

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, August 11, 2026

State Board of Massage Therapy
August 11, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS:

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

BUREAU PERSONNEL:

Thomas M. Davis, Esquire, Board Counsel
Paul Keller, Board Administrator
Addie Abelson, Esquire, Regulatory Counsel
William A. Newport, Esquire, Board Prosecution
Liaison
Adrianne E. Doll, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
J. Karl Geschwindt, Esquire, Senior Board Prosecutor
and Prosecution Liaison
Stephanie Dunkerley, Legal Analyst, Office of General
Counsel
Ronald Rouse, Esquire, Senior Counsel, Office of
General Counsel
Jason C. Giurintano, Esquire, Deputy Chief Counsel,
Counsel Division
Diane Bendesky, Special Assistant for Strategic
Initiatives

ALSO PRESENT:

Seth Dinkel, Federation of State Massage Therapy
Boards
Camille Baughman, MA, B.S., LMT, American Massage
Therapy Association Pennsylvania Chapter
Nina Kottcamp, BCTMB, LMT, Coordinator Holistic
Health and Wellness, HACC Central Pennsylvania's
Community College
Lauren Meller, Applicant
Nancy Watt, Applicant

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ALSO PRESENT (cont.):

Aynie G.
Samette
Laurie Elliott, Sargent's Court Reporting Service,
Inc.

1 ***

2 State Board of Massage Therapy

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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
11 commenced 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, August
15 11, 2026. Bryan Strawser, LMT, Chair, called the
16 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.

22 Mr. Davis also noted the Board entered into
23 Executive Session at 9:00 a.m. for the purpose of
24 conducting quasi-judicial deliberations on a number
25 of matters currently pending before the Board and to

1 receive the advice of counsel.]

2 ***

3 Roll Call of All Attendees and Presenters

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

7 ***

8 Approval of Board Minutes - June 16, 2026

9 CHAIR STRAWSER:

10 Moving on to Item No. 2. We need to
11 approve the draft minutes from the last
12 Board meeting. Any concerns, anything
13 that stood out, any errors that need to
14 be addressed?

15 May I have a motion for approval?

16 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

17 Claggett, so moved.

18 MS. HILL:

19 Hill, second.

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

25 [The motion carried. Ms. Chamberlain abstained from

1 voting on the matter.]

2 ***

3 Report of Board Counsel

4 MR. DAVIS:

5 Moving on to Report of Board Counsel,
6 Item No. 8, based on the Board's
7 discussions in Executive Session, I
8 believe the Chair would accept a motion
9 to adopt the Proposed Adjudication and
10 substitute the Board's Order with a
11 Memorandum Order consistent with the
12 Board's discussions in Executive
13 Session for the following matter,
14 Commonwealth BPOA v. Haitham Ameen,
15 Case No. 24-72-011777.

16 CHAIR STRAWSER:

17 May I have a motion?

18 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

19 Claggett, so moved.

20 MS. HILL:

21 Hill, second.

22
23 Claggett, aye; Chamberlain, aye;
24 Nelson, aye; Alumbro Shade, aye; Bish,
25 aye; Douglas, aye; Hill, aye; Keth,

1 aye; Strawser, aye.

2 [The motion carried unanimously.]

3 ***

4 MR. DAVIS:

5 Moving on to No. 9 on the Board's
6 Agenda which is a citation appeal for
7 Brittany Butcher.

8 Based on the Board's discussions
9 in Executive Session, I believe the
10 Chair would accept a motion to direct
11 Board Counsel to draft an Order
12 upholding the Citation but reducing the
13 civil penalty to \$250.

14 CHAIR STRAWSER:

15 May I have a motion?

16 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

17 Claggett, so moved.

18 MS. HILL:

19 Hill, second.

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

25 [The motion carried unanimously.]

MR. DAVIS:

No. 10 on the Board's Agenda.

Based on the Board's discussions in Executive Session, I believe the Chair would accept a motion to grant the Motion to Enter Default and Deem Admitted the Facts in the following matter which is Commonwealth BPOA versus Chuanxia Wang L.M.T., Case No. 24-72-017943.

CHAIR STRAWSER:

May I have a motion?

ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

Claggett, so moved.

MS. HILL:

Hill, second.

