

**GEORGIA BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY**  
**Board WebEx Open Session Meeting Minutes**  
**Friday, December 6, 2024 - 9:00 a.m.**

The Georgia Board of Massage Therapy met via WebEx on Friday, December 6, 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  
Stephanie Bone', LMT, BWS, LDS, CR, Board Member

**Board Members Absent**

Dan Nichols, LMT, NMT, Board Member

**Visitors Present**

Beth A Dodds  
Crystal Ashton  
Kimberly Swanson, Program Director, Columbus Technical College  
Chris Keegan, Assistant Attorney General – Human Trafficking Unit  
Chelsea Black, Assistant Attorney General – Human Trafficking Unit  
Mani  
Cory  
Call-in User 2  
MyKenzie Francis, Alpha School of Massage  
Call-in User 3  
Georgia Career Institute Student  
Pat Neri, Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission (GNPEC), Program Manager  
Huan Bi  
Lauren Hennessey  
Amani

**Administrative Staff Present**

Adrienne Price, Executive Director  
Donna Richardson, Licensing/Complaint Analyst  
Sherry Strong, Complaint/Compliance Analyst

**Attorney General's Office Present**

Craig Pake, Assistant Attorney General

**Administrative Staff Absent**

Meagan Doss, Licensing Supervisor  
Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist

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

**Discussion – Office of the Attorney General, Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit – Assistant Attorneys General, Chelsea Black & Christopher Keegan**

Ms. Black began her introduction of the unit by reporting that she has been able to be a part of criminal investigation by going on site with the Trafficking Prosecution Unit in Cobb County where she was able to witness where human trafficking victims lived, on the site of the business paying \$10 for rent, and having all of their pay taken from them to cover the “expenses” for housing them. The victims lived where they worked as evidenced by bedding and personal care items which corroborated these assertions. She expressed that the ultimate goal of the Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit is to protect consumers and the victims.

She and Mr. Keegan shared that what they need from the Board is for the Board to more readily share records under their care and maintenance with them upon request so that they can more readily prosecute cases that involve some element of human trafficking.

The Board voted by acclamation to grant administrative authority to the Office of Secretary of State to share any records under the care and maintenance of the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy with the Attorney General's Office Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit upon request.

**Ms. Nichols 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, Pam Nichols, Jane Boyles Curry, Stephanie Bone'.**

**At the conclusion of Executive Session on Friday, December 6, 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. Bone' 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 MT240053      Deny based on failure to meet educational requirements [O.C.G.A. § 43-24A-8(6)].**

### **Executive Session Minutes**

- 1.    October 25, 2024 Executive Session WebEx Meeting Minutes**
- 2.    November 15, 2024 Executive Session Investigative Committee WebEx Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Bone' motioned, Ms. Nichols seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the October 25, 2024 Executive Session WebEx Meeting Minutes, and the November 15, 2024 Executive Session Investigative Committee WebEx Meeting Minutes, as presented.

### **Attorney General's Report – C. Pake**

- 1.    AG MEMO – Applicant 4150354**

Ms. Curry motioned, Ms. Bone' seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to deny licensure based on [O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-19(a)(8)(j)].

- 2.    AG MEMO – MT230004**

Ms. Nichols motioned, Ms. Bone' seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to refer back to investigations and refer the results of the investigation to the Attorney General's Office for review.

- 3.    AG MEMO - MT230123**

- 4.    AG MEMO – MT230125**

- 5.    Survey Regarding Implementation of IMPact in Georgia**

Ms. Bone' motioned, Ms. Nichols seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to forward survey regarding implementation of IMPact in Georgia to licensees before January 31, 2025.

Ms. Nichols motioned, Ms. Bone' 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 – Cases for Ratification**

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

- 1. MT250162
- 2. MT205159
- 3. MT250165

Accept orders as received.

**Investigative Committee Summary Report – P. Nichols**

- MT180139 Close the case.
- MT180157 Table pending further investigation.
- MT200074 Close the case.
- MT190012 Accept the Voluntary Surrender Order. Close the case on Respondent YL.
- MT230024 Refer to the Attorney General’s Office for Revocation of Licensure.
- MT240044 Refer to Investigations to obtain evidence as discussed, and upon receipt, schedule an Investigative Interview with the Respondent.
- MT250140 Request an Investigative Interview. Refer to the Attorney General’s Office Human Exploitation and Trafficking (HEAT) and Prosecution Unit.
- MT250151 Refer to Investigations to obtain evidence as discussed, and upon receipt, schedule an Investigative Interview with the Respondent.

Ms. Bone’ motioned, Ms. Curry seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the Investigative Summary Report as presented.

**Applications for Board Review**

**Arrests**

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

- Applicant 4157120** Deny license based on the nature and seriousness of the alleged crime, recency of the case and relevance of the alleged crimes to the practice of massage therapy [O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19(a)(6) & (8); (43-1-19q)(2)]. May reapply after there is a final disposition of the pending criminal case.
- Applicant 4169008** Renew the license with a Letter of Concern regarding criminal history.
- Applicant 4171235** Issue the license.
- Applicant 4166983** Issue the license with a Letter of Concern regarding criminal history.
- Applicant 4189009** Issue the license.
- Applicant 4169814** Deny license based on the criminal history, nature and seriousness of the alleged crime, recency of the case and relevance of the alleged crimes to the practice of massage therapy [O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19(a)(6) & (8); (43-1-19q)(2)].
- Applicant 4184506** Issue the license with a Letter of Concern regarding criminal history.

