

**GEORGIA BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY
Board WebEx Open Session Meeting Minutes
Friday, August 9, 2024 - 9:00 a.m.**

The Georgia Board of Massage Therapy met via WebEx on Friday, August 9, 2024. 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
Dan Nichols, LMT, NMT, Board Member
Stephanie Bone', LMT, BWS, LDS, CR, Board Member

Administrative Staff Present

Adrienne Price, Executive Director
Meagan Doss, Licensing Supervisor
Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist
Donna Richardson, Licensing/Complaint Analyst
Donna Hammond, Licensing/Complaint Analyst

Board Members Absent

No member absent.

Attorney General's Office Present

Craig Pake, Assistant Attorney General

Visitors Present

Call-In User 1
Call-In User 2
Call-In User 3
Call-In User 4
Alyssa Lucas, Atlanta School of Massage
Ashley Hernandez, Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB), Government Relations Manager
Lawrence Williams, MT05136
Mykenzie Francis, Alpha School of Massage
Pat Neri, Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission (GNPEC), Program Manager
Laura Puryear, Associated Bodywork & Massage Professionals (ABMP)

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

Ms. Curry motioned, Mr. Nichols 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, Pam Nichols, Jane Curry, Stephanie Bone', and Dan Nichols.

At the conclusion of Executive Session on Friday, August 9, 2024, 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

Scheduled Board Appointment

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

9:30 a.m. Applicant Interview - MT230016 Uphold previous motion.

Executive Session Minutes

1. **June 14, 2024 Executive Session WebEx Meeting Minutes**
2. **July 19, 2024 Executive Session Investigative Committee WebEx Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Nichols motioned, Ms. Bone' seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the June 14, 2024 Executive Session WebEx Meeting Minutes, and the July 19, 2024 Executive Session Investigative Committee WebEx Meeting Minutes, as presented.

Attorney General's Report – C. Pake

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

1. **AG MEMO – MT220052** Rescind the referral and close the case.
2. **AG MEMO – MT240028** Refer to Attorney General's Office for a Hearing or Public Consent Order.
3. **MT230006** Ms. Curry motioned, Ms. Nichols seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to close the case on the Respondent T.

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

Legal Services MEMO

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

1. **Cases for Ratification** Accept orders as received.
 - a) **MT240062**
 - b) **MT250124**
 - c) **MT250125**
 - d) **MT240076**
2. **Requests for Reconsideration**
 - a) **00078955** Rescind the previous motion, close the case, and issue the license with a Letter of Concern regarding false attestation on application for licensure.
 - b) **MT240063** Uphold previous motion.
3. **Open Records Requests**
 - a) **ORR 24-180** Release application information as requested. Deny request for investigative documents pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19(h)(2).
 - b) **ORR 24-112** Ratify release of requested records to the Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission.
4. **Case for Closure Due to Unresponsiveness - MT250127** Rescind the previous motion and deny application for licensure based on false attestation on the application.

Investigative Committee Summary Report – P. Nichols

Mr. Nichols motioned, Ms. Bone’ seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the following recommendation made in Executive Session:

- MT180062** Refer to the Attorney General’s Office for Revocation.
- MT190029** Table pending further investigation.
- MT210049** Schedule an Investigative Interview.
- MT220104** Table pending further investigation.
- MT230113** Close the case.
- MT230132** Close the case.
- MT240033** Table pending further investigation.

Applications for Board Review

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

MT Education Programs

- Applicant 4004194** Uphold previous motion.
- Applicant 4103908** If program in order, issue license with a Letter of Concern regarding faculty requirements.

