

GEORGIA BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY
Board WebEx Open Session Meeting Minutes
Friday, February 27, 2026 - 9:00 a.m.

The Georgia Board of Massage Therapy met via WebEx on Friday, February 27, 2026. 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
Tiffany Henderson, LMT, Board Member

Administrative Staff Present

Adrienne Price, Executive Director
Meagan Doss, Licensing Supervisor
Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist
Demetrice Byron, Licensing Analyst
LaTavia Bearden, Complaint/Compliance Analyst

Board Members Absent

No members absent.

Attorney General's Office Present

Craig Pake, Assistant Attorney General

Visitors Present

Xihui Ren
Peter Erdman
Garrett
Jenny
ME
George Ray
Jenna
Seth Dinkel, Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB)
Mary Little
Call-In User 1
Sam
Celena Gooden
Doug Crowdis
Call-In User 2
Shana Boston Vining
Kristi Chambers
Kellie Atkinson
Rhonda Scott
Call-In User 3
Jenny Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB)
Asha
Berri Byron-Brown
Call-In User 6

Call to Order Mr. Knowles established that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m.

OPEN SESSION

Agenda

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

Ms. Nichols motioned, Ms. Henderson 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, and Tiffany Henderson.

At the conclusion of Executive Session on Friday, February 27, 2026, 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 Appearances

Ms. Curry motioned, Ms. Henderson seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the Attorney General’s Report and advice, and the following recommendations made in Executive session:

9:30 a.m. Applicant 4229559 Uphold the previous decision to deny licensure based on failure to complete a Board recognized massage therapy educational program [O.C.G.A. § 43-24A-8(b)(6)].

Jane Curry left the meeting at 9:36 a.m. with a quorum of the Board still present.
Jane Curry rejoined the meeting at 9:46 a.m.

10:00 a.m. MT260174 Uphold previous motion to deny.

10:30 a.m. MT260159 Uphold previous motion to deny.

Jane Curry left the meeting at 10:17 a.m. with a quorum of the Board still present.
Jane Curry rejoined the meeting at 10:21 a.m.

11:00 a.m. MT260178 Uphold previous motion to deny. The applicant may choose to withdraw the application.

11:30 a.m. MT260202 Rescind the previous motion and issue the license with a Letter of Concern regarding full disclosure of criminal history.

Executive Session Minutes – January 14, 2026 Executive Session WebEx Meeting Minutes

Ms. Curry motioned, Ms. Henderson seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the January 14, 2026 Executive Session WebEx Meeting Minutes, as presented.

Attorney General’s Report – C. Pake

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

1. AG MEMO – MT240019

Rescind the previous motion and refer to the Attorney General’s Office for a public consent order and public reprimand for violations of BR 385-8-.03 with terms and conditions as discussed in Executive Session.

2. AG MEMO – MT230024

Rescind the previous motion and close the case with a Letter of Concern regarding unprofessional conduct.

3. AG MEMO – MT200020

Rescind the previous motion and close the case on Respondent XZ and refer Respondent FX to the Attorney General’s Office for a Public Consent Order for sexual misconduct with terms and conditions as discussed in Executive Session.

4. MT250155

Refer to the Attorney General's Office for a Public Consent Order and public reprimand for unprofessional conduct to include a fine of \$500 and a minimum of 12 hours of CE on professional boundaries and ethics. The fine and coursework must be completed within 90 days of the docket date of the order. CE taken to satisfy the order may not be used to meet CE requirements for renewal. Flag for Audit.

Ms. Henderson motioned, Ms. Curry 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

1. Cases for Ratification

Ms. Curry motioned, Ms. Henderson seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the following orders as received.

- A. MT260122**
- B. MT260119**
- C. MT260095**
- D. MT260121**
- E. MT260039**
- F. MT250276**
- G. MT260114**
- H. MT260022**
- I. MT260140**
- J. MT260182**
- K. MT260084**
- L. MT260117**
- M. MT260041**
- N. MT260187**
- O. MT260203**
- P. MT260161**
- Q. MT260167**
- R. MT260135**
- S. MT260165**
- T. MT260166**
- U. MT260125**
- V. MT250341**
- W. MT250341**
- X. MT260157**
- Y. MT260015**
- Z. MT260109**
- AA. MT260156**
- BB. MT260144**
- CC. MT260036**
- DD. MT260195**
- EE. MT260149**
- FF. MT260184**
- GG. MT260186**
- HH. MT260192**
- II. MT260191**
- JJ. MT260163**
- KK. MT260034**
- LL. MT260179**
- MM. MT260198**

