



ALABAMA BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY

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MINUTES Board Meeting December 11, 2020

The Alabama Board of Massage Therapy met on Friday, December 11, 2020, at the Board Office located at 2777 Zelda Road, Montgomery, Alabama. The meeting was held virtually during the COVID 19 State of Emergency, with some members on site and others attending via conference call. The following Board members were in attendance via conference call: Ms. Stefanie Herfurth (member), Ms. Gina Lee (member), Ms. Denise Mastin Dale (member), and Ms. Stephanie Dobbins (member). Member attending onsite was Mr. Foad Araiinejad (Board Chair) and Ms. Mary Rogers (member). Board member absent was Mr. Darren Beam (member). Also in attendance on site were Mr. Keith Warren (Executive Director) and Ms. Renee' Reames (recording secretary). Mr. Matt Bledsoe (Board Legal Counsel) and Mike James (Investigator) attended virtually. Chairman Araiinejad called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Warren called Board roll and reported that a quorum was present to conduct Board business.

Public notice of this regularly scheduled meeting was submitted to the Secretary of State www.sos.alabama.gov in accordance with the requirements of the Alabama Open Meetings Act and published on the Board's web site at www.almtbd.alabama.gov.

Chairman Araiinejad presented a copy of the July 29, 2020 Board meeting minutes for the Board's approval. A copy of the minutes was provided to the Board members prior to the meeting for their review. Ms. Rogers made a motion to approve the July minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dale and, following a roll call vote, the July meeting minutes were unanimously approved by the Board (minutes available for viewing in the Board's Official Book of Minutes). Mr. Warren reported that a roll call vote had been established for future reference.

Mr. Warren presented the Executive Director Report to include the Financial Report for the end of FY 2020 and for FY 2021 as of November 30, 2020. Also reported was a detailed report of line-item expenditures (reports on file in the Board's Official Book of Minutes.) for each financial period. He reported on the number of complaints received in FY 2020 and to-date in FY 2021, along with inspections conducted for these periods. Mr. Warren reported on the current number of licensees of the Board.

Mr. Warren reviewed the list of activities performed by the staff since the last Board meeting and commented on the Board's online application process.

Ms. Dale made a motion to approve the Financial Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rogers. Chairman Araiinejad called for any objections to the motion, using the previous roll, and there were no objections. Chairman Araiinejad stated the motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Bledsoe presented the Legal Counsel Report, which included recommendations to approve the consent agreement in case 2020-018BR. He reported advertising violations, a fine assessed of \$500 and a 1-year probation. Ms. Lee made a motion to approve the consent agreement as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dobbins. Chairman Araiinejad called for any objections to the motion, using the previous roll, and there were no objections. Chairman Araiinejad stated the motion was unanimously approved by the Board. Mr. Bledsoe reported that the disciplinary fine had already been paid by the Respondent in the case.

Mr. Warren reported that the Emergency Rule specific to the Executive Director authorized to conduct licensure activities during the COVID 19 State of Emergency was scheduled to expire at the end of December 2020. Ms. Dale made a motion to adopt the emergency rule authorizing the Executive Director to approve or deny applications through the end of the COVID 19 State of Emergency. The motion was seconded by Ms. Herfurth. Mr. Warren called for a roll call vote and the motion was unanimously approved.

The Board considered a request from a licensee about a renewal extension to allow her to acquire CE training on a specific subject that had been delayed and rescheduled by the CE Provider until later in the Spring. The Board discussed her plans to use these CE hours in the required 16 hours necessary to renew her license. Ms. Dale made a motion to approve the renewal extension to obtain the training, as specified. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rogers. Chairman Araiinejad called for any objections to the motion, using the previous roll, and there were no objections. Chairman Araiinejad stated the motion was unanimously approved by the Board. The Board discussed the significance in varying the modality of CE courses to expand knowledge. Ms. Dobbins made a motion to add this topic to the next meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dale. Chairman Araiinejad called for any objections to the motion, using the previous roll, and there were no objections. Chairman Araiinejad stated the motion was unanimously approved by the Board. Mr. Warren requested that members submit comments on this matter to him prior to the next Board member.

Mr. Warren presented a list of meeting dates in 2021 of the Board's approval. Ms. Lee made the motion to approve the 2021 meeting dates as presented: February 5, May 7th, August 6 and October 15, 2021. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rogers. Chairman Araiinejad called for any objections to the motion, using the previous roll, and there were no objections. Chairman Araiinejad stated the motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Warren reported that the election of Board officers was due. Ms. Rogers made a motion that the Board officers remain the same: Mr. Araiinejad as Board Chair and Ms. Dobbins as Board Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dale. Chairman Araiinejad called for any objections to the motion, using the previous roll, and there were no objections. Chairman Araiinejad stated the motion was unanimously approved by the Board.


Chairman Araiinejad reminded the members that the next meeting of the Board was scheduled Friday, February 5, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Warren indicated that he would keep the members advised about any changes in meeting virtually during the COVID 19 State of Emergency and/or holding the meeting onsite.

There being no further business, Ms. Dobbins made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Herfurth and, following a roll call vote of the members, the motion was unanimously approved by the Board. Chairman Araiinejad adjourned the meeting at 10:29 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Foad Araiinejad
Board Chair



Keith E. Warren
Executive Director

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