

GEORGIA BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY
Board Zoom Meeting Minutes
Friday, August 26, 2022 - 12:00 p.m.

The Georgia Board of Massage Therapy met via Zoom meeting on Friday, June 10, 2022. The following members were present:

Board Members Present

Craig Knowles, BAS, LMT, BCTMB, CNMT, Chair
Jayne Boyles Curry, Consumer Board Member
Stephanie Bone', LMT, Board Member

Administrative Staff Present

Adrienne Price, Executive Director
Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist
Meagan Doss, Licensing Supervisor
Malika Benoit, Complaints/Compliance Analyst

Board Members Absent

Pam Nichols, LMT, CNMT, HNC, Vice Chair

Attorney General's Office Present

Melissa Tracy, Assistant Attorney General

Visitors Present

No visitors present.

Call to Order Mr. Knowles established that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

Agenda

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

Ms. Curry motioned, Ms. Bone' seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion 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, Jane Curry, and Stephanie Bone'.

At the conclusion of Executive Session on Friday, August 26, 2022, 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

Attorney General's Memos – M. Tracy

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

1. **MT210069** Accept the Initial Decision as the Final Decision of the Board.
2. **Active Renewal Pending Cases**

Renew licenses in active-renewal pending status from the 2020 cycle with a Reservation of Rights letter and flag for renewal ending 2022.

3. **MT230016** Refer to the Attorney General's Office for a Memorandum of Advice.

OPEN SESSION

Board Meeting Minutes

- 1. August 12, 2022 Open Session Zoom Meeting Minutes**
- 2. August 12, 2022 Executive Session Zoom Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Curry motioned, Ms. Bone' seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the August 12, 2022 Open Session Zoom Meeting Minutes, and the August 12, 2022 Executive Session Zoom Meeting Minutes as presented.

Petition for Rule Variance

- 1. BR 345-4-.02 Christy Barkley MT000607**

Ms. Bone' motioned, Ms. Curry seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to table pending receipt of substantiating the hardship, if not received by September 30, 2022, deny the petition for variance of BR 345-4-.02 based on insufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

Petitions for Rule Waiver

- 1. BR 345-4-.05(2)(c)(ii) Martika Foster MT010056**

Ms. Curry motioned, Ms. Bone' seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the petition to waive BR 345-4-.05(2)(c)(ii) based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

- 2. BR 345-4-.01, .02 Angela Maria Harmon**

Ms. Bone' motioned, Ms. Curry seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the petition to waive BR 345-4-.01, .02 based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

- 3. BR 345-4-.05(c)(ii) Crista Leanne Shumaker**

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

- 4. BR 345-4-.05(c)(ii) Tiana Miller**

Ms. Bone' 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) based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

- 5. BR 345-4-.02 Deborah Donnahoe MT011123**

Ms. Curry motioned, Ms. Bone' seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to deny the petition to waive BR 345-4-.02 based on insufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

- 6. BR 345-4-.02(1)(a) Ronnie Karlin MT000385**

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

Discussion – Rule 345-6-.03. Faculty Requirements

The Board entered into a discussion about the proposed amendments to Board Rule 345-6-.03. Mr. Knowles reported that although the Board was granted authority to amend the rule, Ms. Price discovered that the Board did

not include language that requires massage therapy program directors or coordinators to hold a Georgia massage therapy license. Ms. Price informed the Board that thought that was the Board's intent since it has traditionally been required of massage therapy educational programs, even prior to licensure.

In addition to the original rationale for amending the rule, it was the consensus of the Board that language requiring the program director or coordinator to hold a valid massage therapy license in the state of Georgia should be added to paragraph one (1) of the rule. The rationale provided for this change is that program directors often stand in for their faculty in their absence and as a result must have practiced in the field to ensure that the curriculum, learning materials and student learning objectives align with the minimum standards of practice, statutes and rules. The Board further amended the implementation of faculty requirements to July 1, 2024 instead of July 1, 2022 to allow programs sufficient time to be come into compliance with the rule if they are not already.

Rule 345-6-.03. Faculty Requirements.

- (1) In order to be a board recognized massage therapy educational program, the program director or coordinator must hold a valid massage therapy license in the state of Georgia; and the program must have a student to faculty ratio in the lab/clinical/community area that shall not exceed twenty (20) students to one (1) instructor, with no more than ten (10) student therapists and ten (10) students serving as clients. Lecture classes are not subject to this ratio.
- (2) All licensed faculty must maintain compliance with all statutes and rules governing their practice to include but not limited to all renewal requirements.
- (3) As of July 1, 2024, all lead faculty for lab, clinical and community courses shall hold a current Georgia massage therapy license and must demonstrate competence in their respective areas of teaching as evidenced by a minimum of a Bachelor's degree or 4 years of experience in the course(s) they will be teaching. All lead faculty that were in place prior to July 1, 2024 are exempt from this requirement.
- (4) Lead faculty for human sciences courses (anatomy, pathology, physiology) are 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 a Bachelor's degree or 4 years of experience in the course(s) they are teaching.
- (5) 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 educational program.
- (6) The Board shall be notified in writing of any program faculty changes within ten (10) days of the date the change becomes effective.
- (7) In order to be a board recognized massage therapy educational program that utilizes faculty assistants, the program shall establish and maintain policies that outline the qualifications, duties and procedures for use of faculty assistants including, but not limited to, the following requirements:
 - (a) Faculty assistants for lab, clinical and community courses must have an active Georgia massage therapy license;
 - (b) Faculty assistants shall work under the direct supervision of approved faculty;
 - (c) Faculty assistants shall not be used as substitutes or replacements for regular faculty; and,
 - (d) Faculty assistants shall not be responsible for the overall evaluation of any student.
- (8) Faculty assistants are not required to have a minimum of a Bachelor's degree or 4 years of experience.
- (9) 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. §§ 43-1-25, 43-24A-3(4), 43-24A-7(a)(1), and 43-24A-7(b)(7, 9).

Ms. Curry motioned, Ms. Bone' seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to refer Rule 345-6-.03. Faculty Requirements as amended to the Attorney General's Office for a Memorandum of Authority, and if no objections, vote to post.

Adjournment With no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Minutes recorded by: Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist
Minutes reviewed and edited by: Meagan Doss, Licensing Supervisor & Adrienne Price, Executive Director
Minutes approved on: October 28, 2022

CRAIG KNOWLES
BOARD CHAIR

ADRIENNE PRICE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR