correspondence in reference to NCBTMB as information.

**Petitions for Rule Variance**

1. **BR 345-4-.02 Carlie Hight MT005659**

Ms. Nichols motioned, Ms. Curry seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to deny the petition for variance of BR 345-4-.02 based on the fact that the petitioner is not subject to the rule for variance as the license has lapsed by operation of law. Alternatively, to the extent that the petitioner is subject to the rule, the variance is denied due to insufficient evidence to demonstrate a substantial hardship.

2. **BR 345-4-.02(1)(a) Malissa Taylor-Thomas MT012442**

Ms. Nichols motioned, Ms. Curry seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the petition for variance of BR 345-4-.02(1)(a) based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

3. **BR 345-4-.02 Lily Duan MT009921**

Ms. Nichols motioned, Ms. Curry seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the petition for variance of BR 345-4-.02 based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

4. **BR 345-4-.02 Joan Rau MT000423**

Ms. Curry motioned, Ms. Nichols seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the petition for variance of BR 345-4-.02 based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

5. **BR 345-4-.02 Kiara Poloney MT000384**

Ms. Curry motioned, Ms. Nichols seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the petition for variance of BR 345-4-.02 based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

**Petitions for Rule Waiver**

**1. BR 345-4-.05 Veronica Santure MT003251**

Ms. Nichols motioned, Ms. Curry seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to deny the petition to waive BR 345-4-.05 based on inability to waive statutory requirements. Staff to advise petitioner that she may resubmit a rule waiver with specific provisions of rule that being requested to be waived.

**2. BR 345-4-.02 Gregory Blue MT009375**

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-.02 based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship

**3. BR 345-4-.02 Stephanie Bone**

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-.02 based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship

**4. BR 345-4-.05(ii) Valentina Alejos MT002840**

Ms. Curry motioned, Ms. Nichols seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to deny the petition to waive BR 345-4-.05(ii) based on inability to waive statutory requirements. Flag based on suspicions of unlicensed practice. If reinstates, refer application to Cognizant if necessary.

**5. BR 345-04-05 Megan Simmons**

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 based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

**6. BR 345-4-.05 Francesca Mills MT008862**

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 based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship, if verification of licensure is received directly from licensing agencies (MD or LA to show consistent licensure) by January 24, 2021. If not received, deny based on insufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

**7. BR 345-3-.02 Christine Bauer**

Ms. Curry motioned, Ms. Nichols seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to deny the petition to waive BR 345-4-.02 based on inability to waive statutory requirements.

**8. BR 345-4-.02 Terry Allen MT009961**

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-.02 based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship

**9. BR 345-4-.02 Jamie Allen MT010121**

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-.02 based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship

## **10. BR 345-4-.02 Suzanne Goggin MT002095**

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-.02 based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship

### **Education Report – C. Knowles**

#### **1. Miller-Motte College – Augusta – Discontinuation of MT Program**

Ms. Nichols motioned, Ms. Curry seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the notice of the discontinuation of the massage therapy educational program for Miller-Motte College – Augusta as of August 21, 2020 closed and to remove the program from the approved school list posted on the Board website.

#### **2. JSG School of Massage Therapy – Board Recognition Application**

The Board tabled discussion for Executive Session.

### **Executive Director’s Report – A. Price**

Ms. Price began her report by introducing the newest addition to the Healthcare 2 Team, Licensing Analyst Beth Duffey, who has taken the place of now retired, Yvonne LeSane. Ms. Duffey introduced herself to the Board and expressed her excitement for the position.

Beth Duffey left the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

Executive Director’s Report presented the Board with statistical data relevant to the processing of applications, the number of licensees, to include massage therapy programs, board meeting statistics, renewal statistics and complaints/compliance matters. In addition, the report addressed the topic of License Print Capabilities for Schools with the Board.

Ms. Price provided the Board with an update on MTLTD. She explained that its purpose is to share licensure and disciplinary data across state lines. She continued that the portability of licensure could potentially eliminate license verifications and the time constraints associated with waiting on the processing of such requests. Ms. Price explained that the desire of the Board is to make the process easier for applicants and the Board and will allow staff to expedite and streamline the process. The legal and security implications must be worked out between the agency and FSMTB. As was previously indicated, Ms. Price stated she will follow up on the status.

Ms. Nichols motioned, Ms. Curry 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 informed the Board that the Executive Order for the Declared Public Health Emergency has been extended until January 8, 2021 and recommended that massage therapy education programs monitor the Governor’s Executive Order website to stay abreast of these dates since the Board does not meet again until February 19, 2021.

He noted that he was part of the Grace Commission Zoom meeting for the state of Georgia and was able to express to the Commission the importance of interagency investigations for the purpose of allowing our agency investigators to work with the human trafficking taskforce.