Claggett, aye; Chamberlain, aye; Nelson, aye; Alumbro Shade, aye; Bish, aye; Douglas, aye; Hill, aye; Keth, aye; Strawser, aye.

[The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Davis noted the vote was only to grant the Motion to Deem Facts Admitted and Counsel would be drafting a final Order

1 for approval at a future meeting.]

2 ***

3 Regulatory Report

4 [Addie Abelson, Esquire, Regulatory Counsel, noted
5 the Regulatory Status Report for the Board's review
6 and information. Ms. Abelson reported Regulation
7 16A-722, Child Abuse Reporting Guidelines and
8 Regulation 16A-727, Licensure by Endorsement, were
9 both at the same stage. Both regulations had been
10 delivered to the Independent Regulatory Review
11 Commission (IRRC) following Board approval at the
12 prior meeting. IRRC notified Regulatory Counsel that
13 the regulations would be on the Agenda for IRRC's
14 September 17, 2026 meeting and IRRC intends to deem
15 them both approved.

16 Regarding Regulation 16A-728, Virtual
17 Instruction, Ms. Abelson explained the regulation
18 would allow massage therapy students to obtain some
19 initial education via a virtual platform. The
20 regulation was published as proposed and had received
21 one comment regarding virtual CPR instruction. She
22 stated the only change from the proposed form of the
23 regulation to the final form before the Board was the
24 change related to CPR instruction. If approved, the
25 Regulation would be submitted for review and approval

1 before being delivered to IRRC.

2 Mr. Davis explained the proposed changes. He
3 asked Nina Kottcamp, BCTMB, LMT, Coordinator Holistic
4 Health and Wellness, HACC Central Pennsylvania's
5 Community College, if the changes fit what she had
6 asked for in her public comment. Ms. Kottcamp
7 confirmed the changes met her request.

8 Aynie G. asked if the regulation was contingent
9 with the virtual learning discussed at the August
10 2025 meeting and if it would be applied to continuing
11 education (CE). Mr. Davis explained the regulation
12 being considered was the same one discussed in August
13 2025 and the Board was working to move the regulation
14 forward. Similar to what was permitted during the
15 COVID-19 pandemic, the regulation would allow for a
16 certain portion of the initial education hours to be
17 virtual instead of requiring all hours be completed
18 in person. He noted the regulation did not encompass
19 CE but he expected a CE regulation to be discussed at
20 a future meeting.]

21 ***

22 MS. ABELSON:

23 So at this time, I believe the Chair
24 would entertain a motion to approve the
25 final rulemaking Preamble and Annex for

1 16A-728 pertaining to virtual
2 instruction and direct Board Counsel to
3 move the final form rulemaking through
4 the regulatory process.

5 CHAIR STRAWSER:

6 Yes, may I have a motion?

7 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

8 Claggett, so moved.

9 MS. HILL:

10 Hill, second.

11

12 Claggett, aye; Chamberlain, aye;
13 Nelson, aye; Alumbro Shade, aye; Bish,
14 aye; Douglas, aye; Hill, aye; Keth,
15 aye; Strawser, aye.

16 [The motion carried unanimously.]

17 ***

18 [Ms. Abelson next discussed Regulation 16A-729, Fees.

19 She stated the regulation would increase the
20 application and biennial renewal fees to provide
21 sufficient biennial revenue to meet projected
22 expenditures as required under Section 11 of the
23 Massage Therapy Act. She stated the Board most
24 recently approved the release of the exposure draft.
25 Three comments were received on June 16, 2026, all

1 opposing the fee increases. Ms. Abelson stated,
2 while the concerns are valid, the package reflects
3 the fee increases determined by the Bureau of Finance
4 and Procurement as needed to ensure the Board's
5 revenue was not outpaced by the Board's expenditures.

6 She added the analysis used was the same one used
7 for other professional boards and the Board was
8 required to increase their fees at the current time.

9 She also noted the increases were structured over
10 three biennium or six years to reduce the impact on
11 the regulated community. She noted the explanation
12 given had been drafted into the Preamble.

13 Ms. Abelson explained the Board would be voting
14 on the wording for the Preamble and Annex as well as
15 to move the regulation forward in the Regulatory
16 Process. If approved, the proposed rulemaking would
17 be reviewed by senior Regulatory Counsel before
18 proceeding through various offices, IRRC, and the
19 committees. After all of the approval steps, the
20 regulation would be published for a 30-day public
21 comment period. In addition, the regulation would
22 return to the Board in final form for another
23 approval.]

