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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.

**PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

1 State Board of Massage Therapy
2 February 13, 2024

3
4
5 BOARD MEMBERS:
6

7 Nancy M. Porambo, MS, LMT, CNMT, NCTMB, Chair,
8 Professional Member
9 Arion R. Claggett, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of
10 Professional and Occupational Affairs
11 Linda A. Chamberlain, MS, BSN, RN, CNDLTC, Secretary
12 of Health designee
13 Jessica Nelson, Office of Attorney General designee
14 Dana J. Douglas, LMT
15 Vickiann Hicks, LMT, BCTMB, CCCA
16 Jennifer A. Keth, LMT, CNC, Vice Chair
17 Imelda Alumbro Shade, LMT
18 Bryan Strawser, LMT
19

20
21 BUREAU PERSONNEL:
22

23 Shana M. Walter, Esquire, Board Counsel
24 Jared Hinsey, Esquire, Board Counsel
25 J. Karl Geschwindt, Esquire, Senior Board Prosecutor
26 and Prosecution Liaison
27 Paul Keller, Board Administrator
28 Carlton Smith, Deputy Chief Counsel, Prosecution
29 Division
30 Deena Parmelee, Legal Office Administrator 1,
31 Department of State
32

33
34 ALSO PRESENT:
35

36 Jennifer Passenti, Ed.D., Center Director, Lake
37 Region Center, Lackawanna College
38 Nina M. Kottcamp-Long, LMT, NCMT, Coordinator,
39 Massage Therapy Program/Holistic Health and
40 Wellness, Harrisburg Area Community College
41 Natalie Cook, Associate, McNees-Winter Group
42 Twyla Jones, Manager, On-line Programs Manager,
43 Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
44 Camille Baughman, MA, BSed, LMT, Camille Baughman &
45 Associates
46 Edward Portley Jr., LMT, Just This Side of Heaven
47 Massage & Continuing Education for Massage
48 Therapists
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State Board of Massage Therapy
February 13, 2024

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ALSO PRESENT: (cont.)

- Patrina Martin, Servant Hands
- Mai Lin Petrine, JD, Director Of Legal and Regulatory Affairs, Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards
- Eric Busick, Managing Director, Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards
- Stephanie Dunkerley
- Jamie
- Heidu
- Bre Eckley, LMT
- Cheryl Duquette
- Natalie Gordon
- Amanda Koch
- Victoria Lantz

1 ***

2 State Board of Massage Therapy

3 February 13, 2024

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 Jared Hinsey, 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 Tuesday,
15 February 13, 2024. Nancy M. Porambo, MS, LMT, CNMT,
16 NCTMB, Chair, called the meeting to order at
17 10:30 a.m. She welcomed everyone and mentioned that
18 the meeting was being held virtually due to the
19 weather.

20 ***

21 [Jared Hinsey, Esquire, Board Counsel, noted the
22 meeting was being recorded, and those who continued
23 to participate were giving their consent to be
24 recorded.

25 Mr. Hinsey also noted the Board entered into

1 Executive Session with Board Counsel to have
2 attorney-client consultations and for the purpose of
3 conducting quasi-judicial deliberations.]

4 ***

5 Introduction of Board Members/Attendees
6 [Chair Porambo requested an introduction of Board
7 members and attendees.]

8 ***

9 Appointment - Annual Prosecution Division
10 Presentation

11 [Carlton Smith, Esquire, Deputy Chief Counsel,
12 Prosecution Division, informed Board members that he
13 assumed his role in March 2023 when Carolyn
14 DeLaurentis was promoted to the Executive Deputy
15 Chief Counsel position and provided a brief summary
16 of his professional background.

17 Mr. Smith reported a decrease in the number of
18 Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs
19 (BPOA) complaints for all boards from around 22,000
20 in 2022 to roughly 19,000 in 2023.

21 Mr. Smith presented the Prosecution Division's
22 Annual Report for the State Board of Massage Therapy.
23 He reported nearly 8,400 licensees in 2023. He noted
24 177 cases were opened in 2023. He reported 171 open
25 cases and 133 closed cases. He informed Board

1 members that prosecution's gold standard is to
2 dispose of a case within a year across all boards.
3 He reported the average age of a case for the Board
4 is 268 days in 2023, noting an improvement from 2022
5 at 304 days.

6 Mr. Smith addressed closed discipline cases in
7 2023, noting 9 fines, 7 citations, 5 reprimands, 6
8 suspensions, and 7 voluntary surrenders. He noted
9 that prosecution considers the seriousness of the
10 allegations, licensee discipline history, and
11 strength of the evidence when issuing a warning
12 letter.

13 Mr. Smith addressed prosecution not warranted,
14 noting prosecution considers the seriousness of the
15 allegations and disciplinary history, but also
16 considers an expert's opinion in terms of standard of
17 care and their confidence of a violation.

18 Chair Porambo thanked Mr. Smith for the
19 presentation.]

20 ***

21 Approval of minutes of the November 14, 2023 meeting

22 CHAIR PORAMBO:

23 I'd like to move on to the minutes of
24 the meeting of November 14, 2023. Are
25 there any additions, changes to the

1 minutes?

2 [The Board discussed corrections to the minutes.]

3 CHAIR PORAMBO:

4 We'll need a motion to approve the
5 minutes as amended.

6 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

7 So moved.

8 CHAIR PORAMBO:

9 Do we have a second?

10 MR. STRAWSER:

11 I'll second it.

12 MR. KELLER:

13 Porambo, aye; Claggett, aye;
14 Chamberlain, aye; Nelson, aye; Keth,
15 aye; Strawser, aye; Douglas, aye;
16 Hicks, aye; Alumbro Shade, aye.

17 [The motion carried unanimously.]

18 ***

19 Regulatory Report

20 [Jared Hinsey, Esquire, Board Counsel, on behalf of
21 Thomas M. Davis, Esquire, Regulatory Counsel,
22 addressed comments for the practice of massage
23 therapy in cosmetology and esthetician salons
24 regulation. He stated the current regulation calls
25 for 120 square feet for the massage therapy room

1 within those salons.

2 Mr. Hinsey noted the comments were from
3 individuals who believed it should be 90 square feet
4 to 100 square feet. He mentioned that Mr. Davis
5 researched other states and their space requirements.
6 He noted the State Board of Cosmetology agreed with
7 reducing the square footage but were willing to go
8 along with recommendations from the State Board of
9 Massage Therapy.

10 Mr. Hinsey informed Board members that there
11 would be an opportunity for further discussion on the
12 amendment when Mr. Davis presented the full
13 regulatory report.]

14

15 Appointment - Hybrid Program Discussion - Lackawanna
16 College

17 [Jennifer Passenti, Ed.D., Center Director, Lake
18 Region Center, Lackawanna College, informed Board
19 members that Lackawanna College not only has the
20 massage program but also has undergraduate programs,
21 as well associate and bachelor's degree programs,
22 along with having instituted hybrid learning as well
23 as virtual learning and online platforms.

24 Dr. Passenti addressed Lackawanna College's
25 hybrid matrix. In their regular undergraduate

1 courses, the instructor would review the primary
2 materials, the instructional tools, and on-ground
3 sessions and assessments, along with provide a
4 description of the activities.

5 Dr. Passenti explained that the purpose of the
6 hybrid is to create a course where a portion of the
7 traditional face-to-face time has been replaced by
8 online learning activities and engagement through a
9 learning management software. The hybrid course
10 would take advantage of the best features of both
11 face-to-face and online learning, so each serve as a
12 complement to support one another.

13 Dr. Passenti stated learning objectives could be
14 done synchronous or asynchronous based off of the
15 recommendations of the State Board of Massage
16 Therapy.

17 Dr. Passenti provided an example of the
18 requirements for Lackawanna College to be able to
19 teach the hybrid portion of any course or program,
20 including materials, on-ground session and
21 discussions, description of the activities, and
22 learning objectives.

23 Dr. Passenti noted creating a training manual for
24 instructors who have been trained in hybrid that
25 includes a breakdown of the orientation and how to

1 build their course for Canvas. She mentioned that
2 hybrid provides flexibility from synchronous to
3 asynchronous and hands on.