**Inactive Status**

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:

**Applicant 4172677** Deny request for Inactive Status based on BR 345-4-.04(3).

**Applicant 4183670** Issue the license. Flag for CE Audit.

**Massage Therapy Educational Programs**

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

**Applicant 2855303** Table pending AG Advice.

**Applicant 4179464** Approve the curriculum change.

**Applicant 4153582** Table pending Cognizant review. If requirements met, issue the license

**Renewals**

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

**Applicant 4153538** Deny the renewal and refer to the Attorney General’s Office for Revocation of the License based on the criminal history, nature and seriousness of the alleged crime, recency of the case and relevance of the alleged crimes to the practice of massage therapy [O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19(a)(6) & (8); (43-1-19q)(2)] and share information with AG Human Trafficking Department as necessary.

**Applicant 4158449** Deny the renewal and refer to the Attorney General’s Office for Revocation of the License based on the criminal history, nature and seriousness of the alleged crime, recency of the case and relevance of the alleged crimes to the practice of massage therapy [O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19(a)(6) & (8); (43-1-19q)(2)] and share information with AG Human Trafficking Department as necessary.

**Applicant 4155622** Deny the renewal and refer to the Attorney General’s Office for Revocation of the License based on the criminal history, nature and seriousness of the alleged crime, recency of the case and relevance of the alleged crimes to the practice of massage therapy [O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19(a)(6) & (8); (43-1-19q)(2)] and share information with AG Human Trafficking Department as necessary.

**Applicant 4155838** Renew the license with a Letter of Concern regarding false attestation on the renewal application.

**Applicant 4156147** Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Order for License Renewal with a fine of \$1000 for false attestation on the renewal application and failure to meet CE requirements in accordance with Board Rules. Must complete 12 hours of board approved hands-on CE within 90 days of the docket date of the order and pay the fine in full before October 31, 2025. CE taken to satisfy the requirements of the order may not be used to meet any future CE requirements for renewal. Flag for CE Audit.

**Applicant 4158148** Renew the license with a Letter of Concern regarding violations of Board Rule 345-4-.03(5), noting that it is the licensee's responsibility as well as the CE Providers to ensure

that information that is submitted to the Board is accurate to receive credit. Flag for CE Audit.

- Applicant 1419903** Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Order for Renewal of Licensure with a fine of \$1500 for making a false attestation on the renewal application regarding CE requirements, failing to maintain professional liability insurance as required by law, and failure to meet CE requirements as required by Board Rules. Must provide proof of professional liability insurance upon signing the order. Must submit proof of 12 hours of hands-on CE within 90 days of the docket date of the order and must pay the fine in full before October 31, 2025. CE taken to satisfy the requirements of the order may not be used to meet any future CE requirements for renewal. Disciplinary action may be withheld upon receipt of a signed and notarized letter of withdrawal of the renewal application from the Licensee. If the letter is received prior to December 31, 2024, the license will be lapsed/expired by operation of law. Flag for CE Audit.
- Applicant 4154895** Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Order for License Renewal with a public reprimand with a fine of \$1000 for false attestation on the renewal application; and for failure to maintain professional liability insurance as required by law. Must submit proof of professional liability insurance upon signing of the order. Fine must be paid in full before October 31, 2025. Flag for CE Audit.
- Applicant 4154992** Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Order for License Renewal with a public reprimand with a fine of \$1000 for false attestation on the renewal application by answering YES to having met CE requirements on August 20, 2024 when they were not complete until October 31, 2024; and for failure to maintain professional liability insurance as required by law. Fine must be paid in full before October 31, 2025. Flag for CE Audit.
- Applicant 4150483** Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Order for Renewal of Licensure with a fine of \$1000 for making a false attestation on the renewal application regarding maintenance of professional liability insurance as required by law, and failure to maintain professional liability insurance. Must provide proof of professional liability insurance upon signing the order. Must pay the fine in full before October 31, 2025. Flag for CE Audit.
- Applicant 4153283** Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Order for Renewal of Licensure with a fine of \$500 for failure to maintain professional liability insurance as required by law. Fine must be paid within 90 days after the docket date of the order. Flag for CE Audit.
- Applicant 4153830** Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Order for Renewal of Licensure with a fine of \$500 for failure to maintain professional liability insurance as required by law. Fine to be paid within 90 days of the docket date of the order. Flag for CE Audit.
- Applicant 4159395** Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Order for License Renewal with a fine of \$500 for failure to maintain professional liability insurance in accordance with O.C.G.A. 43-24A-8(8). The Licensee must submit proof of the required professional liability insurance upon signing the Board Order. Fine must be paid within 90 days after the docket date of the order. Flag for CE Audit.
- Applicant 4160209** Renew the license with a Letter of Concern regarding maintenance of professional liability insurance in accordance with law without any lapses [O.C.G.A 43-24A-8(8)].
- Applicant 4174593** Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Order for License Renewal with a fine of \$500 for failure to maintain professional liability insurance as required by law. Fine must be paid within 90 days after the docket date of the order. Flag for CE Audit.