Renewal/CE AUDIT

- MT250007** Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Order for License Renewal with a fine of \$500 for failure to meet CE requirement for license renewal for the 2020-2022 biennium. Must complete 24 hours of board approved CE, 12 of which must be completed in-person, into CE Broker no later than December 1, 2024. CE used to satisfy the requirements of the order may not be used to meet CE requirements for the biennium ending October 31, 2024. Flag for CE Audit.
- MT250008** Renew the license with a Letter of Concern regarding the provision of accurate responses on the renewal application and close the case.
- MT250004** Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Order for License Renewal with a fine of \$1000 for false attestation and failure to meet CE requirements for the renewal cycle ending October 31, 2022 and must complete 12 hours of CE within 30 days of the docket date of the order. Fine to be paid in full by October 31, 2025 and CE completed to satisfy the requirements of the order may not be used to meet CE requirements for the biennium ending October 31, 2024. Flag for CE Audit.
- MT250005** Renew the license with a Letter of Concern regarding accurate and timely responses on renewal application. Flag for CE Audit.
- MT250006** Renew the license with a Letter of Concern recommending the licensee complete all CE requirements prior to applying to renew the license.
- Applicant 2937300** Renew the license with a Letter of Concern regarding response to citizenship question on renewal.

Transcript Review

Applicant 4004204 Issue the license with a Letter of Concern.

Applicant 4086027 Deny based on failure to meet educational requirements [O.C.G.A. § 43-24A-8(b)(7)].

OPEN SESSION

Open Session Minutes

- 1. June 14, 2024 Open Session WebEx Meeting Minutes**
- 2. July 19, 2024 Open Session Investigative Committee WebEx Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Bone’ motioned, Mr. Nichols seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the June 14, 2024 Open Session WebEx Meeting Minutes, and the July 19 2024 Open Session Investigative Committee WebEx Meeting Minutes, as presented.

Licenses to Ratify: June 7, 2024 – August 2, 2024

Mr. Nichols motioned, Ms. Bone’ 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 – Inquiry Regarding Continuation of 600-Hr Program – The Elaine Sterling Institute

The Board discussed that amendments to the laws and rules implementing title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 have been stayed as a result of several entities having brought lawsuits against the United States Department of Education (DOE) regarding their decision. The current approved programs are good up to the date that the amendments go into effect. Only students who enroll after that date will be affected by those requirements.

Ms. Nichols motioned, Ms. Curry seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to amend the current massage therapy education program application to make a distinction between whether it is the intent of the program to discontinue a curriculum and offer a new one when submitting a curriculum change application.

Correspondence – Letter from VA Dept Veterans Affairs to Georgia Board of Massage Therapy

Ms. Curry motioned, Ms. Nichols seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion for the Board Chair to draft a letter in response which states: We appreciate your correspondence and your desire for portability in the Massage Therapy profession. On a state level, Licensing Boards are required to follow the statute that is set forth in their Practice Act by legislation. State Boards do not have the authority to supersede or to change the law. However, there is a national standard that has been set forth for our profession for portability across state lines through the Interstate Compact. The Department of Defense awarded a grant to the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSBTB) to develop statutory language that can be adopted legislatively state by state to allow licensees to move more freely among participating states. It has already been created and adopted by a couple of states, with more states joining in the next legislative session.

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

- 1. 07-01-24 Certificant Disciplinary Actions by State**
- 2. 08-01-24 NCBTMB Disciplinary Report**

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

Petitions for Rule Waiver – BR 345-08-.01 Jaiden Rose

- 1. Public Comment – M R**
- 2. Public Comment – Bonni Rose**

Ms. Nichols motioned, Mr. Nichols seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the petition to waive BR 345-8-.01 based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

2025 Board Zoom Meeting Dates

All meetings are Fridays at 9:00 a.m. via WebEx

- Friday, February 7, 2025
- Friday, April 11, 2025
- Friday, June 13, 2025
- Friday, August 8, 2025
- Friday, October 24, 2025
- Friday, December 5, 2025

Investigative Committee

All meetings are Fridays at 9:00 a.m. via WebEx

- Friday, January 10, 2025
- Friday, March 14, 2025
- Friday, May 16, 2025
- Friday, July 18, 2025
- Friday, September 19, 2025
- Friday, November 14, 2025

Mr. Nichols motioned, Ms. Bone’ seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the 2025 Board meeting dates as presented.

Board Member Elections

Chair

Ms. Bone’ motioned, Ms. Nichols seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to re-elect Craig Knowles as the Board Chair.

Vice Chair

Ms. Nichols motioned, Ms. Bone’ seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to elect Dan Nichols as the Board Vice Chair.

