

ALABAMA Massage Therapy Licensing Board

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

RSA Plaza Suite 350

Montgomery, Alabama

January 13, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 8:31 a.m. on Tuesday, January 13, 2026.

The following members were present: Jessica White, LMT, Chair; Tom Henderson, Jr., LMT, Vice Chair; Kristen Gillis, Attorney at Law; Anastasia Morris, LMT; Daynette Ranger, LMT; and Janice Roe, LMT. Board members absent were Ali Araiinejad, LMT; Amy Long, DNP, FNP-C, and Executive Officer Peggy Benson.

Staff members attending the meeting were: Honor Ingels, Executive Director-Designee; Alice Maples Henley, Deputy Attorney General/Alabama Board of Nursing General Counsel; Brad Jones, IT System Specialist Senior; Tonya Smith, Executive Secretary/Recorder; Joyce Jeter, MSN, RN, Alabama Board of Nursing Deputy Director; Clifton (Chip) Lollar, Chief Special Investigator; Klisha Potts, Paralegal; Roslana Gray, Nurse Consultant; Tara Armistead, Assistant General Counsel - ABN; Pamela Smith, DNP, MSN, RN, Administrative Director of Education Programs; Jennifer Herman, Investigator; Adrienne Henderson, Licensing Clerk; Chris Howard, Inspector; and Stacie Willis, Licensing Clerk.

Visitors attending the meeting were: Ms. Cynthia Taylor, AMTA/Massage.

B. Declaration of Quorum

A quorum of six Board members was present on Tuesday, January 13, 2026.

C. Statement of Compliance with Open Meetings Act and Active Electronic Recording in Compliance with ACT 2024-361

Prior notice of the meeting was posted on the Secretary of State's website in accordance with the Alabama Open Meetings Act.

D. Oath of Office

On January 13, 2026, Ms. White led the Board members present in the reading of the Oath of Office. A written “Oath of Office” was provided to each Board member for signature.

E. Review of Full Agenda

1. Additions, Modifications, Reordering

None

2. REORDERING, MODIFICATION, OR ADOPTION AND APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- II.A. November 12, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes
- VI.A.1. Executive Officer Report if indicated
- VI.A.2. FYI
- VI.C.1. General Counsel Report
- VI.C.2. Investigations Report
- VII.A. Education Report if indicated
- VII.B. Program Termination Report if indicated
- IX.A. Licensure Report

On January 13, 2026. Ms. Gillis moved that the Board adopt the Consent Agenda. Ms. Ranger seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

3. REORDERING, MODIFICATIONS, ADDITIONS, OR ADOPTION OF FULL AGENDA

On January 13, 2026, Ms. Gillis moved that the Board adopt the Full Agenda as amended. Ms. Roe seconded. Motion carried without objection.

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES

A. November 12, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes

The minutes of November 12, 2025, Board meeting was accepted on the Consent Agenda.

III. OLD BUSINESS/FOLLOW-UP

A. Board Action Follow-up

- 1. None

IV. BOARD PRESENTATIONS

A. PRESENTATIONS/REVIEW

1. None

V. FINANCIAL REPORTS

1. Financial Reports

Ms. Jeter advised the members present that the Revenues and Expenditure Summary, Revenues, and the Expenditure Budget Comparison as of November 30, 2025, were shared for review.

VI. REPORTS

A. Executive Officer

1. Report

Pursuant to Alabama Massage Therapy Licensing Board Administrative Code 532-X-7, the ABN Executive Officer accepted the voluntary surrender for revocation of each of the following Alabama Massage Therapy licenses:

| <u>Licensee's Name</u> | <u>License Number</u> | <u>Date Acceptance</u> |
|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Lee, Hyun J. | 4131 | 11/06/2025 |
| DY Foot Spa | E-3515 | 11/12/2025 |
| Tru Acupressure Clinic | E-3013 | 12/17/2025 |

2. FYI

None

3. REVIEW AMTLB TESTING

An email was received by Ms. Armistead requesting the Board accept the Massage Therapy for Certification (MTAC) exam administered by the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (NCBTMB) as the massage therapy exam and remove the acceptance of the MBLEx.

4. TEXAS SCHOOL/STATE EXAM ISSUE

Ms. Armistead reported that the Board staff have identified discrepancies in educational transcripts received from some massage therapy schools located in Texas. The State of Texas also has recently issued emergency orders revoking the licensure of Wellness Education Center and Austin Massage Academy, both massage therapy schools in Texas, due to issues related to the legitimacy of the educational preparation at these schools. Some applicants from these schools and others in Texas have passed the Texas Massage Therapist Examination but have not successfully passed the MBLEx. Given the issues related to some massage schools in Alabama, and in order to ensure minimum competency of licensed massage therapists in Alabama, Board staff recommended that the AMTLB decline to accept passage of the state-based Texas Massage Therapist Examination for purposes of obtaining a massage therapist license in Alabama.

On January 13, 2026, Ms. Gillis moved that the Board decline the Texas Massage Therapist Examination for purposes of licensure as a Massage Therapist in Alabama. Mr. Henderson seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

5. APPLICANT KARLA LUSANE

Mr. Ingels reported that LMT applicant Karla Lusane has asserted and provided certain documentation, including a diploma, indicating that she completed a course of massage therapy study at Better Bodies Massage in May 2025. At the time, BBM was an approved massage therapy school in the state of Alabama. However, the school is currently defunct, and the proprietor has left no forwarding contact information or other documentary evidence of its educational activities, and Board staff have been unsuccessful in seeking to obtain Ms. Lusane's transcript documenting completion of a 650-hour program, as required for licensure in Alabama.

Ms. Lusane subsequently qualified for and passed the MBLEx exam administered by FSMTB in June 2025 (MBLEx qualification requires validation of 500 hours of educational preparation, 150 fewer hours than Alabama licensure requires). With the exception of provision of primary source documentation of completion of a program, Ms. Lusane has met all other requirements for licensure.

As it seems that resolution of the issue of Ms. Lusane's transcript is impossible, board staff requests that the board review existing documentation and determine the appropriate action. Options identified by staff include:

- A – Approve Ms. Lusane’s application for licensure as an LMT based on the available documentation.
- B – Stipulate to the 500 hours of education validated by FSMTB and require Ms. Lusane to obtain an additional 150 hours of education prior to application.; or
- C – Provide guidance to staff regarding further action to resolve the issue.

On January 13, 2026, Ms. Roe moved that the Board approve Ms. Lusane’s application for licensure as an LMT. Mr. Henderson seconded. Motion carried without objection.

6. RETURN OF DONATED VEHICLES TO ABN

B. Executive Committee if indicated

C. Legal Division

1. General Counsel

A written report on activities of the Legal Division for June 1, 2024, through December 17, 2025, the number of open disciplinary cases, and the number of cases on appeal or subject to litigation was accepted, as information, on the Consent Agenda.

2. Investigations Report

A written report on investigations for January 2, 2026, was accepted, as information, on the Consent Agenda.

VII. AMTLB EDUCATION PROGRAMS

A. Education Report

A written report on Education was accepted, as information, on the Consent Agenda.

B. Program Termination Report if indicated.

Nothing

VIII. POLICY

A. N/A

IX. LICENSURE REPORT

A. Licensure Report

A written report on licensure date activity for October 22, 2025, through December 12, 2025, was accepted, as information, on the Consent Agenda.

X. CONTINUING EDUCATION

A. None

XI. DISCIPLINARY CASES – Executive Session, to follow completion of Agenda or as indicated by agenda progression, January 13, 2026.

On January 13, 2026, Mr. Henderson moved that the Board enter into Executive Session to discuss the general reputation and character, professional competence, and physical or mental conditions of specific applicants and licenses. Ms. Gillis seconded. Motion carried with all in favor: (Daynette Ranger, Janice Roe, Anastasia Morris, Kristen Gillis, Tom Henderson and Jessica White).

Ms. White estimated that the Board would reconvene at 9:10 a.m.

The Board reconvened in open session at 8:56 a.m.

A. CONSENT ORDERS

1. Dodd, Donna – LMT 3833 (Active)

Ms. Dodd signed a Consent Order that would issue her a public reprimand and require her to pay a civil penalty/administrative fine of \$500.00 and require documented completion of a course on Professional Ethics.

On January 13, 2026, Mr. Henderson and Ms. Ranger abstained themselves from the voting and discussion concerning Ms. Dodd.

On January 13, 2026, Ms. Gillis moved that the Board accept the Consent Order. Ms. Roe seconded. Motion carried without objection.

2. George, Chun Ling – LMT 4159 (Active)

Ms. George signed a Consent Order that would issue her a public reprimand and require her to pay a civil penalty/administrative fine of

\$1,500.00 and require documented completion of a course on Professional Ethics.

On January 13, 2026, Mr. Henderson and Ms. Ranger abstained themselves from the voting and discussion concerning Ms. George.

On January 13, 2026, Ms. Gillis moved that the Board accept the Consent Order. Ms. Roe seconded. Motion carried without objection.

3. Li, Qin – LMT 5659 (Active)

Ms. Li signed a Consent Order that would issue her a public reprimand and require her to pay a civil penalty/administrative fine of \$1,500.00 and require documented completion of a course on Professional Ethics.

On January 13, 2026, Mr. Henderson and Ms. Ranger abstained themselves from the voting and discussion concerning Ms. Li.

On January 13, 2026, Ms. Gillis moved that the Board accept the Consent Order. Ms. Roe seconded. Motion carried without objection.

4. Relax Spa – E-2564 (Active)

Ms. George, owner of the Relax Spa, signed a Consent Order that would issue her a public reprimand and require her to pay a civil penalty/administrative fine of \$4,500.00.

On January 13, 2026, Mr. Henderson and Ms. Ranger abstained themselves from the voting and discussion concerning the Relax Spa.

On January 13, 2026, Ms. Gillis moved that the Board accept the Consent Order. Ms. Roe seconded. Motion carried without objection.

5. Shi, Xifeng – LMT 4801 (Active)

Ms. Shi signed a Consent Order that would issue her a public reprimand and require her to pay a civil penalty/administrative fine of \$1,000.00 and require documented completion of a course on Professional Ethics and Boundaries.

On January 13, 2026, Mr. Henderson and Ms. Ranger abstained themselves from the voting and discussion concerning Ms. Shi.

On January 13, 2026, Ms. Gillis moved that the Board accept the Consent Order. Ms. Roe seconded. Motion carried without objection.

6. The Essential Massage – E-3771 (Active)

Ms. Dodd, the owner of The Essential Massage, signed a Consent Order that would issue her a public reprimand and require her to pay a civil penalty/administrative fine of \$500.00.

On January 13, 2026, Mr. Henderson and Ms. Ranger abstained themselves from the voting and discussion concerning The Essential Massage.

On January 13, 2026, Ms. Gillis moved that the Board accept the Consent Order. Ms. Roe seconded. Motion carried without objection.

7. Walker, Denise – LMT 6475 (Active)

Ms. Walker signed a Consent Order that would issue her a public reprimand and require her to pay a civil penalty/administrative fine of \$1,000.00 and require documented completion of a course on Professional Ethics.

On January 13, 2026, Mr. Henderson and Ms. Ranger abstained themselves from the voting and discussion concerning Ms. Walker.

On January 13, 2026, Ms. Gillis moved that the Board accept the Consent Order. Ms. Roe seconded. Motion carried without objection.

8. Asian Massage of Saraland, LLC – E-3885 (Active)

Ms. Zeing owner of the Asian Massage of Saraland, LLC signed a Consent Order that would issue her a public reprimand and require her to pay a civil penalty/administrative fine of \$2,500.00.

On January 13, 2026, Mr. Henderson and Ms. Ranger abstained themselves from the voting and discussion concerning the Asian Massage of Saraland, LLC.

On January 13, 2026, Ms. Gillis moved that the Board accept the Consent Order. Ms. Morris seconded. Motion carried without objection.

9. The Grand – E-3442 (Active)

Ms. King, the owner of The Grand, signed a Consent Order that would require her to pay a civil penalty/administrative fine of \$500.00.

On January 13, 2026, Mr. Henderson and Ms. Ranger abstained themselves from the voting and discussion concerning The Grand.

On January 13, 2026, Ms. Gillis moved that the Board accept the Consent Order. Ms. Morris seconded. Motion carried without objection.

10. King, Kellie – LMT 2926 (Active)

Ms. King signed a Consent Order that would require her to pay a civil penalty/administrative fine of \$500.00.

On January 13, 2026, Mr. Henderson and Ms. Ranger abstained themselves from the voting and discussion concerning Ms. King.

On January 13, 2026, Ms. Gillis moved that the Board accept the Consent Order. Ms. Morris seconded. Motion carried without objection.

11. Tru Acupressure Clinic – E-3003 (Active)

Ms. Shi, the owner of the Tru Acupressure Clinic, signed a Consent Order that would issue her a public reprimand and require her to pay a civil penalty/administrative fine of \$2,000.00.

On January 13, 2026, Mr. Henderson and Ms. Ranger abstained themselves from the voting and discussion concerning the Tru Acupressure Clinic.

On January 13, 2026, Ms. Gillis moved that the Board accept the Consent Order. Ms. Morris seconded. Motion carried without objection.

12. Zeng, Xia – LMT 5671 (Active)

Ms. Zeng signed a Consent Order that would issue her a public reprimand and require her to pay a civil penalty/administrative fine of \$1,500.00 and require documented completion of a course on Professional Ethics.

On January 13, 2026, Mr. Henderson and Ms. Ranger abstained themselves from the voting and discussion concerning Ms. Zeng.

On January 13, 2026, Ms. Gillis moved that the Board accept the Consent Order. Ms. Morris seconded. Motion carried without objection.

B. CEASE AND DESIST

1. Guiyan, Jiang – UNLICENSED

Ms. Guivan was issued a notice to cease-and-desist immediately practicing massage therapy without a license.

On January 13, 2026, Ms. Gillis moved that the Board accept the Cease-and-Desist Letter. Ms. Morris seconded. Motion carried without objection.

XII. NEXT MEETING DATE May 13, 2026, 770 Washington Avenue, RSA Plaza, Montgomery, Alabama, Suite 350

XIII. OTHER

1. None

XIV. BOARD MEETING DEBRIEFING

- A. New Board Members (How can we help?)
- B. Meeting Process: What can we improve/change?

XV. ADJOURNMENT

The AMTLB Board meeting adjourned at 9:01 a.m. on Tuesday, January 13, 2026.

Jessica White
Chair

Tom Henderson Jr.
Vice-Chair

Submitted by: _____
Tonya Smith 01/26