- NN. MT260019**
- OO. MT260170**
- PP. MT260137**
- QQ. MT260208**
- RR. MT260172**
- SS. MT260023**
- TT. MT260107**
- UU. MT260204**
- VV. MT260217**
- WW. MT260212**
- XX. MT260214**
- YY. MT260224**
- ZZ. MT260227**
- AAA. MT260175**

2. Requests for Reconsideration

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

- A. MT260116** Amend the previous motion to remove false attestation from the Findings of Fact thus reducing the fine to \$500.
- B. MT260142** Rescind the previous motion and renew the license.
- C. MT260143** Rescind the previous motion and refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Order for License Renewal with a fine of \$500 failure to complete CE requirements within and failure to maintain professional liability insurance, in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 43-24A-8(b)(8) & 43-24A-14(c). CE completed to satisfy the terms of the order may not be used to meet CE requirements for the biennium ending October 31, 2026. Fine must be paid in full by October 31, 2026. Flag for Audit.
- E. MT260173** Uphold previous motion.
- F. MT260176** Uphold previous motion and notify applicant they can withdraw application and allow license to lapse. If applies for reinstatement, details of the case will be revisited.
- G. MT260111** Rescind previous motion and renew the license with a Letter of Concern regarding maintaining liability insurance.
- I. MT260038** Uphold previous motion.
- J. MT260150** Rescind the previous motion and refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Order for License Renewal with a fine of \$500 failure to complete CE requirements within and failure to maintain professional liability insurance, in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 43-24A-8(b)(8) & 43-24A-14(c). CE completed to satisfy the terms of the order may not be used to meet CE requirements for the biennium ending October 31, 2026. Fine must be paid in full by October 31, 2026. Flag for Audit.
- K. MT260070** Uphold previous motion.
- L. MT260153** Uphold previous motion and notify applicant they can withdraw application and allow license to lapse. If applies for reinstatement, details of the case will be revisited.
- N. MT260211** Rescind previous motion and renew the license with a Letter of Concern regarding maintaining liability insurance.

- O. MT260207** Uphold previous motion and notify applicant they can withdraw application and allow license to lapse. If applies for reinstatement, details of the case will be revisited.
- Q. MT260011** Uphold previous motion and notify applicant they can withdraw application and allow license to lapse. If apply for reinstatement details of the case will be revisited.
- R. MT260221** Uphold previous motion.
- S. MT260210** Uphold previous motion and grant the applicant interview if still being requested.
- T. MT260231** Amend previous motion to include a condition that the fine must be paid no later than 10-31-26 and prior to applying for 2026 renewal.
- U. MT260216** Uphold previous motion.
- V. MT260232** Uphold previous motion.

3. Cases for Closure Due to Unresponsiveness

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

- A. MT250273** Refer to the Attorney General’s Office for a Public Consent Order for Renewal of Licensure with a fine of \$500 for failure to maintain professional liability insurance coverage. Fine to be paid within 90 days of the order docket date. Must provide current Certificate of Insurance upon signing Order. Flag for Audit.
- B. MT250269** Refer to the Attorney General’s Office for a Public Consent Order for Renewal of Licensure with a fine of \$500 for failure to maintain professional liability insurance coverage. Fine to be paid within 90 days of the order docket date. Must provide current Certificate of Insurance upon signing Order. Flag for Audit.
- C. MT250274** ————— Refer to the Attorney General’s Office for a Public Consent Order for Renewal of Licensure with a fine of \$500 for failure to maintain professional liability insurance coverage. Fine to be paid within 90 days of the order docket date. Must provide current Certificate of Insurance upon signing Order. Flag for Audit.
- D. MT250326** Refer to the Attorney General’s Office for a Public Consent Order for Renewal of Licensure with a fine of \$1000 for false attestation regarding CE requirements and failure to maintain professional liability insurance coverage. Fine to be paid in full by 10/31/26. Flag for Audit.
- E. MT250239** Refer to the Attorney General’s Office for a Public Consent Order for Renewal of Licensure with a fine of \$500 for failure to maintain professional liability insurance coverage. Fine to be paid within 90 days of the order docket date. Flag for Audit.
- F. MT250330** Refer to the Attorney General’s Office for a Public Consent Order for Renewal of Licensure with a fine of \$500 for failure to maintain professional liability insurance coverage. Fine to be paid within 90 days of the order docket date. Flag for Audit.
- G. MT250340** Refer to the Attorney General’s Office for a Public Consent Order for Renewal of Licensure with a fine of \$1000 for false attestation as to insurance and failure to maintain

professional liability insurance coverage. Fine to be paid in full by 10/31/26. Must provide current Certificate of Insurance at time of signing Order. Flag for Audit.

