

MASSAGE THERAPY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Quarterly meeting  
Monday, March 11, 2024  
5800 West Tenth Street, Room 906  
Little Rock, AR 9:10 a.m.

MINUTES

Members present: Wendy Scott, presiding; Kristy Strother; Krista Moore; Glen Fleming; Julie Eckert; Leigh Ann Warriner

Call to order -Scott

Roll Call -

Approval of minutes

motion to approve-Moore; second-Strother, minutes approved as written

Legal Update- Chuck Thompson

No hearings today. They will be held soon. Will contact committee to schedule date and time. Hearings will be in person and via remote video.

Regarding the public comment portion of the meeting - There needs to be a more formal process set up for the future, in order not to potentially jeopardize or compromise ongoing investigations.

From now on, those who wish to make public comments must submit a request in writing prior to the meeting. Public comments are limited to five minutes. Public comments are not a back and forth or question and answer conversation with committee members, just an opportunity to state comments.

Continuing Education Applications

1. Heather Pelz - Co-morbidities and Contraindications, Systematic Symptoms and Co-morbidities, Prenatal Pain and Dysautonomia

(3 separate classes)

Motion to approve, second by Julie, classes approved.

## **Continuing Education - continued**

2. Incorporate Manual Lymphatic Drainage into Your Daily Massage

Motion to table - Warriner, second - Strother, motion passes

Tabled for more course information, and verify that the information is applicant's own and not trademark infringed. Need hands-on protocol for incorporating manual lymphatic drainage into massage.

3. Massage Therapist - Mandated Reporters

Motion to approve - Warriner, second - class approved (one member opposed)

Chuck Thompson suggested a link on website to free training. also discussion of whether this should be added to law and ethics class, instead of being a stand-alone class.

4. Introduction to Foot Reflexology

Motion to deny - Warriner, second - Strother

Application incomplete, only one page received

Recommendation by Moore for CE applications -  
Deadline to receive is 14 days before meeting. Require Drop box or PDF, not Word document. In order to have all necessary items included in application before it is presented at meeting, one rotating member of committee will look at applications, for completeness only. Applicants should not be allowed to send additional information in during actual meeting. There will be no decision or discussion made of applications prior to meeting, just a review for completeness of application.

### Program Update

Kelli Kersey

Still working on online renewal process.

Introduction of Kevin, new massage therapy inspector. Kevin stated the he will send via email to each county saying when he will be in the area for inspection, but not specify actual date of inspection.

Public Comment

\*Susie Byrd

Regarding massage school student funding - there is a 500-hour requirement for education in Arkansas. To get federal funding requires 600 hours. Previously US Dept of Education allowed student in states under 600 hours to take more hours to reach 600.

The US Dept of Education now says that state has to teach its required hours (500). So because of the 100-hour difference Arkansas may lose its ability for federal funding.

Recommendation to committee to consider raising hour requirement in Arkansas so that people can still be eligible to receive federal money for school.

Discussion - changing state requirement from 500 to 600 hours required rules and law change. MTTAC cannot change the requirement. Perhaps this should be a project of massage therapy professional organizations. Professional organization may be more successful with changes in legislation.

\*Sybil Davis

Regarding service on MTTAC - one term should be enough for members to serve, in order to promote more diverse thought. Encouraged people to request MTTAC appointment.

Warriner - suggested a staggered approach to MTTAC appointments.

Eckert - question about the civilian appointee to MTTAC. It will be taken care of when all other MTTAC appointments are made.

\*AMTA representative

invites all to social event Sunday night before the MTTAC meeting.

Chuck Thompson - Clarification of ethical discussions outside the MTTAC meeting- events and discussions among industry professionals are fine, just not in the capacity as a member of MTTAC. Discussions can be held as an industry professional.

Adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Next meetings - May 13 - administrative hearings;  
quarterly meeting - June 17.

