

South Carolina Massage/Bodywork Therapy Panel Meeting
Special Called Meeting
September 25, 2020
9:30 a.m.
Via Teleconference

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. In accordance with the Governor's directives regarding social distancing, the meeting will be held via teleconference.

- b. Rules of the Meeting

2. Introduction of Panel Members and All Other Persons Attending

Chairperson Janet Shaw called the meeting of the S.C. Massage/Bodywork Panel to order at 9:37 a.m. Other Panel members/staff participating in the meeting included:

- Gloria Smith
- Jennifer Griffitt
- Jenny Vaughn
- Denise Van Nostran
- Mary L. Kelley
- Stacey Hewson, Advice Counsel
- Theresa Brown, Administrator
- Shannon Beaudry, Staff
- Katie Phillips, Office of Communications and Governmental Affairs
- Melissa Blackwell, Court Reporter

3. Approval of Excused Absences

There were no absences for this meeting.

4. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Smith made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Van Nostran seconded the motion and it carried.

5. New Business

a. Consideration of revisions to Senate Bill 1184

The updated version of the draft bill was presented at the September 20th Massage Panel meeting. The Massage Panel submitted their suggestions/concerns to Ms. Brown to be reviewed at this meeting. There was a question of whether language regarding fingerprinting should be included.

Ms. Gudmundson and Ms. Gallup appeared before the Panel to address any questions or concerns the panel members had. They stated AMTA were fine with taking out the fingerprinting language but would need to talk to the legislator about it.

Ms. Smith stated that a lot of other states and other SC boards do fingerprinting so she does not have a problem with requiring it. She expressed concerns with the language that the fingerprints "may be" required.

Ms. Vaughn asked why fingerprinting is so commonly required by other boards. Ms. Hewson stated that some other LLR boards do the fingerprinting, mostly for safety reasons, especially with healthcare/direct care boards. Ms. Vaughn also asked if they were to require a background check without fingerprinting, would that background check pick up everything.

Ms. Brown stated that if they were to do fingerprinting, they would probably need to hire someone who specifically just does background reports/fingerprinting.

Ms. Shaw stated she requested information from FSMTB on what other boards do. This information was forwarded to all panel members. Most states require state and/or national background checks.

Ms. Gallup expressed concern with the addition of the cost to applicants for fingerprinting.

Ms. Van Nostran stated that if one priority of the Panel is to protect the public, then fingerprinting is one way to track if potential traffickers are moving from state to state.

Ms. Kelley stated that even if there is an additional cost with fingerprinting, it may still help with protecting the public.

Ms. Vaughn stated that massage schools should inform students ahead of time what all costs they will incur, including fingerprinting if it is approved.

Ms. Kelley made a motion to approve fingerprinting as a requirement for all massage therapists in the state of SC. Ms. Smith seconded the motion and it carried.

Ms. Gallup stated that the other edits made to the bill were just fixes to typos.

There was a discussion of requiring a "current" photograph and whether that is something other boards required. Ms. Brown stated that requiring a current 2x2 photograph is something that many other professions use. Ms. Shaw stated she would like to make sure the word "current" is included. Ms. Brown stated she is okay with that.

Ms. Gallup stated that the next steps are to do a few more revisions then set up a meeting with the legislative director for the legislator's office and go over the changes with him. If there are any problems, they will work that out. The legislator wants to go ahead and pre-file the bill and hopefully get the bill moving as quickly as possible. Ms. Gallup and Ms. Gudmundson thanked everyone for their feedback.

Ms. Shaw requested that Ms. Gudmundson provide updates to her and Ms. Brown regularly on the status of the bill. She thanked everyone for their help.

6. Adjournment

Ms. Kelley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:31 a.m. Ms. Griffitt seconded the motion and it carried.

The next meeting of the SC Massage/Bodywork Therapy Panel is scheduled for November 6, 2020.