4 Chair Porambo questioned how long the school had
5 been using the hybrid program in other majors. Dr.
6 Passenti stated the school had been using the hybrid
7 program prior to COVID, noting the use of the hybrid
8 and virtual options as well as online and
9 traditional, but felt that the hybrid would blend the
10 traditional with the online well for the purposes of
11 massage.

12 Chair Porambo asked Dr. Passenti to discuss the
13 different majors that would be using this type of
14 program. Dr. Passenti explained that undergraduate
15 programs have the opportunity to do a hybrid
16 approach, noting their biology classes can be via the
17 hybrid approach, where the lecture part would be the
18 online portion and the lab component would be the in
19 person. She noted offering a wide variety of options
20 in the hybrid platform from the medical fields, such
21 as physical therapy assistants (PTAs), all the way to
22 our human services criminal justice.

23 Chair Porambo asked for information regarding the
24 results from using the hybrid program and the actual
25 pass/fail rates of students taking that type of

1 educational program. Dr. Passenti mentioned that
2 some of the courses within a program could be hybrid.
3 She reported the first-time class of 2022 was 100%
4 and class of 2023 was 67%, giving a stable two-year
5 average of 84.6%.

6 Ms. Hicks commented that some of the PTA programs
7 may need five years to know exactly, but it is great
8 that they are opened to that. She thanked Dr.
9 Passenti for the presentation and bringing it forward
10 for review.

11 Acting Commissioner Claggett agreed with the
12 hybrid approach and would like to see that happen in
13 some capacity. He asked Mr. Hinsey what the next
14 steps would be if the Board decided to go in that
15 direction.

16 Mr. Hinsey stated the law and regulations as
17 written in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania requires
18 600 contact hours of education to become a licensed
19 massage therapist. He explained that it would
20 require a legislative and regulatory change to allow
21 for a hybrid program or to allow for hybrid credit
22 and could be proposed by the Board going up the
23 channels and reaching out to legislators. He
24 mentioned that regulatory change would be through the
25 Board itself, noting the act would need to be changed

1 as well.

2 Nina M. Kottcamp-Long, LMT, NCMT, Coordinator,
3 Massage Therapy Program/Holistic Health and Wellness,
4 Harrisburg Area Community College, informed Board
5 members of the use of a hybrid massage therapy
6 program with D2L as their learning format for several
7 years because they have a 900-hour program. She also
8 noted they have a flip classroom for some of the
9 science at 275 hours, noting the state requires 175
10 hours.

11 Ms. Kottcamp-Long mentioned that Lackawanna
12 Community College's massage program is 720 hours, so
13 they could be offering some of that hybrid because
14 they would still have their 600. She referred to
15 something Mr. Hinsey said, because she thought since
16 there was a waiver act passed where 125 hours of
17 their program was online during COVID that it could
18 be reinstated without a statute change.

19 Mr. Hinsey explained that there is a regulation
20 being drafted to involve some credit for online hours
21 but it was still moving its way through the channels.
22 He also noted the waivers for COVID were for COVID.

23 Ms. Kottcamp-Long mentioned that there has been a
24 gainful employment law recently that was changed
25 requiring all schools in the state to only teach what

1 the state board requires. She mentioned that they
2 are looking at making that change, which will require
3 Middle States reaccreditation as well as every other
4 community college.

5 Ms. Kottcamp-Long reported being in contact with
6 other community colleges about their massage therapy
7 program and asked whether there was a timeframe for
8 the regulation. She does not want to go through
9 Middle States reaccreditation for a 600-hour change
10 and then go through it again when they are allowed to
11 put 125 online.

12 Mr. Hinsey explained that regulatory counsel
13 would have a better idea of the timeframe. He
14 suggested Ms. Kottcamp send that question to the
15 resource account email, which would be forwarded to
16 Attorney Davis, who could hopefully provide an answer
17 as far as a timeline.

18 Chair Porambo commented that the matter would be
19 brought back before the Board for further discussion
20 in April and thanked Dr. Passenti for bringing the
21 information to the Board.]