4. Open Records Request – ORR 25-1201

Ms. Henderson motioned, Ms. Curry seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to deny the release of records for information not publicly available.

Miscellaneous Executive Discussion

Ms. Henderson motioned, Ms. Curry seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to send notification to applicants and licensees that the Board will begin to impose sanctions for failure to update their information with the Board within thirty (30) days of a change in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19 and 43-24A-7, upon substantiating a violation. Whereas the Board may fine up to \$500 for each offense, the Board has determined that a fine of \$150.00 will be levied for this type of violation. Applicants and licensees are encouraged to update all their information with the Board in accordance with Board Rules.

Cognizant Ratification Report

Ms. Curry motioned, Ms. Henderson seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the Cognizant Ratification Report as presented.

Applicant 4227422 Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Agreement for License Reinstatement with a fine of \$500 for unlicensed practice from December 2024-present. Fine must be paid prior to reinstatement of licensure. Flag for Audit.

Applicant 4368517 Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Agreement for License Reinstatement with a fine of \$500 for unlicensed practice from December 2024-present. Fine must be paid prior to reinstatement of licensure. Flag for Audit.

Applications for Board Review

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

Arrests

Applicant 4230724 Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Agreement for Licensure with a fine of \$500 for failure to disclose as required by law. Fine must be paid within 90 days of the order docket date. Flag for Audit.

Endorsements

Applicant 4193240 Deny licensure for unlicensed practice, and aiding and abetting unlicensed practice. Uphold the decision to issue the Respondent a Cease-and-Desist Order for engaging in unlicensed practice and aiding and abetting unlicensed practice.

Massage Therapy Education Programs

Applicant 4452423 Ratify Cognizant recommendation to issue the license.

Applicant 4612170 Approve faculty amendment as presented.

Applicant 4231746 If background results return with no unknown infractions, approve faculty amendment.

Applicant 4208037 Approve if Certificate of Insurance and CE Audits pass.

Reinstatements

- Applicant 4201560** Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Order for License Renewal with a fine of \$1500 for false attestation regarding CE, and failure to complete CE requirements within the biennium, in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 43-24A-8(b)(8) & 43-24A-14(c). CE completed to satisfy the terms of the order may not be used to meet CE requirements for the biennium ending October 31, 2026. Fine must be paid in full by October 31, 2026. Flag for Audit.
- Applicant 4279310** Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Agreement for License Reinstatement with a fine of \$1000 for unlicensed practice from December 2024-present, and false attestation. Fine must be paid in full by October 31, 2026. Flag for Audit.
- Applicant 4352450** Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Agreement for License Reinstatement with a fine of \$500 for unlicensed practice from September 1, 2025-present. Fine must be paid prior to reinstatement of licensure. Flag for Audit.
- Applicant 4387665** Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Agreement for License Reinstatement with a fine of \$500 for unlicensed practice from December 2024-present. Fine must be paid prior to reinstatement of licensure. Flag for Audit.

Renewals

Renewal-CE

- Applicant 4202223** Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Order for License Renewal with a fine of \$1500 for false attestation regarding CE, and failure to complete CE requirements within the biennium, in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 43-24A-8(b)(8) & 43-24A-14(c). CE completed to satisfy the terms of the order may not be used to meet CE requirements for the biennium ending October 31, 2026. Fine must be paid in full by October 31, 2026. Flag for Audit.

Renewal-Certificate of Insurance

- Applicant 4171153** Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Order for License Renewal with a fine of \$1000 for false attestation regarding insurance and failure to maintain professional liability insurance in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 43-24A-8(b)(8) & 43-24A-14(c). Must provide proof of professional liability insurance upon signing the order before the license may be renewed. Fine must be paid in full by October 31, 2026. Flag for Audit.
- Applicant 4183079** Refer to the Attorney General's Office for Revocation of Licensure for failure to maintain professional liability insurance in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 43-24A-8(b)(8) & 43-24A-14(c).
- Applicant 4187298** 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(b)(8) & 43-24A-14(c). Must provide proof of professional liability insurance upon signing the order before the license may be renewed. Fine to be paid within 90 days of the order docket date. Flag for Audit
- Applicant 4210351** Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Order for License Renewal with a fine of \$2000 for failure to meet CE requirements, false attestation regarding CE, false attestation regarding insurance, and failure to maintain professional liability insurance in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 43-24A-8(b)(8) & 43-24A-14(c). Must provide proof of professional liability insurance upon signing the order before the license may be renewed.

- Fine to be paid and proof of completion of 12 hours hand-on CE due within 90 days of the order docket date. Flag for Audit.
- Applicant 4189070** 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(b)(8) & 43-24A-14(c). Must provide proof of professional liability insurance upon signing the order before the license may be renewed. Fine to be paid within 90 days of the order docket date. Flag for Audit.
- Applicant 4188746** 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(b)(8) & 43-24A-14(c). Must provide proof of professional liability insurance upon signing the order before the license may be renewed. Fine to be paid within 90 days of the order docket date. Flag for Audit.
- Applicant 4187710** Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Order for License Renewal with a fine of \$1000 for false attestation regarding insurance and failure to maintain professional liability insurance in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 43-24A-8(b)(8) & 43-24A-14(c). Must provide proof of professional liability insurance upon signing the order before the license may be renewed. Fine must be paid in full by October 31, 2026. Flag for Audit.
- Applicant 4183369** Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Order for License Renewal with a fine of \$1000 for false attestation regarding insurance and failure to maintain professional liability insurance in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 43-24A-8(b)(8) & 43-24A-14(c). Must provide proof of professional liability insurance upon signing the order before the license may be renewed. Fine must be paid in full by October 31, 2026. Flag for Audit.
- Applicant 4174748** Refer to the Attorney General's Office for Revocation of Licensure for failure to maintain professional liability insurance in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 43-24A-8(b)(8) & 43-24A-14(c).
- Applicant 4173295** Refer to the Attorney General's Office for Revocation of Licensure for failure to maintain professional liability insurance in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 43-24A-8(b)(8) & 43-24A-14(c).
- Applicant 4170919** 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(b)(8) & 43-24A-14(c). Must provide proof of professional liability insurance upon signing the order before the license may be renewed. Fine to be paid within 90 days of the order docket date. Flag for Audit.
- Applicant 4187612** Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Order for License Renewal with a fine of \$1000 for false attestation regarding insurance and failure to maintain professional liability insurance in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 43-24A-8(b)(8) & 43-24A-14(c). Must provide proof of professional liability insurance upon signing the order before the license may be renewed. Fine must be paid in full by October 31, 2026. Flag for Audit.
- Applicant 4169468** 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(b)(8) & 43-24A-14(c). Must provide proof of professional liability insurance upon signing the order before the license may be renewed. Fine to be paid within 90 days of the order docket date. Flag for Audit.
- Applicant 4188253** Refer to the Attorney General's Office for Revocation of Licensure for failure to maintain professional liability insurance in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 43-24A-8(b)(8) & 43-24A-14(c).

- Applicant 4172057** Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Order for License Renewal with a fine of \$500 for failure to maintain professional liability insurance. Must submit proof of current insurance prior to the renewal of the license. Fine must be paid within 90 days of the order docket date. Flag for Audit.
- Applicant 4168410** Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Order for License Renewal with a fine of \$1150 for false attestation regarding insurance [O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19(a)(2) & (6)], failure to maintain professional liability insurance in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 43-24A-8(b)(8) & 43-24A-14(c), and failure to inform the Board of a change in address [BR 345-10-.04(3)]. Must provide proof of professional liability insurance upon signing the order before the license may be renewed. Fine must be paid in full by October 31, 2026. Flag for Audit.
- Applicant 4199172** Refer to the Legal Services for a Public Consent Order for License Renewal with a fine of \$1500 for false attestation regarding maintenance of insurance, misrepresentation of documentation submitted to the Board, and failure to maintain professional liability insurance in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 43-24A-8(b)(8) & 43-24A-14(c). Flag for Audit.
- Applicant 4181143** Rescind the previous motion and renew with license with a Letter of Concern regarding maintaining professional liability insurance in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 43-24A-8(b)(8). Flag for audit.
- Applicant 4197472** Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Order for License Renewal with a fine of \$1000 for false attestation regarding insurance and failure to maintain professional liability insurance in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 43-24A-8(b)(8) & 43-24A-14(c). Must provide proof of professional liability insurance and copy of final certified court disposition upon signing the order before the license may be renewed. Fine must be paid in full by October 31, 2026. Flag for Audit.

