

**South Carolina Massage/Bodywork Therapy Panel
Task Force Meeting
March 13, 2020
9:30 a.m.
Synergy Business Park
Kingstree Building, Conference Room 204
110 Centerview Drive, Columbia, SC 29210**

1. Meeting Called to Order

- a. Public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the SC Massage/Bodywork Therapy 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.
- b. Rules of the Meeting

2. Review of Massage/Bodywork Panel's Proposed Recommended Changes to its Regulations

Janet Shaw called the task force meeting of the S.C. Massage/Bodywork Therapy Panel to order at 9:39 a.m.

Other participants in the meeting included:

- Mary Lou Kelley, Panel member
- Georgia Lewis, Advice Counsel (LLR)
- Theresa Brown, Board Administrator (LLR)
- Shannon Beaudry, Staff (LLR)
- Brent Jackson (via teleconference)
- Dana Ball
- Peggy Simons, Commission on Higher Education (CHE)
- Whitney Jett, Commission on Higher Education (CHE)

Ms. Shaw first called for a vote for a task force chairperson. Ms. Kelley made a motion to elect Janet Shaw as the chairperson. Ms. Ball seconded the motion and it carried.

The purpose of the task force is to establish curriculum recommendations to present to the Massage/Bodywork Panel. If approved, those recommendations would be given to CHE for the purpose of licensing massage programs.

Topics discussed during the meeting included:

The current requirement is 500 clock hours, but if the proposed statute changes pass it would change to 625 hours. However, those hours are vaguely defined. Ms. Shaw asked whether they want to consider using the Entry Level Analysis Project (ELAP), which offers an industry standard curriculum.

Accreditation is currently optional, but should the Panel consider requiring COMTA accreditation for massage programs? CHE would have to determine with their legal counsel whether they could require COMTA accreditation.

Are massage instructor requirements adequate or should there be increased requirements? The representatives from CHE stated that current requirements are 2 years of massage practice and if they wanted to change that, it would have to be updated in CHE's regulations.

For online massage programs, CHE doesn't require licensure if school administration is in another state and they are not advertising in SC. But if part of the curriculum has to be done in a skills lab in SC, then the school would need to be approved here.

Increasing the number of required clock hours might help schools meet federal financial aid requirements.

Ms. Shaw suggested assigning research on various topics to the members of the task force. Assignments are below:

- Mr. Jackson and Ms. Ball will research the ELAP and determine the pros/cons of adopting it. They will also discuss the curriculum for schools with more than 625 hours.
- Ms. Kelley will do research on COMTA accreditation. She will consult with Panel member Denise Van Nostran. Mr. Jackson mentioned there is an option to adopt COMTA curriculum accreditation without paying for full accreditation. Ms. Kelley will look into that.
- CHE will give something in writing regarding the delivery method and language of massage education.
- Ms. Kelley and Mr. Jackson will work together on determining possible instructor qualifications.

3. Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Kelley to adjourn the meeting at 11:32 a.m. Ms. Ball seconded the motion and the motion carried.