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

**Ms. Nichols motioned, Ms. Curry 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, and Jane Curry.**

**At the conclusion of Executive Session on Friday, December 11, 2020, 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**

Megan Doss left the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

**Executive Session Minutes**

**1. October 9, 2020 Executive Session Board Zoom Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Curry motioned, Ms. Nichols seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the October 9, 2020 executive session Board Zoom meeting minutes as presented.

**2. November 20, 2020 Executive Session Investigative Committee Zoom Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Curry motioned, Ms. Nichols seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the November 20, 2020 executive session investigative committee Zoom meeting minutes as presented.

**Attorney General's Report – M. Tracy**

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

1. **MT200035** Close case, no jurisdiction. Should the Respondent apply for reinstatement, the allegations of the complaint will be considered at that time.
2. **MT210043** Close case. Issue 2018-2020 license renewal and allow submission of application for 2020 renewal biennium with allowances for the late renewal period.
3. **MT200107** Close case, no jurisdiction. Should the Respondent apply for reinstatement, the allegations of the complaint will be considered at that time.
4. **MT200075** Close case, no jurisdiction. Should the Respondent apply for reinstatement, the allegations of the complaint will be considered at that time.
5. **MT180168** If all requirements are met, renew the license, and close the case pending notification that the criminal matter against the Respondent has been resolved.
6. **MT200097** Issue the license.
7. **Board Rules** Ms. Curry motioned, Ms. Nichols seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to refer the Board Rules back to the Rules Committee.

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

**Legal Services MEMO – MT210057 – Case for Ratification**

Ms. Nichols motioned, Ms. Curry seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the order upon receipt.

### **Investigative Committee Report – C. Knowles**

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

- MT200076** Refer to the Attorney General’s Office for a hearing for sanctions up to Revocation of Licensure or Voluntary Surrender.
- MT200110** Close the case with a Letter of Concern regarding informed consent and client communication.
- MT160104** If the license is renewed, lift probation, and restore the license to active status.
- MT170122** Refer to the Attorney General’s Office for a hearing to deny the renewal or Public Consent Order for License Renewal with immediate payment of overdue \$500 fine and payment of legal fees, if applicable.
- MT180044** If the Respondent attempts to renew, refer to the Attorney General’s Office for a hearing to deny the renewal or Public Consent Order for License Renewal with immediate payment of overdue \$500 fine and payment of legal fees, if applicable. If the license lapses by operation of law, close the case.
- MT180072** If the Respondent attempts to renew, refer to the Attorney General’s Office for a hearing to deny the renewal or Public Consent Order for License Renewal with immediate payment of overdue \$500 fine and payment of legal fees, if applicable. If the license lapses by operation of law, close the case.
- MT180074** Refer to the Attorney General’s Office for a hearing to deny the renewal or Public Consent Order for License Renewal with immediate payment of overdue \$500 fine and payment of legal fees, if applicable.
- MT180120** If Respondent does not comply within the specified time, refer to the Attorney General’s Office for a hearing to deny the renewal or Public Consent Order for License Renewal with immediate payment of overdue \$500 fine and payment of legal fees, if applicable.
- MT180134** Refer to the Attorney General’s Office for a hearing to deny the renewal or Public Consent Order for License Renewal with immediate payment of overdue \$500 fine and payment of legal fees, if applicable.
- MT190003** Refer to the Attorney General’s Office for a hearing to deny the renewal or Public Consent Order for License Renewal with immediate payment of overdue \$500 fine and payment of legal fees, if applicable.
- MT190056** Refer to Investigations.
- MT190094** Send deficiency letter via certified mail. If Respondent does not comply within specified time frame and attempts to renew, refer to the Attorney General’s Office for a hearing to deny the renewal or Public Consent Order for License Renewal with immediate payment of overdue \$500 fine and payment of legal fees, if applicable. If the license lapses by operation of law, close the case.
- MT200011** If the Respondent attempts to renew, request that the Respondents submit certificates of completion of all CE for the cycles in question. Upon receipt, refer to the Attorney General’s Office for a hearing to deny the renewal or Public Consent Order for License Renewal with immediate payment of overdue \$500 fine and payment of legal fees, if applicable. If the license lapses by operation of law, close the case.

- MT200053** Send deficiency letter via certified mail. If Respondent does not comply within specified time frame and attempts to renew, refer to the Attorney General’s Office for a hearing to deny the renewal or Public Consent Order for License Renewal with immediate payment of overdue \$500 fine with payment of legal fees if applicable. If the license lapses by operation of law, close the case.
- MT200067** Grant extension if payments are resumed prior to December 31, 2020, the remaining balance must be paid in full on or before October 31, 2021.
- MT200072** Schedule an Investigative Interview.
- MT200105** Refer to the Attorney General’s office for a hearing for Suspension or Voluntary Surrender or Public Consent Order with terms and conditions as discussed.
- MT200122** Refer to the Attorney General’s Office for a hearing for a Cease and Desist Order.
- MT200144** Send deficiency letter via certified mail. If Respondent does not comply within specified time frame and attempts to renew, refer to the Attorney General’s Office for a hearing to deny the renewal or Public Consent Order for License Renewal with immediate payment of overdue \$500 fine and payment of legal fees, if applicable. If the license lapses by operation of law, close the case.
- MT200147** Close the case and notify the Respondent as discussed.
- MT210007** If the Respondent applies for renewal, schedule an investigative interview. If not, close the case.
- MT210020** Close the case.
- MT210048** Send correspondence to the Respondent alerting them that the Board is aware that they may be implementing and enforcing ordinances which may not be in compliance with O.C.G.A. § 43-24A-31. As a result, the Board has voted to forward a copy of the new statutory requirements to increase awareness that the law did change in 2019. Notify the Complainant that they may wish to seek legal counsel for guidance on this matter.
- MT200110** Schedule an Investigative Interview and refer to investigations.