**Applicant 4150152** Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Order for License Renewal with a fine of \$1000 for failure to maintain professional liability insurance and false attestation on the renewal application by answering YES to the question which asked if the Respondent maintained liability insurance coverage as required by law. Flag for CE Audit.

**Applicant 4156361** Refer to the Attorney General's Office for a Private Consent for License Renewal to include monitoring for a minimum of four (4) years, quarterly personal, employer, aftercare and psychotherapy reports with medication management, random hair follicle drug screens for a minimum of two (2) years. May petition to change to urine drug screens after two (2) years of results that only reveal prescribed substances. After a minimum of four (4) years of monitoring and documented sobriety, may petition for termination of the order with the submission of the results of a mental physical examination from the treating psychiatrist which recommends release from the terms of the order. A fine of \$1000 for failure to maintain prof. liability insurance as required and false attestation on the renewal application for stating he has maintained the insurance as required. Fine must be paid in full before October 31, 2025. Flag for CE Audit.

**MT250169** Deny renewal of licensure and refer to the Attorney General's office for revocation of licensure based on arrest and failure to demonstrate ability to practice with reasonable skill and safety.

**Transcript Review**

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

**Applicant 4175099** Deny license based on failure to meet licensure requirements [O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-19(a)(1) & 43-24A-8(b)(6)].

**Applicant 4160983** Deny license based on failure to meet educational requirements [O.C.G.A. § 43-24A-8(b)(6)].

**Applicant 4175079** Deny license based on failure to meet educational requirements and criminal history relevant to the practice of massage therapy [O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-19(a)(1),(3),&(6); 43-24A-8(b)(6) & BR 345-6-.01(1)(i) & (2)(i)].

**Applicant 4181112** Deny license based on failure to meet educational requirements [O.C.G.A. § 43-24A-8(b)(6)].

**Applicant 4167225** Deny license based on failure to meet educational requirements [O.C.G.A. § 43-24A-8(b)(6)].

**Applicant 3102731** Deny license based on failure to meet requirements for licensure [O.C.G.A. § 43-24A-8(b)(6)(7)].

**OPEN SESSION**

**Open Session Minutes**

- 1. October 25, 2024 Open Session WebEx Meeting Minutes**
- 2. November 15, 2024 Open Session Investigative Committee WebEx Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Bone' motioned, Ms. Curry seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the October 25, 2024 Open Session WebEx Meeting Minutes, and the November 15, 2024 Open Session Investigative Committee WebEx Meeting Minutes, as presented.

**Licenses to Ratify: October 21, 2024 – November 26, 2024**

Ms. Curry 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.

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

1. 11-01-24 Approved Provider Disciplinary Actions by State
2. 11-01-24 Certificant Disciplinary Actions by State
3. 12-01-24 Approved Provider Disciplinary Report
4. 12-01-24 Certification Disciplinary Report

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

**Discussion – Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB) – In Touch E-Newsletter December 2024**

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

Ms. Curry motioned, Ms. Nichols seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion for Executive Director, Adrienne Price, to attend the Massage Board Executive (MBE) Summit.

**Petitions for Rule Variance**

1. BR 345-04-.02\_Peter M Williams

Ms. Bone' motioned, Ms. Nichols seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to deny the petition to waive the CE requirements and request for an extension by operation of law. Must complete CE hours before December 31, 2024, without penalty. If completed the license may be renewed. If fails to complete the CE by the deadline provided, refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Order with a fine of \$500 for failure to meet CE requirements for license renewal. The fine must be paid within 90 days after the docket date of the order. Flag for Audit

2. BR 345-4-.02(4)\_Kristin Reim

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

**Petitions for Rule Waiver**

1. BR 345-4-.02\_Peggy Mills\_MT004837

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 based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

2. BR 345-4-.02\_Stephen Luna

Ms. Bone' motioned, Ms. Curry seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to deny the petition to waive BR 345-4-.02 based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship [O.C.G.A. 43-24A-3(4).]

**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
- MTLT

Ms. Curry motioned, Ms. Bone’ 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**

Ms. Bone’ motioned, Ms. Nichols seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to reschedule the February 7, 2025, Board Meeting to February 28, 2025.

Mr. Knowles reported that he met with Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission (NPEC) Officials regarding processes and procedures.

Ms. Nichols motioned, Ms. Curry seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the Board Chair to represent the interest of the Board before the Georgia General Assembly as it relates to any efforts to adopt the compact and other legislative efforts relative to massage therapy.

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

**Adjournment** With no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 1:35 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:** February 28, 2025

**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, December 6, 2024 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

Cykel  
Presiding Officer

Sworn and subscribed before me  
This 9<sup>th</sup> day of December 2024

Leona Mims  
Notary Public