Renewal-Certificate of Insurance/CE

- Applicant 4188867** Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Order for License Renewal with a fine of \$2000 for false attestation regarding CE, failure to complete 12 Live CE hours requirements within the biennium [O.C.G.A. §§ 43-24A-18 & 43-24A-20], false attestation regarding liability insurance, and failure to maintain professional liability insurance in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 43-24A-8(b)(8) & 43-24A-14(c). The Applicant must provide proof of professional liability insurance and proof of completion of twenty-four (12) live hours of continuing education upon signing the Order and prior to renewal of the license. CE completed to satisfy the terms of the order may not be used to meet CE requirements for the biennium ending October 31, 2026. Fine must be paid in full by October 31, 2026. Flag for Audit.
- Applicant 4167132** Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Order for License Renewal with a fine of \$1,500 for failure to maintain professional liability insurance in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 43-24A-8(b)(8) and 43-24A-14(c), false attestation regarding CE, and failure to complete twenty-four (24) hours of continuing education in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 43-24A-18 & 43-24A-20 & Board Rule 345-4-.02. The Applicant must provide proof of professional liability insurance and proof of completion of twenty-four (24) hours of continuing education upon signing the Order and prior to renewal of the license. Continuing education completed to satisfy the terms of the Order may not be used to meet continuing education requirements for the biennium ending October 31, 2026. Fine must be paid in full by October 31, 2026. Flag for Audit.
- Applicant 4198811** Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Order for License Renewal with a fine of \$1500 for false attestation regarding CE, failure to meet CE requirements [O.C.G.A. §§

43-24A-18 & 43-24A-20], and failure to maintain professional liability insurance in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 43-24A-8(b)(8) & 43-24A-14(c). Must submit proof of completing 12 hours of Board approved CE within 90 days of the order docket date. CE completed to satisfy the terms of the order may not be used to meet CE requirements for the biennium ending October 31, 2026. Fine must be paid in full by October 31, 2026. Flag for Audit.

Applicant 4172407 Deny license renewal application and refer to the Attorney General’s Office for Revocation of Licensure for failure to meet CE requirements and failure to demonstrate maintaining professional liability insurance to be eligible for license renewal.

Applicant 4183538 Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Order for License Renewal with a fine of \$1500 for false attestation regarding CE, failure to meet CE requirements [O.C.G.A. §§ 43-24A-18 & 43-24A-20], and failure to maintain professional liability insurance in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 43-24A-8(b)(8) & 43-24A-14(c). Must submit proof of completing 24 hours of board approved CE related to the practice of massage therapy, 12 hours of which must be hands-on, in-person CE, into CE Broker within 90 days of the docket date of the order. CE submitted to satisfy the requirements of this order may not be used to meet CE requirements for the biennium ending 10/31/2026. Must submit proof of current liability insurance in accordance with the law upon signing the order. Fine must be paid in full on or before October 31, 2026. Flag for Audit.

Renewal-Unlawful Presence

Applicant 4166705 Lapse the license based on failure to demonstrate lawful presence in the U.S. in accordance with the law if authority is granted. If not authorized, refer to the Attorney General’s Office for Revocation of Licensure based on failure to demonstrate lawful presence in the U.S.

Transcript Review

Applicant 4378983 If all education requirements are met, issue the license.

Applicant 4314469 Rescind previous motion to deny and issue the license due to meeting education requirements.

Applicant 4305581 Deny based on failure to meet education requirements [O.C.G.A. § 43-24A-8(b)(6), BR 345-8-.01].

Applicant 4382560 Deny based on failure to meet education requirements [O.C.G.A. § 43-24A-8(b)(6), BR 345-8-.01].

Applicant 4314627 Deny based on failure to meet education requirements [O.C.G.A. § 43-24A-8(b)(6), BR 345-8-.01].

Applicant 4413331 Deny based on failure to meet education requirements [O.C.G.A. § 43-24A-8(b)(6), BR 345-8-.01].

Applicant 4493320 Deny based on failure to meet education requirements [O.C.G.A. § 43-24A-8(b)(6), BR 345-8-.03(6)(a)].

OPEN SESSION

Open Session Minutes – January 14, 2026 Open Session WebEx Meeting Minutes

Ms. Curry motioned, Ms. Henderson seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the January 14, 2026 Open Session WebEx Meeting Minutes, as presented.

Licenses to Ratify: November 24, 2025 – February 19, 2026

Ms. Nichols motioned, Ms. Henderson 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 – Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB)

- 1. Letter to Membership**
- 2. In Touch E-Newsletter-February 2026**
- 3. 2026 Member Educational Opportunities**

Ms. Nichols motioned, Ms. Henderson seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to change the date of the October 23, 2026 meeting to October 30, 2026, due to the date of the National Conference.

