

MINUTES

South Carolina Massage Therapy/Bodywork Panel
10:00 A.M., December 2, 2005

Carolyn Porter, Chairman, of Greenville, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Other members in attendance were: Kim Brewer, of Hilton Head; and Linda Pearson, of Spartanburg.

Staff members participating in the meeting included: Randy Bryant, Assistant Deputy Director; Lisa Hawsey, Program Assistant; Eddie Jones, Administrator; Brett Sims, Office of Investigations and Enforcement; and Connie Huffstetler, Administrative Assistant.

Members of the public attending the meeting included: K. Glenn Beach, SC Massage & Esthetics Institute; Judy Mims, SES, Columbia; Ronda Villa, SES, Charleston; Edna Strange, Renea Eshelman and Lane Jeselnik, SC Commission on Higher Education.

Meeting Called to Order

Ms. Porter announced that public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the S. C. Massage Therapy/Bodywork Panel office, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building and provided to all requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

Chairman's Remarks

Ms. Porter noted that much of the discussion during the meeting would be about the Federal of State Massage Therapy Boards meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, which Ms. Brewer attended on behalf of the Panel.

Administrator's Remarks

Mr. Jones updated the members on the Notice of Intent to Draft regarding distance learning. He advised that no comments or opinions had been received to date.

Mr. Jones noted that the staff had mailed letters to a random sampling of licensees requesting verification of continuing education. Ms. Hawsey advised that the information should be ready for review by Ms. Pearson by the end of December.

Mr. Jones advised the Panel members that the Agency is moving toward on-line renewals for all licensees. This information has been posted on the LLR website.

Approval of September 16, 2005 Conference Call Minutes

MOTION

Ms. Pearson moved to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2005 conference call. Ms. Brewer seconded the motion, which carried.

Unfinished Business

Disciplinary Process

Mr. Bryant gave a brief overview of the disciplinary process from the time a complaint is received, through the investigation and disposition of the matter. He noted that LLR had started the Office of Investigations and Enforcements (OIE) in July 2004. All complaints are handled through OIE.

Mr. Bryant introduced Brett Sims at this time. Mr. Sims presented a case status report to the members.

At Ms. Porter's request, Mr. Sims explained the hearing process to the Panel. Mr. Bryant and Mr. Sims also answered the Panel members' questions regarding licensees who face criminal charges and how the disciplinary process is handled pending the outcome of such charges.

Disciplinary Panel

Ms. Porter noted the need for Panel members to be appointed. Mr. Bryant stated that anyone interested in serving should contact the governor's office. He suggested that industry professional associations make their members aware of the need for members.

Licensure and Renewal Fees

Mr. Bryant reported to the Panel regarding their request to look into reducing fees for licensing and renewal. He advised the members that a preliminary estimate is that fees could be reduced by approximately \$50 for the next renewal period

New Business

Presentation by Susan Duncan

Ms. Duncan addressed the members on monitoring legislative issues. She gave a demonstration of the legislative website, which was recently updated. Ms. Duncan also reviewed the LLR website for the members.

AMMA Exam

Ms. Porter noted that in the past, SC has accepted the AMMA exam as an equivalent exam for the national exam. She herself took the exam to see what it was like and found it to be a very hard test. However, it is not a certified exam and Ms. Porter stated that she feels the Panel should consider whether or not to continue accepting the exam. A discussion ensued among the members and others present regarding the issue.

MOTION

Ms. Pearson made a motion to continue accepting the AMMA exam on a case by case basis. Ms. Brewer seconded the motion, which carried.

Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards

Ms. Porter asked Ms. Brewer to report on the meeting, which she attended in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Ms. Brewer read from an article on the meeting, written by Cliff Korn. Ms. Brewer also presented information to the other members regarding membership fees for the FSMTB. She stated that she felt the fees were reasonable and noted that many other professions have such national organizations. After a discussion, the members agreed to table the matter until the March 2006 meeting.

Discussion Items

Ms. Porter noted that a letter received from Dr. Mark Hendler would be discussed at the March 2006 meeting, in order to give the members time to get input from others in the profession, regarding the issues raised by Dr. Hendler.

Adjournment

MOTION

Ms. Brewer moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pearson and carried.