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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL AFFAIRS

F I N A L M I N U T E S

MEETING OF:

STATE BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY

TIME: 10:30 A.M.

Held at

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

2525 North 7th Street

CoPA HUB, Eaton Conference Room

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110

as well as

VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

State Board of Massage Therapy
February 10, 2026

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BOARD MEMBERS:

- Bryan Strawser, LMT, Chair
- Jennifer A. Keth, LMT, CNC, Vice Chair
- Arion R. Claggett, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs
- Linda A. Chamberlain, MS, BSN, RN, CNDLTC, Secretary of Health Designee
- Jessica Nelson, Office of Attorney General Designee
- Veronique Bish, LMT
- Dana Douglas, LMT
- Kathleen Hill, LMT
- Imelda Alumbro Shade, LMT

BUREAU PERSONNEL:

- Thomas M. Davis, Esquire, Board Counsel
- Ronald Jackson, Esquire, Board Prosecution Liaison
- Adrienne E. Doll, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
- Ronald Rouse, Esquire, PA Office of General Counsel
- Paul Keller, Board Administrator
- Denise Williams, Board Administrator
- Shana M. Walter, Esquire, Deputy Chief Counsel, Prosecution Division
- Marc Farrell, Esquire, Regulatory Council, Office of Chief Counsel
- Christina Townley, Director of Operations, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs
- Deena Parmelee, Legal Office Administrator
- Stephanie Dunkerley, Legal Analyst, Office of General Counsel
- Taylor Koch, Fiscal Chief, Bureau of Finance and Procurement
- Amanda Richards, Fiscal Supervisor, Bureau of Finance and Procurement
- Adrienne McClendon, Esquire, Office of General Counsel
- Andrew LaFratte, MPA, Deputy Police Director, Office of Policy

ALSO PRESENT:

- Seth Dinkel, Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards

State Board of Massage Therapy
February 10, 2026

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ALSO PRESENT (con't.)

Camille Baughman, MA, BSed, LMT, American Massage
Therapy Association Pennsylvania Chapter
Twyla Jones, Manager, Certification & Education
Pennsylvania Training for Health and Safety (PATHS)
Nina Kottcamp, LMT, NCMT, Harrisburg Community
College
Natalie Cook, Government Affairs Specialist, McNeese
Government Relations
Jennifer Mata, Federation of State Massage Therapy
Boards
Patty Glenn, Director Education and Professional
Mobility, Federation of State Massage Therapy
Boards
Donna Schriver, Lackawanna College
Heidi Briant, LMT, Southpointe Massage Therapy
Erin Badstuebner, Sargent's Court Reporting Service,
Inc.

1 ***

2 State Board of Massage Therapy

3 February 10, 2026

4 ***

5 [Pursuant to Section 708(a)(5) of the Sunshine Act,
6 at 9:00 a.m. the Board entered into Executive Session
7 with Thomas M. Davis, Esquire, Board Counsel, for the
8 purpose of conducting quasi-judicial deliberations
9 and to receive advice of counsel on the matters upon
10 which the Board would later vote. The Board returned
11 to open session at 10:30 a.m.]

12 ***

13 The regularly scheduled meeting of the State
14 Board of Massage Therapy was held on Wednesday,
15 February 10, 2026. Bryan Strawser, LMT, Chair,
16 called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

17 ***

18 [Thomas M. Davis, Esquire, Board Counsel, noted the
19 meeting was being recorded, and those who continued
20 to participate were giving their consent to be
21 recorded. Mr. Davis also noted the Board entered
22 into Executive Session at 9:00 a.m. for the purpose
23 of conducting quasi-judicial deliberations on a
24 number of matters currently pending before the Board
25 and to receive the advice of counsel.]

1 ***

2 Roll Call of All Attendees and Presenters

3 [Paul Keller, Board Administrator, provided a roll
4 call of Board Members, staff and attendees. A quorum
5 of Board Members was present.]

6 ***

7 Appointment - Annual Prosecution Report

8 [Shana M. Walter, Esquire, Deputy Chief Counsel,
9 Prosecution Division, explained the Bureau of
10 Professional and Occupational Affairs (BPOA) provides
11 administrative and legal support to the 29
12 professional and occupational licensing boards and
13 commissions within the department. The Office of
14 Chief Counsel Prosecution Division works with its
15 investigative, Bureau of Enforcement and
16 Investigation (BEI) and compliance arms, who receive
17 complaints, investigate allegations, and enforce
18 compliance with the acts and regulations that govern
19 the boards and commissions. She stated the
20 Prosecution Division consists of five senior
21 prosecuting attorneys and 34 line attorneys.