24 ***

25 MS. ABELSON:

1 So at this time, I believe the Chair
2 would entertain a motion to approve the
3 proposed rulemaking Preamble and Annex
4 for 16A-729, Fees, and direct Board
5 Counsel to move the proposed rulemaking
6 through the regulatory process.

7 CHAIR STRAWSER:

8 Yes, may I have a motion?

9 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

10 Claggett, so moved.

11 MS. HILL:

12 Hill, second.

13

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

18 [The motion carried unanimously.]

19 ***

20 Report of Prosecution

21 [J. Karl Geschwindt, Esquire, Senior Board
22 Prosecutor, presented Agenda Item No. 12, Case No.
23 23-72-013519.]

24 ***

25 MR. DAVIS:

1 Based on the Board's discussion in
2 Executive Session, I believe the Chair
3 would entertain a motion to approve the
4 Consent Agreement in the following
5 matter, which is Case No. 23-72-013519.

6 CHAIR STRAWSER:

7 Yes, may I have a motion?

8 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

9 Claggett, so moved.

10 MS. HILL:

11 Hill, second.

12
13 Claggett, aye; Chamberlain, aye;
14 Nelson, aye; Alumbro Shade, aye; Bish,
15 aye; Douglas, aye; Hill, aye; Keth,
16 aye; Strawser, aye.

17 [The motion carried unanimously. The Respondent at
18 Agenda Item No. 12, Case No. 23-72-013519, is Keith
19 Edward Ambrose d/b/a Qu's Massage Spa & Qu's Massage
20 Foot & Body Spa.]

21 ***

22 [William A. Newport, Esquire, Board Prosecutor,
23 presented the Consent Agreements for Agenda Item 13,
24 Case No. 24-72-010220; and Agenda Item 14, Case Nos.
25 26-72-006748 and 26-72-008289.]

MR. DAVIS:

I will note for No. 13 Board Member Jessica Nelson is recused because she signed an immediate temporary suspension related to this matter. So she did not take part in any discussions in Executive Session. I do have a proposed motion.

Based on the Board's discussions in Executive Session, I believe the Chair would accept a motion to approve the Consent Agreement in the following matter which is Case No. 24-72-010220.

CHAIR STRAWSER:

Yes, may I have a motion?

ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

Claggett, so moved.

MS. HILL:

Hill, second.

Claggett, aye; Chamberlain, aye;
Nelson, recuse; Alumbro Shade, aye;
Bish, aye; Douglas, aye; Hill, aye;
Keth, aye; Strawser, aye.

1 [The motion carried. Ms. Nelson was recused from
2 deliberations and voting on the matter. The
3 Respondent at Agenda No. 13, Case No. 24-72-010220 is
4 Kyle James Devlin, LMT.]

5 ***

6 MR. DAVIS:

7 Moving to No. 14 on the Board's Agenda.

8 Based on the Board's discussions
9 in Executive Session, I believe the
10 Chair would accept a motion to approve
11 the Consent Agreement in the following
12 matter which is Case Nos. 26-72-006748
13 and 26-72-008289.

14 CHAIR STRAWSER:

15 May I have a motion?

16 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

17 Claggett, so moved.

18 MS. HILL:

19 Hill, second.

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

25 [The motion carried unanimously. The Respondent at

1 Agenda Item No. 14, Case Nos. 26-72-006748 and 26-72-
2 008289 is Daniel Campagna, LMT.]

3 ***

4 Report of Board Chair - No Report

5 ***

6 Report of Commissioner - No Report

7 ***

8 Report of Board Administrator

9 MR. DAVIS:

10 We'll move on to Item No. 15. This is
11 the initial application of Lauren Lam.
12 This was discussed in Executive
13 Session.

14 Based upon the discussions in
15 Executive Session, I believe the Chair
16 would accept a motion approving the
17 application.

18 CHAIR STRAWSER:

19 May I have a motion?

20 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

21 Claggett, so moved.

22 MS. HILL:

23 Hill, second.

24

25 Claggett, aye; Chamberlain, aye;

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

4 [The motion carried unanimously.]