4. You're Invited – IMpact Info Session for FSMTB Members

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

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

- 1. 01-01-26 Approved Provider Disciplinary Actions by State**
- 2. 01-01-26 Certificant Disciplinary Actions by State**
- 3. 02-01-26 Approved Provider Disciplinary Actions by State**
- 4. 02-01-26 Certificant Disciplinary Actions by State**

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

Discussion – Impact – Interstate Massage Therapy Compact Changes

- 1. Council of State Governments (CSG) Statement on Changes to the Massage Therapy Compact**
- 2. Massage Compact Comparison – New Language – Strikethrough**
- 3. Massage Compact Language – FINAL**

Mr. Knowles apprised the Board members and visitors regarding the amended language sent from FSMTB to their membership regarding the Interstate Massage Therapy Compact (Impact). The information provided states that the recipients have received outside communications that included a number of demonstratively inaccurate statements and mischaracterization of facts.

But there's a difference of opinion. CSG and the Department of Justice put out a statement, and this is the rebuttal to that statement. Mr Knowles stated that he conducted a FSMTB Panel two weeks ago. He reviewed comments as well as the other existing compact legislation. Craig Pake, our legal counsel from the Attorney General's Office, concurs this unsanctioned Compact is a problem.

With estimates exceeding 18,000 illicit massage businesses. The report says the network identifies over 20,000 in the year 2025 operating across the United States and the alternative Compact language being promoted by CSG and American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA) would allow tens of thousands of unqualified individuals and trafficking victims to become eligible for multi-state licensure. This implicitly sanctions the indentured servitude of these trafficked persons and bolsters the criminal business model. Statutes would dictate that they are eligible despite the fabricated education histories and work experience that legitimize their illegal operations. These risks were the central reason why such pathways were explicitly rejected during the original compact development process.

Mr Knowles continued that again, there is a solution which does not undermine the enforcement efforts and is what the Board discussed in December. We, as a board, determined how this new version of the Compact allowed for no educational standards as a pathway to licensure. Someone could have a license in good standing for two years or more and they would qualify for the Compact without any education, and this was a concern the board shared in December. It is the same concern of FSMTB; with the new language the Compact still leaves one caveat of having 625 hours of education.

Remember Texas allowed only 300 hours of education as a requirement for licensure, which is a great concern. We talk about wanting to have increased educational standards. Yet we will require our own residents to meet these educational standards, but then allow others to come into our state with no education? This is not protecting the public. The joint statement from all the organizations that support massage therapy: AMTA, Associated Bodywork & Massage Professionals (ABMP), the Alliance Coalition, FSMTB, the Compact, all agreed that the minimum education for massage therapists would be 625 hours. The Entry Level Analysis Project (ELAP) is a research project initiated by the Coalition of National Massage Therapy Organizations. Their research numbers came out to 900 educational hours. And then everyone agreed 900 hours is a big jump from 500, and they determined 625 hours as the minimum standard. By allowing a compact with no educational standards all but eliminates that ceiling and takes away the validity of the ELAP and where those standards originated.

Mr. Knowles noted that the amendments also pertained to the original Compact creation process and appraised the Board and visitors that he and Executive Director, Adrienne Price, were part of the development and legal team working on the original draft language. AMTA did ask about individuals who have been working, that never attended a massage therapy education program, but it was countered that this does not equate to public protection. With no educational standards in the new amended version of the Compact, it is less likely states will become part of the Compact because, for example, if I am a 700-hour state, I don't want somebody coming into my state to practice with no education. Georgia is a 500-hour state right now and the statute and Board Rules prevent those with no education from being licensed. This issue has resurfaced with the amended Compact as it includes the "no education piece" back into the language when the Committee firmly vetted the idea, not only through the tag group, but also through the attorneys which included persons from the Council of State Governments (CSG) and the Department of Defense and their attorneys. And then public comment was accepted and reviewed for about three months.

A total of 1,715 massage therapists and industry professionals responded to the public comment, 47% were AMTA members, 49% were ABMP members, and it concluded that AMTA members were at 97% percent of support of the Compact and 98% were in support of the ABMP compact. FSMTB will continue to advocate for the interest of the regulatory community along with broad coalition of stakeholders who support the fully vetted Compact. Thus far it has been adopted by five states. Empowering our members with facts and content is essential to ending a process that is introducing unnecessary and harmful revisions outside of the agreed regulatory pathway.

What CSG is presenting is an updated, amended version from what we received in December. So that's why we are bringing it back to the Board members. There was some language in the newest version that would be very detrimental to the profession. There is a statement regarding the Compact itself and it is underlined. It states that if there is any substantial changes to the Compact, you basically changed the language, and any state that has adopted the original version of the Compact now must go back through legislation to adopt the new version, or we will have two compacts out there approved in various statutes with substantive differences. These are substantive changes. And it would require not only the states that have already adopted the original version, but it would also require all the states that have the original version being considered within their legislative sessions, including Georgia, to have to make those adjustments.