FSMTB Board Delegate

Ms. Nichols motioned, Ms. Curry seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to appoint Dan Nichols as the FSMTB Board Delegate.

Investigative Committee Chair

Mr. Knowles motioned, Ms. Bone’ seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to re-elect Pam Nichols as the Investigative Committee Chair.

Investigative Committee Vice Chair

Mr. Knowles motioned, Ms. Bone’ seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to elect Dan Nichols as the Investigative Committee Vice Chair.

Education Cognizant

Ms. Nichols motioned, Ms. Curry seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to re-elect Craig Knowles as the Board Education Cognizant.

Applications Cognizant (Reinstatements / Renewals)

Mr. Nichols motioned, Ms. Nichols seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to elect Stephanie Bone’ as the Board Applications Cognizant.

Arrest Cognizant

Mr. Nichols motioned, Ms. Nichols seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to re-elect Jane Curry as the Board Arrest Cognizant.

Rules Committee

Ms. Curry motioned, Ms. Bone’ seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to re-elect Pam Nichols as the Board Rules Committee Chair and to appoint Dan Nichols to the Rules Committee as Vice Chair.

Executive Director’s Report – A. Price

The 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, and complaints/compliance matters. In addition, the report addressed the following topic of interest with the Board:

- PLB Updates
- Rules Hearing
- MTLD
- Notice to Licensed MTs, RMPs, & Massage Establishments & FAQ Updates

Ms. Nichols motioned, Mr. 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

No official report presented. Mr. Knowles reported that he is still working on getting the Massage Therapy Compact passed through legislation. He wants to remind all licensees that renewal is now live and that the Board appreciates everyone’s patience with the new licensing system, GOALS. He also expressed his appreciation for Board staff during the transition to GOALS, and for the work of the Attorney General’s Office.

Adjournment With no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 1:06 p.m.

Minutes recorded by: Adrienne Price, Executive Director
Minutes reviewed and edited by: Meagan Doss, Licensing Supervisor & Adrienne Price, Executive Director
Minutes approved on: September 16, 2024

CRAIG KNOWLES
BOARD CHAIR

ADRIENNE PRICE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF BIBB

**AFFIDAVIT SUPPORTING CLOSING OF
PUBLIC MEETING**

The Georgia Open Meetings Act, O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1 *et seq.*, requires that all meetings of an entity covered by the statute must be open to the public unless there is some specific statutory exception which permits the closing of the meeting. If such a meeting is to be closed, the law requires that the presiding person execute a sworn affidavit stating that the subject matter of the meeting or the closed portion thereof was devoted to matters within the statutory exceptions and identifying those specific exceptions relied upon. O.C.G.A. § 50-14-4(b). A copy of this affidavit must be filed with the minutes of the meeting in question.

Comes now Craig Knowles the presiding officer identified below and, before an official duly authorized to administer oaths, makes this affidavit in satisfaction of the statutory requirements outlined above.

1. I am the presiding officer of the Georgia Massage Therapy Board.
2. I am over the age of 18 and in all other aspects competent to make this sworn statement. I acknowledge that I am giving this statement under oath and penalty of perjury and that I have read the contents of this affidavit prior to signing it.
3. On, August 9th this entity, which is subject to the Open Meetings Act, met. A majority of the quorum of the members present voted to close the meeting or a portion thereof for the following indicated reason(s). I hereby certify that during the closed portion of the meeting, only those subjects indicated below were discussed. I also certify that I have reviewed the exceptions provided under the Open Meetings Act that may permit the closing of a meeting and that, to the best of my knowledge, the reasons I have described in detail below meet the requirements for closing this public meeting.
4. The legal authority for the closure of this meeting was:
O.C.G.A. § 43-1-2(k) and 43-1-19(h)
5. The subject(s) discussed and the underlying facts supporting the closing of this meeting are:
To deliberate applications and enforcement matters and to receive information on applications and investigative reports.

FURTHER THE AFFIANT SAYETH NOT

C.K.L.
Presiding Officer

Sworn and subscribed before me
This 9 day of August 2024

Leona Mims
Notary Public