**MT210011, MT210061, MT210029**

Ms. Nichols motioned, Ms. Curry seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to request that the Respondents submit certificates of completion of all CE for the cycles in question.

**CE Audit**

Ms. Curry motioned, Ms. Nichols seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to send a deficiency letter requiring that each licensee on the audit list submit proof of having met CE requirements for renewal of licensure for the cycles in question. If fail to produce evidence, refer to Legal Services with a fine of \$500 per renewal cycle where violation is noted, for failure to meet CE requirements for the Renewal of Licensure, require to complete the deficient CE hours for the cycle that ended October 31, 2020, and CE hours completed to satisfy the terms of the order may not be used to meet CE requirement the cycle ending October 31, 2022. Flag for CE Audit.

**Miscellaneous Executive Discussion**

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

1. **MT210055** Table renewal application pending additional investigation.
2. **MT210056** Renew with a Letter of Concern regarding insurance.
3. **MT210043** Close the case with a Letter of Concern regarding keeping a valid email and mailing address with the Board and responding in a timely manner.
4. **MT190120** Grant request to terminate suspension.
5. **MT210062** Refer to Investigations in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 43-24A-7(b)(4).
6. **JSG School of Massage Therapy – Board Recognition Application**

Ms. Curry motioned, Ms. Nichols seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to deny the recognition status for the massage therapy educational program based on failure to meet requirements of BR 345-8-.01(c)(d)(f).

#### **Applications for Board Review**

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

**Applicant 2883346** Deny for failure to meet educational req. O.C.G.A. § 43-24A-8(b)(6) and Board Rule 345-8-.03(6). May submit a petition for rule waiver/variance.

#### **Arrests**

**Applicant 2892130** Issue the license.

**Applicant 2862275** Issue the license.

#### **Inactive Status Requests**

Grant requests if received in accordance with Board Rule 345-4-.04(1) and there is no active complaint investigation against the licensee. If not received in accordance with Board Rule 345-4-.04(1), deny inactive status request and the license is lapsed by operation of law.

**Applicant 2801338**

**Applicant 2801355**

**Applicant 2555818**

**Applicant 1178067**

**Applicant 1088676**

**Applicant 1073685**

**Applicant 1191389**

**Applicant 2586798**

**Applicant 1758939**

**Applicant 2862886**

**Applicant 1091214**

**Applicant 1154845**

**Applicant 1092668**

**Applicant 1760291**

**Applicant 2825783**

**Applicant 1096664**

**Applicant 1088306**

**Applicant 1237273**

**Applicant 1777591**



**Applicant 2599115**  
**Applicant 2297541**  
**Applicant 2643821**  
**Applicant 1062646**  
**Applicant 1052317**

**Renewal Applications**

**Applicant 1083361** Renew the license.

**Applicant 2497494** Renew with a Reservations of Rights letter. Must notify the Board within ten (10) days of final disposition of the pending case.

**Applicant 2791831** Deny renewal based on invalidated MBLEx exam score and refer to the Attorney General's Office for hearing for revocation of licensure.

**Transcript Review**

**Applicant 2871184** Deny based on failure to meet requirements [O.C.G.A. §§ 43-24A-3(4); 43-24A-8(b)(6) & BR 345-8-.01].

**Applicant 2878252** Deny based on failure to meet requirements for licensure [O.C.G.A. §§ 43-24A-3(4); 43-24A-8(b)(6)].

**Applicant 2904202** Issue the license.

**Applicant 2860909** Deny for failure to meet educational req. O.C.G.A. §§ 43-24A-3 and 43-24-8(b)(6).

**Applicant 2888251** Issue the license.

**Applicant 2906216** Deny for failure to meet educational req. O.C.G.A. §§ 43-24A-3 and 43-24-8(b)(6). May submit petition for rule waiver/variance.

**Adjournment** With no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 2:47 p.m.

**Minutes recorded by:** Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist  
**Minutes reviewed and edited by:** Charlotte Mason, Licensing Supervisor & Adrienne Price, Executive Director  
**Minutes approved on:** January 25, 2021

**CRAIG KNOWLES**  
**BOARD CHAIR**

**ADRIENNE PRICE**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**