Mr. Knowles concluded that where the verbiage states the Compact is a project funded by the Department of Justice, the following language must be enacted into law by states to officially join the interstate massage compact. Underlined language follows that no substantive changes should be made to the model language. Any substantial changes may jeopardize the enacting state's participation in the Compact. If any state government enacts the new version of the Compact and the five states that have already enacted the original version do not make any further amendments, the mission of public safety and portability will not be realized as they are in direct conflict and the licensed massage therapists in Georgia may not have the opportunity to obtain a compact license. The documentation presented to the Board today is to determine if anyone's position has changed in light of the new

information that has been shared. It was the consensus of the Board that there was no change in their position, and the preference was that the original version of the Compact move forward.

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

Discussion – Important Notice to Licensed Massage Therapy Educational Programs

The Board accepts the correspondence in reference to the Notice to Licensed Massage Therapy Educational Programs, as information.

Petitions for Rule Waiver

1. BR 345-4-.05(2)(c)(ii)_Eden Elizabeth Emahle Sharp

Ms. Nichols motioned, Ms. Henderson 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-.02_Misty La Ree Sargent

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-.05(c)(ii)_Michael Kevin Jones

Ms. Henderson 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.

4. BR 345-3-.02(1)(b)_Sherry Samuels

Ms. Nichols motioned, Ms. Curry seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to deny the petition to waive BR 345-3-.02(1)(b) is an operation of law. The petitioner must provide proof of a recognized equivalent of a high school education as required by law. May submit non-massage therapy education to a credentialing agency for evaluation to determine equivalence.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a) Leslie Okin Public Comment for Petition for Sherry Samuels
- b) Chyenne Samuels Public Comment for Petition for Sherry Samuels
- c) Samantha Holmes Public Comment for Petition for Sherry Samuels
- d) Dr. Kelly Organ Public Comment for Petition for Sherry Samuels
- e) Pamela Davis Public Comment for Petition for Sherry Samuels
- f) Dr. Steven Wingfield Public Comment for Petition for Sherry Samuels
- g) Dr. Leana Kart Public Comment for Petition for Sherry Samuels
- h) Livia Hayes Public Comment for Petition for Sherry Samuels
- i) Aselia Urmanbetova Public Comment for Petition for Sherry Samuels

Petition for Rule Variance – BR 345-4-.02_Suki J Jun

Ms. Curry motioned, Ms. Henderson seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the petition for variance of BR 345-4-.02 for the 2024 - 2026 cycle only based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

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:

- MTLT
- Jurisprudence Requirement for MT Board
- PLB Updates
- Georgia General Assembly

Discussion on Insurance Compliance

Ms. Nichols motioned, Ms. Curry seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to refer the questions posed to the Board in the attachment on the Executive Director's report to the Attorney General's office for advice regarding authority to implement such suggestions regarding insurance.

Ms. Henderson 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

Pam Nichols left the meeting at 3:53 p.m. with a quorum of the Board still present.

Mr. Knowles apprised the Board that he has been working with FSMTB in moving forward with HB 232, which was the original Compact language as well as SB 221, which includes the increase of educational hours. He continued that we are now in the third year trying to get Compact legislation passed. He stated that he has been in contact with FSMTB Board members and lobbyists who wanted to make sure that the Georgia Board Massage Therapy still supports the original language. On behalf of the Board, he shared that the Board still supports the original Compact language, and the Board would like them to move forward with both bills. He continued that our schools are still concerned about educational hours because even though the Department of Education's ruling on the hundred percent rule, which would require schools to only teach the minimum hours of education, any school that teaches one hour above minimum requirements would no longer be eligible for financial aid for their programs. Because Georgia is a 500-hour state, to meet the Department of Education rules, schools cannot teach more than a 500-hour program. But when it comes to Pell Grants, schools are required to teach a minimum of 600-hours to receive half Pell. To meet the Department of Education's (DOE) requirements, schools no longer meet the Pell requirements. Most of Georgia's schools who offer financial aid would lose access to all those grants which is the problem.

This is what started the whole look at increasing the educational hour requirement, and then we decided on the 625-hour program based on Entry Level Analysis Project (ELAP), which was the same number that was being used for the Compact. So, even though that rule has been paused, it's only been paused and not overturned. If it were to ever take effect, then that would dramatically hurt the educational programs in our state.