22 Ms. Walter stated the prosecution process always
23 begins with a complaint either from the public or by
24 Board referral. She reported in 2025 the department
25 received close to 23,000 complaints for all boards.

1 Ms. Walter provided an overview of the investigative
2 process in which the complaint moves through several
3 levels of review. She noted the primary role of
4 prosecution at Board meetings is to present Consent
5 Agreements to the Board.

6 Ms. Walter explained, after the investigative
7 process, the evidence is reviewed by the prosecuting
8 attorney to determine if they believe there have been
9 any violations of the act or regulations, how
10 sufficient the evidence is and determine if
11 additional files need to be opened. She stated, if a
12 violation is suspected, the available options include
13 immediate temporary suspension, filing an order to
14 show cause, automatic suspension, an order for a
15 mental or physical examination, and a petition for
16 appropriate relief if the case violates a previous
17 Board order. Avenues for discipline types are
18 revocation, suspension, probation, public reprimand,
19 civil penalty, remedial education, and cost of
20 investigation. She added all investigations are
21 confidential and are not subject to right-to-know
22 requests.

23 Ms. Walters shared, in 2025, there were 17,354
24 cases opened and 19,131 cases closed, up
25 significantly from 2024. Specifically for the

1 Massage Therapy Board, she reported 217 cases were
2 opened in 2025 with 180 cases closed with an average
3 of 450 days to close each case. The penalties
4 included 33 monetary and 49 types of discipline
5 affecting the ability to practice. At the time of
6 the report, the Massage Therapy Board had 8,693
7 active licensees with 287 open cases.]

8 ***

9 Approval of Board Minutes - December 3, 2025

10 CHAIR STRAWSER:

11 Moving on to Item No. 2, it looks like
12 we have to approve the minutes from
13 last meeting. Did anyone have any
14 concerns? Did anyone see any errors or
15 misprints?

16 MR. KELLER:

17 Does not look like it.

18 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

19 You have to make the motion so we can
20 vote on them.

21 CHAIR STRAWSER:

22 Can I have a motion to vote on the
23 Board minutes from the last meeting?

24 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

25 So moved.

1 MS. NELSON:

2 Second.

3

4 Claggett, aye; Chamberlain, aye;
5 Nelson, aye; Alumbro Shade, aye; Bish,
6 aye; Douglas, aye; Hill, aye; Keth,
7 aye; Strawser, aye.

8 [The motion carried unanimously.]

9

10 Board Regulatory Report

11 [Thomas M. Davis, Esquire, Board Counsel, reported a
12 written regulatory report provided to the Board
13 detailed the five active regulations of the Board.
14 The five regulations regarded general revisions,
15 child abuse reporting requirements, licensure by
16 endorsement, massage therapy virtual education, and
17 schedule of fees. The packages for licensure by
18 endorsement and child abuse reporting have been
19 drafted and will be brought to the Board soon for
20 approval.]

21

22 Regulatory Report - Fee Rulemaking (16A-729)

23 [Thomas M. Davis, Esquire, Board Counsel, stated the
24 fee package presented to the Board was originally
25 approved by the Board approximately two years ago.

1 He noted at the time Bureau of Finance and
2 Procurement (BFP) had also wanted to add an
3 additional \$112 fee for each renewal. The additional
4 fee was to pay back the PLAA (Professional Licensure
5 Account) from which funds were borrowed when the
6 Board was first constructed. He noted the package
7 presented by BFP was a much heftier package; however,
8 BPOA and the Governor's Policy Office had stepped in
9 to talk to BFP regarding the \$112 fee. He explained
10 the package included a draft preamble and annex. If
11 approved by the Board, they would be published in
12 *Pennsylvania Bulletin* for a 30-day public comment
13 period.

14 Mr. Davis explained the application fees are
15 proposed to go up by just a little bit over the next
16 six years. He stated it costs the Board about \$113
17 to review an application. He detailed the proposed
18 fees increases for the next five to six years. He
19 reminded the Board that the statute requires the
20 Board to bring in as much money through application
21 and renewal fees as it expends in prosecution fees
22 and Board Counsel fees. He recommended the Board
23 approve the package as presented.

24 Chair Strawser asked what would happen if the
25 Board approved the package but found out the

1 increased amount was incorrect in a couple of years.

2 Mr. Davis replied he would not call the amount
3 incorrect. He stated the increases are necessary due
4 to continued inflation in the economy. He stated the
5 fee package is based on a snapshot of the Board's
6 finances at the time of the package. He added BFP
7 had double-checked the numbers six months ago and
8 approved them. He further explained BFP was likely
9 to return within a year with proposals for higher
10 numbers as inflation will continue.]

11 ***

12 MR. DAVIS:

13 Based on the Board's discussion in open
14 session. I believe the Chair would
15 accept a motion approving the fee
16 increase presented by Counsel and
17 directing Counsel to promulgate the
18 Proposed Rulemaking through the
19 Regulatory Review process.

20 CHAIR STRAWSER:

21 Yes. May I have a motion?

22 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

23 So moved.

24 MS. NELSON:

25 Second.

1

2

Claggett, aye; Chamberlain, aye;

3

Nelson, aye; Alumbro Shade, aye; Bish,

4

aye; Douglas, aye; Hill, aye; Keth,

5

aye; Strawser, aye.

6

[The motion carried unanimously.]

7

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Report of Board Counsel - No Report

9

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Report of Board Prosecutor - No Report

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Report of Board Chair - No Report

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Report of the Commissioner - No Report

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Report of Board Administrator - Applications

17

MR. DAVIS:

18

So in the matter of the Application for

19

Licensure as a Massage Therapist of

20

Jaimie Richardson at Agenda Item 5,

21

based upon the Board's discussion in

22

Executive Session, I believe the Chair

23

would accept a motion approving the

24

Application.

25

CHAIR STRAWSER:

1 Yes, may I have a motion?

2 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

3 So moved.

4 MS. NELSON:

5 Second.

6
7 Claggett, aye; Chamberlain, aye;
8 Nelson, aye; Alumbro Shade, aye; Bish,
9 aye; Douglas, aye; Hill, aye; Keth,
10 aye; Strawser, aye.

11 [The motion carried unanimously.]

12 ***

13 Miscellaneous - Sunshine Act Presentation

14 [Thomas M. Davis, Esquire, Board Counsel, presented
15 the biannual Sunshine Act and Recusal Guidelines
16 Presentation. He summarized that the Sunshine Act
17 ensures transparency in government by requiring open
18 meetings for all official actions and deliberations
19 involving agency matters. Any time a quorum of Board
20 members meets to discuss Board business, the meeting
21 must be publicly advertised. Deliberations are
22 defined as discussions intended to lead to decisions,
23 and official actions include votes or policy
24 decisions.

25 Public notice of meetings must be issued at the

1 beginning of the calendar year and at least three
2 days in advance, with any changes requiring 24-hour
3 notice. Emergency meetings are exempt but must be
4 justified. All meetings and Agendas are posted
5 publicly, including in the Pennsylvania Bulletin and
6 on the Board's website.

7 Mr. Davis noted that amendments to the Sunshine
8 Act in 2021 require that if the agenda changes within
9 24 hours of the meeting, an amended agenda must be
10 published afterward. Meeting locations and agendas
11 must be made available in advance, and discussions
12 outside the posted agenda are only allowed if there
13 is a natural connection. All votes must be publicly
14 casted, so virtual participant members must have
15 cameras on. Meeting minutes must include the time,
16 place, attendance, and substance of discussions,
17 though not verbatim. Executive Sessions may be held
18 for limited purposes, such as discussing litigation
19 strategy, deliberation matters, or personnel issues,
20 though personnel issues typically fall outside Board
21 purview. Executive Sessions must be announced with
22 reasons and remain confidential even after the
23 meeting.

24 He warned that violations of the Sunshine Act can
25 invalidate meeting actions and lead to litigation or

1 attorney fees. Criminal penalties are rare and
2 require District Attorney action. He clarified that
3 actions of Board committees like the Application
4 Committee or Probable Cause Committee are not
5 considered to be a meeting if there is no quorum and
6 if actions are preliminary or administrative.

7 Regarding recusals, Mr. Davis outlined the types
8 of recusals and the impact of those recusals.
9 Mandatory recusals include involvement in
10 prosecution, being a complainant, or having a direct
11 financial interest. Strongly recommended recusals
12 include personal connections or outside knowledge of
13 a case. Discretionary recusals apply when
14 impartiality is uncertain. He advised Board members
15 to consult Counsel in advance when unsure.
16 Abstentions from voting are allowed for lack of
17 preparation or uncertainty but prevent a member from
18 requesting reconsideration later. Members may still
19 attend for quorum purposes, but recusals count
20 against quorum.

21 Mr. Davis also detailed conflict-of-interest
22 rules. Professional members may not serve as
23 officers or agents of statewide professional
24 associations, and public members may not be part of
25 the regulated profession or have immediate family

1 members who are. Public members must not hold any
2 other appointed office in the Commonwealth.]

3 ***

4 Miscellaneous - Election of Officers and Committee
5 Members

6 MR. DAVIS:

7 For the position of Chairperson, I will
8 open the floor for nominations. I ask
9 that you please state your name as well
10 as the nomination.

11 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

12 My name is Arion Claggett, and I would
13 like to nominate Brian Strawser.

14 MR. DAVIS:

15 Thank you, sir. Brian Strawser, do you
16 consent to the nomination?

17 CHAIR STRAWSER:

18 Yes, I do.

19 MR. DAVIS:

20 Brian Strawser has been nominated. Are
21 there any further nominations? Hearing
22 none, the nominations are now closed.

23 Being that Brian Strawser is the
24 only candidate for the position of
25 Board Chair, he can be elected by

1 acclamation. All voting Board members
2 in favor say aye.

3 [The motion carried unanimously.]

4 ***

5 MR. DAVIS:

6 For the position of Vice Chairperson,
7 I'll open the floor for nominations.
8 And again, I ask that you please state
9 your name and the nomination.

10 MS. NELSON:

11 Jess Nelson. I'll make the nomination
12 for Vice Chair of Jennifer Keth.

13 MR. DAVIS:

14 Thank you. Jennifer Keth, do you
15 consent to the nomination?

16 MS. KETH:

17 I do.

18 MR. DAVIS:

19 Thank you. Jennifer Keth has been
20 nominated. Are there any further
21 nominations? Hearing no other
22 nominations, the nominations are now
23 closed.

24 Being that Jennifer Keth is the
25 only candidate for the position of Vice

1 MR. DAVIS:

2 All right. Mr. Chairperson, based on
3 these discussions, it sounds like Jess
4 Nelson and Brian Strawser are
5 interested in being in the Probable
6 Cause Committee. And Jennifer Keth,
7 Kathleen Hill, and Veronique Bish are
8 interested in being on the Applications
9 Committee.

10 I believe the Chair would accept a
11 motion for approval of the Committee
12 assignments as discussed.

13 CHAIR STRAWSER:

14 May I have a motion please?

15 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

16 So moved.

17 MS. NELSON:

18 Second.

19
20 Claggett, aye; Chamberlain, aye;
21 Nelson, aye; Alumbro Shade, aye; Bish,
22 aye; Douglas, aye; Hill, aye; Keth,
23 aye; Strawser, aye.

24 [The motion carried unanimously.]

25

1 Miscellaneous - 2027 Proposed Meeting Dates - Vote
2 [Paul Keller, Board Administrator, stated the
3 proposed 2027 dates were January 19, February 23, May
4 25, August 2, September 21 and November 30.

5 Mr. Davis noted, with the move into the new
6 building, there were not as many dates available.
7 Due to the lack of dates, he added, if a date does
8 not work for a Board Member, they may have to miss
9 the meeting.]

10 ***

11 MR. DAVIS:

12 Is there any discussion to be had?

13 Hearing nothing.

14 Based upon the Board's discussion,
15 or lack thereof, in open session, I
16 believe the Chair would accept a motion
17 to approve the proposed 2027 Board
18 Meeting Dates.

19 CHAIR STRAWSER:

20 May I have a motion?

21 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

22 So moved.

23 MS. NELSON:

24 Second.

25

1 Claggett, aye; Chamberlain, aye;
2 Nelson, aye; Alumbro Shade, aye; Bish,
3 aye; Douglas, aye; Hill, aye; Keth,
4 aye; Strawser, aye.

5 [The motion carried unanimously.]

6 ***

7 Miscellaneous - Compact Update

8 [Thomas M. Davis, Esquire, Board Counsel, reported
9 compacts have become a big business across
10 professional licensing boards with a number having
11 been put in place. He reviewed the process of how a
12 compact is enacted, noting draft legislation is
13 prepared and sent to states. State legislatures are
14 asked to approve the draft legislation so that every
15 state passes their own bill in relation to the
16 compact. He noted the caveat is that the bills all
17 have to match for the compact to work.

18 The Board received a letter from the National
19 Center for Interstate Compacts (NCIC) dated January
20 14, 2026, with details on the Massage Therapy
21 Compact. Mr. Davis noted, because NCIC is a
22 governmental organization who is doing a lot of
23 outreach, anyone interested can do a Google search to
24 read everything that is currently happening with the
25 compact. He added, as of January 1, 2026, only five

1 states had enacted the first version of the compact:
2 Nevada, Ohio, Montana, Arkansas, and Virginia. He
3 noted the enactment rate was significantly lower than
4 other interstate compacts, largely due to the lack of
5 support from boards and state professional
6 association chapters. He added, due to the Board's
7 construction, the Board cannot directly discuss
8 compacts with NCIC, which is why American Massage
9 Therapy Association (AMTA) and Federation of State
10 Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB) work on behalf of the
11 Board. Recently AMTA, the Council of State
12 Governments, and the Department of War collaborated
13 to advance minor changes to the Compact's model
14 language. The new language is being sent out to
15 states.

16 Mr. Davis explained anyone who has an interest in
17 the compact can reach out to NCIC in their personal
18 capacity as a licensee to massagecompact@csg.org. He
19 reminded Board Members they can comment in their
20 individual capacities but cannot comment as a Board
21 Member. He stated he would continue to bring updates
22 to the Board. He added, when the compact passes in
23 Pennsylvania, the Board will likely need to enact
24 regulations.]

25

1 Miscellaneous - Approval for Board Administrator to
2 attend FSMTB Massage Board Executive Summit -
3 April 22-24, 2026 - Providence, Rhode Island
4 [Paul Keller, Board Administrator, explained, similar
5 to the fall FSMTB conference, which Board Members
6 attend in the fall, FSMTB holds a conference for
7 board administrators to discuss proposed regulations
8 and recommendations to try to move the profession
9 forward. He noted he had attached the flyer for the
10 upcoming meeting to the Board's packet. Topics for
11 the meeting include school approvals and education
12 fraud, defending regulations, board's best practices,
13 combating misinformation, and recent legal cases. He
14 added he has attended four previous times with the
15 understanding he does not have the ability to speak
16 on behalf of the Board in regards to any legal
17 issues.

18 Mr. Davis noted he was one of the rare people who
19 had attended both the National Conference and the
20 Executive Summit. He found the Executive Summit to
21 be much better at discussing issues, what
22 administrators are doing, and how administrators are
23 overcoming and helping the profession overall. In
24 addition, the Board pays dues to FSMTB, and as a part
25 of the dues, FSMTB covers the cost of sending an

1 administrator to the meeting.]

2 ***

3 MR. DAVIS:

4 Is there any discussion to be had about
5 this?

6 Based on the Board's discussion,
7 or lack thereof, in open session, I
8 believe the Chair would accept a motion
9 to approve the Board Administrator's
10 attendance and the participation in
11 FSMTB Massage Board Executive Summit
12 April 22-24, 2026. It should all be
13 covered, but just in case, as well as
14 the modest expenditure of funds should
15 he require essentials directly related
16 to travel.

17 CHAIR STRAWSER:

18 May I have a motion?

19 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

20 So moved.

21 MS. NELSON:

22 Second.

23
24 Claggett, aye; Chamberlain, aye;

25 Nelson, aye; Alumbro Shade, aye; Bish,

1 aye; Douglas, aye; Hill, aye; Keth,
2 aye; Strawser, aye.

3 [The motion carried unanimously.]

4 ***

5 [Paul Keller, Board Administrator, stated he sent out
6 a notice in mid-January to all Board Members
7 regarding annual training being held in Camp Hill,
8 Pennsylvania, on May 4, 2026. He noted the training
9 was optional for professional members and mandatory
10 for public members. He asked for RSVPs to be sent to
11 himself and the Commissioner's office by March 16,
12 2026.]

13 ***

14 Public Comments - None

15 ***

16 Adjournment

17 CHAIR STRAWSER:

18 Looks like our next meeting date is
19 March 31, 2026.

20 MR. KELLER:

21 Future 2026 Board meeting dates are as
22 follows: June 16, August 11, September
23 22 and December 1.

24 Again, 2027 Board meeting dates
25 will appear on the Agenda of all future

1 Board meetings moving forward.

2 CHAIR STRAWSER:

3 Very good. If there's nothing else,
4 may I have a motion to adjourn?

5 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

6 So moved.

7 ***

8 [There being no further business, the State Board of
9 Massage Therapy Meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m.]

10 ***

11

12 CERTIFICATE

13

14 I hereby certify that the foregoing summary
15 minutes of the State Board of Massage Therapy
16 Meeting, was reduced to writing by me or under my
17 supervision, and that the minutes accurately
18 summarize the substance of the State Board of Massage
19 Therapy Meeting.

20

21



22

Erin Badstuebner,

23

Minute Clerk

24

Sargent's Court Reporting

25

Service, Inc.

26

STATE BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY
REFERENCE INDEX

February 10, 2026

TIME	AGENDA
9:00	Executive Session
10:30	Return to Open Session
10:30	Official Call to Order
10:30	Roll Call
10:33	Appointment - Annual Prosecution Report
10:39	Approval of Minutes
10:43	Regulatory Report
10:53	Report of Board Administrator
10:54	Miscellaneous
11:27	Adjournment

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