5 ***

6 MR. DAVIS:

7 Moving on to the CE waiver requests.
8 We have two of them, the first one
9 being No. 16.

10 In the matter of the continuing
11 education waiver request of Nancy Watt,
12 LMT, based on the Board's discussions
13 in Executive Session, I believe the
14 Chair would accept a motion approving
15 the application, thereby allowing the
16 licensee to obtain 100 percent of the
17 required CE online for this biennial
18 renewal period.

19 CHAIR STRAWSER:

20 May I have a motion?

21 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

22 Claggett, so moved.

23 MS. HILL:

24 Hill, 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 MR. DAVIS:

8 Moving on to No. 17.

9 In the matter of the continuing
10 education request of Leah Rethage, LMT,
11 based on the Board's discussions in
12 Executive Session, I believe the Chair
13 would accept a motion denying the
14 application.

15 CHAIR STRAWSER:

16 May I have a motion?

17 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

18 Claggett, so moved.

19 MS. HILL:

20 Hill, second.

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

1 [The motion carried unanimously.]

2 ***

3 Report of Board Counsel - CE Rollover

4 [Thomas M. Davis, Esquire, Board Counsel, explained
5 Act 116 of 2020 allowed for boards and commissions to
6 draft regulations to provide for the carryover of CE
7 credits in excess of the number required for a
8 biennial renewal. The carryover would only be valid
9 for one biennial renewal term. He noted the Board
10 currently requires 24 CE hours. He provided an
11 example of how the carryover could potentially work.

12 He noted the Psychology and Engineer boards both
13 allow for CE rollover.

14 Ms. Hill, Ms. Bish, Ms. Douglas, and Ms. Keth all
15 agreed carryover would be a good idea. It was noted
16 the carryover might also help balance out the fee
17 increases.

18 Mr. Keller noted there would be discussion of how
19 many credits could be carried over. He noted the
20 Psychology Board allows for a maximum of 10 hours
21 while the Engineer Board allows for 12 hours.

22 Chair Strawser asked if a decision had to be made
23 at the meeting or if there would be something
24 presented in a future meeting for a vote. Mr. Davis
25 replied the discussion was to start the conversation

1 and allow the Board to indicate if they wanted
2 Counsel to pursue a regulation. He stated Counsel
3 would look at how the other two boards are doing it,
4 see what works or does not work, and then come up
5 with a proposal. He also noted specifics regarding
6 child abuse and ethics could be included in the
7 proposal.

8 Mr. Davis noted from the Board's remarks, it
9 appeared the Board was interested in proceeding with
10 the possibility of CE rollover. He stated he would
11 work with Regulatory Counsel and return with a
12 proposal based upon the discussion.]

13 ***

14 Public Comment

15 [Lauren (Meller) Lam, Applicant, thanked the Board
16 for approving her application and asked if there were
17 any additional steps or requirements she needed to
18 complete prior to her license being issued.

19 Mr. Keller stated he would be processing her
20 application after the meeting. He noted he would
21 need to do a review of the entire application to make
22 sure everything was up to date and current. If
23 everything is current, he expected a license number
24 to be issued the same day.]

25 ***

1 Meeting Dates

2 [Paul Keller, Board Administrator stated the next
3 scheduled meeting is September 22, 2026 followed by
4 December 1, 2026. The 2027 meeting dates are January
5 19, February 23, May 25, August 2, September 21, and
6 November 30.]

7 ***

8 Adjournment

9 CHAIR STRAWSER:

10 If there's nothing else, I'd like to
11 have a motion to adjourn?

12 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

13 Claggett, so moved.

14 ***

15 [There being no further business, the State Board of
16 Massage Therapy Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.]

17 ***

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19

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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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Laurie Elliott", is written over a horizontal line.

Laurie Elliott,

Minute Clerk

Sargent's Court Reporting
Service, Inc.

STATE BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY
REFERENCE INDEX

August 11, 2026

TIME	AGENDA
9:00	Executive Session
10:30	Return to Open Session
10:30	Official Call to Order
10:30	Roll Call
10:32	Approval of Minutes
10:34	Report of Board Counsel
10:37	Regulatory Report
10:50	Report of Board Prosecutor
10:59	Report of Board Administrator
11:02	Report of Board Counsel (cont.)
11:13	Public Comment
11:15	Adjournment