We are still moving forward with those hours trying to increase and is why we made the statement to the schools if Georgia does hit that point, this is where we feel we would allocate those hours. Mr. Knowles shared that he has had those discussions on the Board's behalf as their elected spokesperson. Also last week, he reported attending the AMTA School Summit and did take the opportunity to have a conversation with the CEO to express the concerns of the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy regarding the new language. Mr. Knowles expressed the concerns of the Board discussed during the December 2025 meeting regarding allowing those with no education to get compact privileges and eliminating the national certification exams for privilege holders.

The AMTA, CEO, Jeff Flom, responded that he would take the Georgia Board's concerns back to their national board, and that he would be in communication. Mr. Knowles was shown the amended Compact version presented today by Council of State Governments (CSG). Mr. Knowles communicated that the Board still has those concerns because again it says licensing exam versus certification exam which eliminates two of those exams. On the board's behalf, he made it known that these concerns were for the state of Georgia when it comes to regulation. The Mr. Flom responded he would take it to their national board and then he would provide an update.

Mr. Knowles concluded his report by conveying at this point it is unknown as to whether they hear our concerns. Currently two bills are still being moved forward, SB 221 and HB 232 in the Georgia legislature. As he hears more, he will bring that to the Board.

Ms. Curry motioned, Ms. Henderson 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 4:14 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: April 10, 2026

CRAIG KNOWLES
BOARD CHAIR

ADRIENNE PRICE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF BIBB

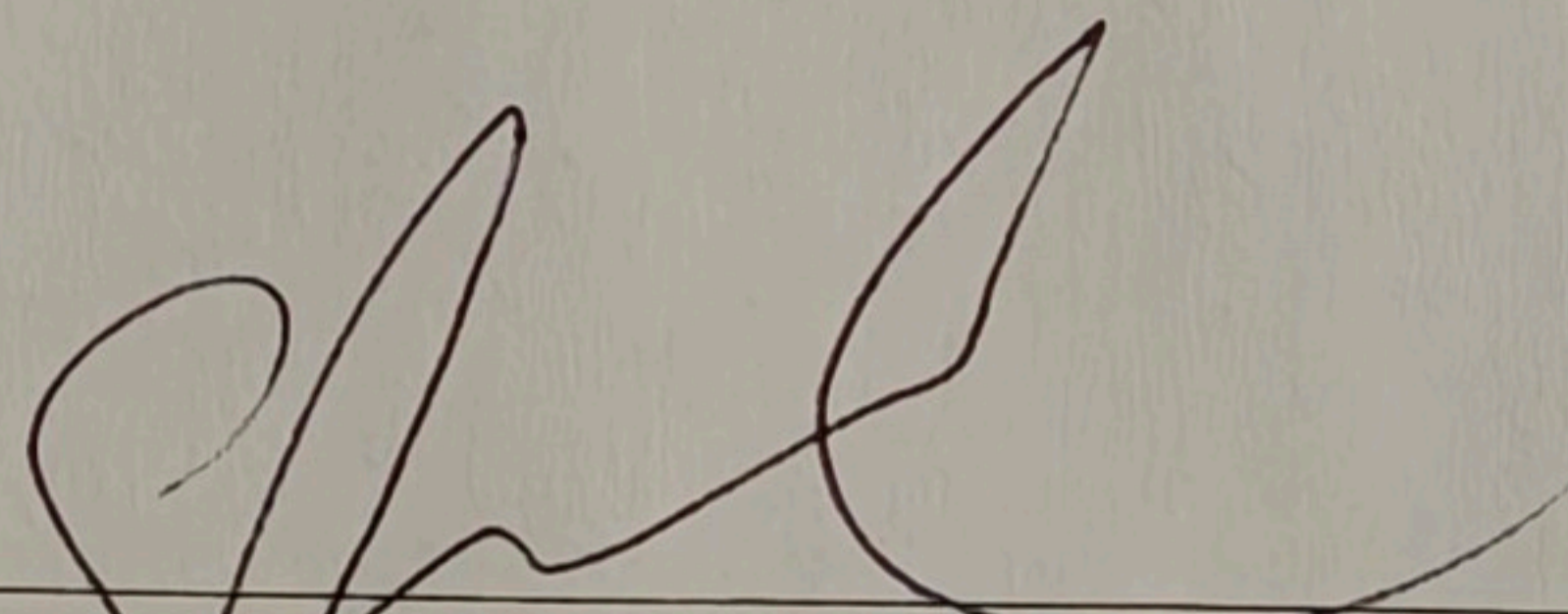
**AFFIDAVIT SUPPORTING CLOSING OF
PUBLIC MEETING**

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 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, February 27 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



Presiding Officer

Sworn and subscribed before me
This 7 day of March 2026

Leona Mims

Notary Public