22 ***

23 Report of Board Counsel

24 Adjudication and Order

25 MR. HINSEY:

1 Based on Executive Session
2 deliberations, I believe the Board
3 Chair would entertain a motion to adopt
4 the Proposed Adjudication and Order in
5 the matter at agenda item 5, Angel
6 Mateo, Case No. 22-72-017165.

7 CHAIR PORAMBO:

8 Do I have a motion?

9 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

10 So moved.

11 MR. STRAWSER:

12 Second.

13 MR. KELLER:

14 Porambo, aye; Claggett, aye;
15 Chamberlain, aye; Nelson, aye; Keth,
16 aye; Strawser, aye; Douglas, aye;
17 Hicks, aye; Alumbro Shade, aye.

18 [The motion carried unanimously.]

19 ***

20 Report of Board Counsel

21 Motion to Deem Facts Admitted

22 MR. HINSEY:

23 Agenda item 6. Based on Executive
24 Session deliberations, I believe the
25 Board Chair would entertain a motion to

1 grant the Motion to Deem Facts Admitted
2 and Enter Default and direct Board
3 Counsel to prepare an Adjudication and
4 Order in accordance with the discussion
5 in Executive Session in the matter of
6 agenda item 6, Shanshan Cao, Case No.
7 23-72-002253.

8 CHAIR PORAMBO:

9 Do I have a motion?

10 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

11 So moved.

12 CHAIR PORAMBO:

13 Second?

14 MS. KETH:

15 Second.

16 MR. KELLER:

17 Porambo, aye; Claggett, aye;
18 Chamberlain, aye; Nelson, aye; Keth,
19 aye; Strawser, aye; Douglas, aye;
20 Hicks, aye; Alumbro Shade, aye.

21 [The motion carried unanimously.]

22 ***

23 Report of Board Counsel

24 Application Review

25 MR. HINSEY:

1 Agenda item 7. Based on Executive
2 Session deliberations, I believe the
3 Board Chair would entertain a motion to
4 approve the Application for Licensure
5 as a Massage Therapist and grant a
6 probationary license at agenda item 7,
7 Zekiel Taliaferro.

8 CHAIR PORAMBO:

9 Do we have a motion?

10 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

11 So moved.

12 CHAIR PORAMBO:

13 Second?

14 MS. HICKS:

15 I'll second that.

16 MR. KELLER:

17 Porambo, aye; Claggett, aye;
18 Chamberlain, aye; Nelson, aye; Keth,
19 aye; Strawser, aye; Douglas, aye;
20 Hicks, aye; Alumbro Shade, aye.

21 [The motion carried unanimously.]

22 ***

23 Report of Board Prosecutors

24 [J. Karl Geschwindt, Esquire, Senior Prosecutor and
25 Board Prosecution Liaison, presented the Consent

1 Agreement for Case No. 22-72-007764.]

2 MR. HINSEY:

3 Based on the presentation of the
4 prosecution division, does any Board
5 member wish to reenter Executive
6 Session for deliberations? Hearing
7 none.

8 Based on Executive Session
9 deliberations, I believe the Board
10 Chair would entertain a motion to
11 approve the Consent Agreement at agenda
12 item 8, Case No. 22-72-007764.

13 CHAIR PORAMBO:

14 Do we have a motion?

15 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

16 So moved.

17 CHAIR PORAMBO:

18 Second?

19 MS. KETH:

20 I will second.

21 MR. KELLER:

22 Porambo, aye; Claggett, aye;
23 Chamberlain, aye; Nelson, aye; Keth,
24 aye; Strawser, aye; Douglas, aye;
25 Hicks, aye; Alumbro Shade, aye.

1 [The motion carried unanimously. The name of the
2 Respondent at agenda item 8 is Mark George Spanos,
3 L.M.T.]

4 ***
5 Report of Acting Commissioner - No Report

6 ***
7 Report of Board Chair - No Report

8 ***
9 Report of Board Administrator

10 Applications

11 MR. HINSEY:

12 Based on Executive Session
13 deliberations, I believe the Board
14 Chair would entertain a motion to
15 provisionally deny the Applications to
16 Practice as a Licensed Massage
17 Therapist at agenda item 9, Montsho
18 Garman; agenda item 10, Natalie Gordon;
19 and agenda item 11, Patrina Martin.

20
21 CHAIR PORAMBO:

22 Do we have a motion?

23 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

24 So moved.

25 CHAIR PORAMBO:

1 Second?

2 MS. KETH:

3 I second.

4 MR. KELLER:

5 Porambo, aye; Claggett, aye;

6 Chamberlain, aye; Nelson, aye; Keth,

7 aye; Strawser, aye; Douglas, aye;

8 Hicks, aye; Alumbro Shade, aye.

9 [The motion carried unanimously.]

10 ***

11 MR. HINSEY:

12 Based on Executive Session

13 deliberations, I believe the Board

14 Chair would entertain a motion to

15 approve the Application for Licensure

16 as a Massage Therapist at agenda item

17 12, Dawn Vander Groef.

18 CHAIR PORAMBO:

19 Do we have a motion?

20 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

21 So moved.

22 CHAIR PORAMBO:

23 Second?

24 MS. KETH:

25 I second.

1 MR. KELLER:

2 Porambo, aye; Claggett, aye;
3 Chamberlain, aye; Nelson, aye; Keth,
4 aye; Strawser, aye; Douglas, aye;
5 Hicks, aye; Alumbro Shade, aye.

6 [The motion carried unanimously.]

7 ***

8 Miscellaneous - Sunshine Act Presentation
9 Guidelines

10 [Jared Hinsey, Esquire, Board Counsel, discussed
11 legalities concerning the Sunshine Act to Board
12 members during Executive Session and provided
13 materials for the Board's review. He noted the full
14 presentation on the record would be at a following
15 Board meeting.]

16 ***

17 Miscellaneous - Approval for Board Admin to Attend
18 FSMTB Massage Board Executive Summit

19 MR. HINSEY:

20 Based on Executive Session
21 deliberations, I believe the Board
22 Chair would entertain a motion for
23 approval to send the Board
24 administrator, Paul Keller, to the
25 FSMTB Massage Board Executive Summit

1 April 3-5, 2024, in Savannah, GA.

2 CHAIR PORAMBO:

3 Do we have a motion?

4 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

5 So moved.

6 CHAIR PORAMBO:

7 Second?

8 MS. KETH:

9 I'll second.

10 MR. KELLER:

11 Porambo, aye; Claggett, aye;

12 Chamberlain, aye; Nelson, aye; Keth,

13 aye; Strawser, aye; Douglas, aye;

14 Hicks, aye; Alumbro Shade, aye.

15 [The motion carried unanimously.]

16 ***

17 Next Meeting Date

18 [Nancy M. Porambo, MS, LMT, CNMT, NCTMB, Chair, noted

19 the next scheduled Board meeting date is April 2,

20 2024. She also noted the remaining meeting dates for

21 2024 are June 4, August 13, September 24, and

22 December 3.]

23 ***

24 Adjournment

25 CHAIR PORAMBO:

1 I need a motion to adjourn.

2 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

3 So moved.

4 CHAIR PORAMBO:

5 See you in April.

6 ***

7 [There being no further business, the State Board of
8 Massage Therapy Meeting adjourned at 11:14 a.m.]

9 ***

10

11 CERTIFICATE

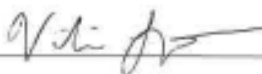
12

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

19

20

21



22

Victoria Lantz,

23

Minute Clerk

24

Sargent's Court Reporting

25

Service, Inc.

26

STATE BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY
REFERENCE INDEX

February 13, 2024

TIME	AGENDA
9:00	Executive Session
10:30	Return to Open Session
10:30	Official Call to Order
10:30	Introduction of Board Members/Attendees
10:33	Appointment - Carlton Smith, Deputy Chief Counsel, Annual Prosecution Division Report
10:42	Approval of Minutes
10:43	Report of Regulatory Counsel
10:45	Appointment - Jennifer Passenti, Ed.D., Center Director, Lake Region Center, Lackawanna College - Hybrid Program Presentation
11:03	Report of Board Counsel
11:06	Report of Board Prosecutors
11:09	Report of Board Administrator
11:11	Miscellaneous
11:14	Adjournment