

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**

Monday, August 11, 2025

State Board of Massage Therapy  
August 11, 2025

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  
Kathleen Hill, LMT  
Imelda Alumbro Shade, LMT

BUREAU PERSONNEL:

Cathy A. Tully, Esquire, Board Counsel  
Liliana G. Fisher, Esquire, Board Prosecution Liaison  
J. Karl Geshwindt, Esquire, Board Prosecution Liaison  
Ronald Jackson, Esquire, Board Prosecution Liaison  
Emyline Beckenridge, Esquire, Board Prosecution  
Liaison  
Riley Baker, Esquire, Board Prosecutor  
Paul Keller, Board Administrator  
Thomas M. Davis, Esquire, Regulatory Counsel  
Andrew LaFratte, MPA, Deputy Policy Director,  
Department of State  
Tom Miller, Social Work Board Administrator

ALSO PRESENT:

Angie Armbrust, MPA, Government Affairs Specialist,  
Seth Dinkel, Federation of State Massage Therapy  
Boards  
Camille Baughman, MA, BSed, LMT, American Massage  
Therapy Association Pennsylvania Chapter,  
Government Relations  
Elise Baine, Federation of State Massage Therapy  
Boards  
Christine Hooper, Manager, Legislative and Regulatory  
Affairs, American Massage Therapy Association  
Nina Kottcamp, Coordinator, Harrisburg Area  
Community College

State Board of Massage Therapy  
August 11, 2025

ALSO PRESENT: (Cont.)

Bryn Erace, Owner, Hand and Stone Massage and Facial  
Spas  
Jacob Hill, Sargent's Court Reporting Service, Inc.

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2 State Board of Massage Therapy

3 August 11, 2025

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5 [Pursuant to Section 708(a)(5) of the Sunshine Act,  
6 at 9:30 a.m. the Board entered into Executive Session  
7 with Cathy A. Tully, 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 Monday, August  
15 11, 2025. Bryan Strawser, LMT, Chair, called the  
16 meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

17 \*\*\*

18 Roll Call of Attendance

19 [Paul Keller, Board Administrator, provided a roll  
20 call of Board members and attendees. A quorum of  
21 Board members was present.]

22 \*\*\*

23 [Cathy A. Tully, Esquire, Board Counsel, noted the  
24 meeting was being recorded, and those who continued  
25 to participate were giving their consent to be

1 recorded.

2 Ms. Tully also noted the Board entered into  
3 Executive Session for the purpose of conducting  
4 quasi-judicial deliberations on a number of matters  
5 currently pending before the Board and to receive the  
6 advice of counsel.]

7 \*\*\*

8 Approval of Draft Minutes - June 24, 2025

9 CHAIR STRAWSER:

10 Moving on to No. 2, if we could approve  
11 the Board minutes from the last  
12 meeting.

13 MS. TULLY:

14 I believe our Chair would entertain a  
15 motion to approve the draft minutes  
16 from the June 24, 2025 meeting.

17 CHAIR STRAWSER:

18 May I have a motion.

19 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

20 So moved.

21 MS. HILL:

22 Second.

23

24 Claggett, aye; Nelson, aye;

25 Chamberlain, abstain; Hill, aye; Keth,

1                   aye; Strawser, aye; Alumbro Shade, aye.  
2 [The motion carried. Ms. Chamberlain abstained from  
3 voting on the motion.]

4   \*\*\*

5 Regulatory Report

6 [Thomas M. Davis, Esquire, Regulatory Counsel,  
7 presented on the status on the Board's five active  
8 regulations. He provided a written report for the  
9 Board's review.]

10       Mr. Davis noted prior discussion related to the  
11 number of continuing education hours that may be  
12 obtained in subject that are not required for  
13 licensure, such as Reiki. The General Revisions  
14 regulation that is still being promulgated could  
15 include language that would allow only 50% of CE  
16 hours in practices such as Reiki or other subjects  
17 not specifically within the practice of massage  
18 therapy. The issue would be discussed further later  
19 in the meeting

20       Mr. Thomas updated the Board on the Child Abuse  
21 Reporting Requirements regulation (16A-722). Nine  
22 comments were received regarding this rulemaking.  
23 Comments were still being anticipated from the  
24 Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC), due  
25 August 13th, 2025. He advised that the comments

1 received from massage therapists thus far questioned  
2 why this requirement was needed as most massage  
3 therapists rarely, if ever, encountered children.

4 Mr. Thomas explained, as required by the Child  
5 Protective Services Law and Act 31 of 2014, every  
6 health board must include these requirements in their  
7 regulations. The State Board of Massage Therapy was  
8 considered a health-related board. He read the  
9 proposed rulemaking that included the requirement of  
10 massage therapists to be active and mandated  
11 reporters of any suspected or witness to child abuse.

12 Mr. Davis discussed Act 41, Licensure by  
13 Endorsement regulation (16A-727). Comments from IRRC  
14 were due August 27, 2025. A comment had been  
15 received suggesting language to include "with no  
16 pending disciplinary actions." Mr. Thomas stated  
17 this was already specifically stated in the  
18 regulation. He also advised that licensees must  
19 report discipline and can be disciplined by the  
20 Board. This Licensure by Endorsement regulation was  
21 published June 28, 2025. Mr. Thomas stated,  
22 beginning August 16, 2025, a 30-day window opens for  
23 public comments from the community regarding these  
24 licensure regulations as a whole.

25 Camille Baughman, MA, BSed, LMT, American Massage

1 Therapy Association, Pennsylvania, asked if licensure  
2 now required a fingerprint-based FBI background check  
3 as part of the application process. Commissioner  
4 Claggett stated no fingerprint based FBI check was  
5 required for this this Board. The State Board of  
6 Massage Therapy was a healthcare related board, but  
7 it did not diagnose. Therefore, it was exempt from  
8 the FBI fingerprint check.]

9 \*\*\*

10 Report of Board Counsel - Draft Adjudication and  
11 Orders

12 MS. TULLY:

13 It is my understanding, relative to  
14 Item No. 6 on the Agenda, based upon  
15 Executive Session deliberations, our  
16 Chair would entertain a motion to adopt  
17 and issue the draft final Adjudication  
18 and Order in the matter of Rick A.  
19 Long, Jr., LMT, at Case No. 22-72-  
20 016051.

21 CHAIR STRAWSER:

22 May I have a motion?

23 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

24 So moved.

25 MS. HILL:



1 Second.

2

3 Claggett, aye; Chamberlain, aye;

4 Nelson, recuse; Alumbro Shade, aye;

5 Hill, aye; Keth, aye; Strawser, aye.

6 [The motion carried. Ms. Nelson recused herself from  
7 deliberations and voting on the motion.]

8 \*\*\*

9 Report of Board Counsel - Hearing Examiner Proposals

10 MS. TULLY:

11 Item No. 7 on the Agenda, based upon  
12 the Executive Session deliberations, I  
13 believe our Chair would entertain a  
14 motion to direct Counsel to draft a  
15 Final Adjudication and Order consistent  
16 with the Executive Session  
17 deliberations in the matter of  
18 Alexander Shalom Gecht, LMT, at Case  
19 No. 24-72-016188.

20 CHAIR STRAWSER:

21 May I have a motion?

22 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

23 So moved.

24 MS. HILL:

25 Second.

1

2

Claggett, aye; Chamberlain, aye;

3

Nelson, recuse; Alumbro Shade, aye;

4

Hill, aye; Keth, aye; Strawser, aye.

5

[The motion carried. Ms. Nelson recused herself from

6

deliberations and voting on the motion.]

7

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8

Report of Board Prosecutor

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[Emyline Breckenridge, Esquire, Board Prosecution

10

Liaison, presented the Consent Agreements for Agenda

11

Item No. 8, Case No. 22-72-014984; and Agenda Item

12

No. 9, Case No. 23-72-006796.]

13

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14

[Lilliana Fisher, Esquire, Board Prosecution Liaison,

15

presented the Consent Agreements for Agenda Item No.

16

10, Case No. 23-72-010230; Agenda Item No. 11, Case

17

No. 23-72-016327; Agenda Item No. 12, Case No. 23-72-

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018436; and Agenda Item No. 13, Case No. 23-72-

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005084.]

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[Ronald Jackson, Jr., Esquire, Board Prosecution

22

Liaison, presented the Consent Agreement for Agenda

23

Item No. 14, Case No. 24-72-015185.]

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MS. TULLY:

1 With that, I believe based upon the  
2 Executive Session deliberations, our  
3 Chair would entertain a motion to adopt  
4 the Consent Agreements at Item No. 8,  
5 Case No. 22-72-014984; Item No. 9, Case  
6 No. 23-72-006796; Item No. 10, which is  
7 Case No. 23-72-010230; and Item No. 13,  
8 Case No. 25-72-007515.

9 CHAIR STRAWSER:

10 May I have a motion?

11 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

12 So moved.

13 MS. HILL:

14 Second.

15  
16 Claggett, aye; Chamberlain, aye;  
17 Nelson, aye; Alumbro Shade, aye; Hill,  
18 aye; Keth, aye; Strawser, aye.

19 [The motion carried unanimously. The Respondent's  
20 name in Case No. 22-72-014984 is Rong Rakestraw, LMT.  
21 The Respondent's name in Case No. 23-72-006796 is  
22 Tanja Derice Obryant, LMT. The Respondent's name in  
23 Case No. 23-72-010230 is Micah Leigh Tennenburn, LMT.  
24 The Respondent's name in Case No. 25-72-007515 is  
25 Matthew Butler, LMT.]

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MS. TULLY:

Based upon the Executive Session deliberations, I believe our Chair would entertain a motion to adopt the following Consent Agreements at Item No. 11, Case No. 23-72-016327; Item No. 12 of the Agenda, Case No. 23-72-018436; and Item No. 14 on the Agenda, Case No. 24-72-015185.

CHAIR STRAWSER:

May I have a motion?

ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

So moved.

MS. HILL:

Second.

Claggett, aye; Chamberlain, aye;

Nelson, recuse; Alumbro Shade, aye;

Hill, aye; Keth, aye; Strawser, aye.

[The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Nelson recused herself from deliberations and voting on the motion. The Respondent's name in Case No. 23-72-016327 is Angela Ayako Armour, LMT. The Respondent's name in Case No. 23-72-018436 is Jennifer Nicole Myers, LMT.

1 The Respondent's name in Case No. 24-72-015185 is  
2 Joshua Williams.]

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4 Report of the Commissioner - No Report

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6 Report of Board Chair - No Report

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8 Report of Board Administrator- Applications

9 MS. TULLY:

10 Item No. 15 on the Agenda, I believe  
11 based upon the Executive Session  
12 deliberations, our Chair would  
13 entertain a motion to grant the  
14 application of Katherine Fairall under  
15 Act 41.

16 CHAIR STRAWSER:

17 May I have a motion?

18 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

19 So moved.

20 MS. HILL:

21 Second.

22  
23 Claggett, aye; Chamberlain, aye;  
24 Nelson, aye; Alumbro Shade, aye; Hill,  
25 aye; Keth, aye; Strawser, aye.

1 [The motion carried unanimously.]

2 \*\*\*

3 MS. TULLY:

4 Item 16 and Item 17, based upon the  
5 Executive Session deliberations, I  
6 believe our Chair would entertain a  
7 motion to provisionally deny the  
8 applications of Kendrick Rosario-Cruz  
9 and Lindsay Bennett.

10 CHAIR STRAWSER:

11 May I have a motion?

12 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

13 So moved.

14 MS. HILL:

15 Second.

16  
17 Claggett, aye; Chamberlain, aye;  
18 Nelson, aye; Alumbro Shade, aye; Hill,  
19 aye; Keth, aye; Strawser, aye.

20 [The motion carried unanimously.]

21 \*\*\*

22 MS. TULLY:

23 Items 18 and 19, based upon the  
24 Executive Session deliberations, I  
25 believe our Chair would entertain a

1 motion to grant a provisional license  
2 under Act 41 to Qingchun Fan and Stacey  
3 Styborski.

4 CHAIR STRAWSER:

5 May I have a motion?

6 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

7 So moved.

8 MS. HILL:

9 Second.

10  
11 Claggett, aye; Chamberlain, aye;  
12 Nelson, aye; Alumbro Shade, aye; Hill,  
13 aye; Keth, aye; Strawser, aye.

14 [The motion carried unanimously.]

15 \*\*\*

16 MS. TULLY:

17 Item 20, based upon the Executive  
18 Session deliberations, I believe our  
19 Chair would entertain a motion to grant  
20 license to practice massage therapy by  
21 examination to Sarah Machado.

22 CHAIR STRAWSER:

23 May I have a motion?

24 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

25 So moved.

1 MS. HILL:

2 Second.

3

4 Claggett, aye; Chamberlain, aye;

5 Nelson, aye; Alumbro Shade, aye; Hill,

6 aye; Keth, aye; Strawser, aye.

7 [The motion carried unanimously.]

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9 MS. TULLY:

10 Item 21 on the agenda, based upon the

11 Executive Session deliberations, I

12 believe our Chair would entertain a

13 motion to grant an unrestricted license

14 under Act 41 to James Ivaska.

15 CHAIR STRAWSER:

16 May I have a motion?

17 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

18 So moved.

19 MS. HILL:

20 Second.

21

22 Claggett, aye; Chamberlain, aye;

23 Nelson, aye; Alumbro Shade, aye; Hill,

24 aye; Keth, aye; Strawser, aye.

25 [The motion carried unanimously.]



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2 Miscellaneous - No Report

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4 Appointments - No Report

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6 Public Comments - None

7 \*\*\*

8 Adjournment

9 MR. STRAWSER:

10 May I have a motion to adjourn?

11 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

12 So moved.

13 MS. HILL:

14 Second.

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16 [There being no further business, the State Board of  
17 Massage Therapy Meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m.]

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## CERTIFICATE

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

Jacob Hill,  
Minute Clerk  
Sargent's Court Reporting  
Service, Inc.

STATE BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY  
REFERENCE INDEX

August 11, 2025

TIME	AGENDA
9:30	Executive Session
10:31	Return to Open Session
10:31	Official Call to Order
10:32	Approval of Minutes
10:33	Report of Regulatory Counsel
10:43	Report of Board Counsel
10:45	Report of Board Prosecutor
10:57	Report of Board Administrator
11:01	Adjournment