

GEORGIA BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY
Board Zoom Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 23, 2021 - 8:30 a.m.

The Georgia Board of Massage Therapy met via Zoom meeting on Tuesday, March 23, 2021. The following members were present:

Board Members Present

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

Board Members Absent

No members absent.

Visitors Present

Cindy Farrar, LMT, Director, MTA
Dawn Mistake
Pat Neri, Program Manager, Georgia Postsecondary Education Commission (GNPEC)
Tiffani Gaiters, LMT, AMTA-GA
Vivian Davis, LMT, President, AMTA-GA & Albany Therapeutic Massage Education Program
Jane Johnson, LMT
Nathalie Gregory, LMT
Stanley S Jones, Jr., Esq, Nelson & Mullins
Christine Hooper, AMTA-GA
Charlene Ramos, LMT, Atlanta School of Massage
Sharon Remaly, LMT, AMTA-GA Government Relations Chair

Administrative Staff Present

Adrienne Price, Executive Director
Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist

Attorney General's Office Present

Melissa Tracy, Assistant Attorney General

Staff Members Absent

Charlotte Mason, Licensing Supervisor
Meagan Doss, Complaint/Compliance Analyst

Call to Order Mr. Knowles established that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

OPEN SESSION

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

Open Session Minutes

1. February 19, 2021 Board Zoom Meeting Minutes

Ms. Curry motioned, Ms. Nichols seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the February 19, 2021 open session zoom meeting minutes as presented.

2. March 12, 2021 Open 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 March 12, 2021 open session investigative committee zoom meeting minutes as presented.

Discussion – HB 305

Ms. Curry motioned, Ms. Nichols seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion for the Board Chair to draft a letter to Governor Kemp for the purpose of requesting that Governor Kemp sign HB 305 into law this session and not refer it to the Georgia Occupational Regulation Review Council (GORRC) as a delay in passage inhibits the Board's ability to make informed decisions about out of state massage therapy educational programs and continuing education providers thus delaying licensure and renewal application approvals. The Board further voted

to send a letter to Secretary of State Raffensperger requesting his support in requesting the Governor to sign the bill into law this year of the session.

Mr. Knowles noted that the Board feels that because Governor Kemp created the Georgia's First Commission to get Georgians back to work and to support Georgia's small businesses, he will likely see the need for the bill to pass this year.

Ms. Curry motioned and Ms. Nichols seconded the motion to make a friendly amendment to the vote to copy American Massage Therapy Association – Georgia (AMTA-GA) on the letters.

Petitions for Rule Waiver – BR 345-8-03(6) – Stefon Williams

Ms. Nichols motioned, Ms. Curry seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to deny the petition to waive BR 345-8-03(6) based on submission of an incomplete petitions. Notify the petitioner that one complete petition for rule waiver form, with every question addressed, must be signed and submitted to the Board. If necessary, the petitioner may use additional pages to complete the answers to each question if the space allotted is not enough.

Public Statement from the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy

Ms. Nichols motioned, Ms. Curry seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to post the following Public Statement from the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy on the home page of the Board website and an additional FAQ directing individuals on how to submit complaints against a massage business.

The Georgia Board of Massage Therapy and its staff would like to express our sincere condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of the individuals who fell victim to a series of mass shootings which took place at several spas on Tuesday, March 16, 2021. The loss of a loved one is never easy, particularly when such loss is the result of such horrific events. Our sincere thoughts and prayers are with you in these trying times.

FAQ

DO YOU HAVE A COMPLAINT AGAINST A MASSAGE BUSINESS?

The Georgia Board of Massage Therapy does not have regulatory authority over massage establishments and therefore, does not issue licenses to businesses. Additionally, the Board does not have the authority to shut down businesses that advertise massage services while offering illicit activities. Such authority resides with county and municipal (city) authorities who provide permits for these businesses to exist and have the ability enforce other laws relating to illicit activities or health code violations. Complaints against massage businesses should be forwarded to the local county and municipal (city) authorities of domicile to the business. A business's *domicile* is the county, city or town where the business is located.

Complaints against licensed massage therapists who appear to be in violation of the laws governing massage therapy practice should be submitted to the Board via the **Online Complaint** feature on the Board's website.

Melissa Tracy joined the meeting at 8:45 a.m. Ms. Tracy indicated that she had no additional comments concerning the statement and the FAQ voted on by the Board.

Executive Session Minutes

1. February 19, 2021 Executive Board Zoom Meeting Minutes

Ms. Curry motioned, Ms. Nichols seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the February 19, 2021 executive session zoom meeting minutes as presented.

2. March 12, 2021 Executive Session Investigative Committee Zoom Meeting Minutes

Ms. Nichols motioned, Ms. Curry seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the March 12, 2021 executive session investigative committee zoom meeting minutes as presented.

Adjournment With no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 8:53 a.m.

Minutes recorded by: Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist
Minutes reviewed and edited by: Adrienne Price, Executive Director
Minutes approved on: April 9, 2021

CRAIG KNOWLES
BOARD CHAIR

ADRIENNE PRICE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR