

AGENDA
South Carolina Massage/Bodywork Therapy Panel
Task Force Meeting
January 5, 2018, 10:00 a.m.
Synergy Business Park
Kingstree Building, Conference Room 105
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.

2. Review of Massage/Bodywork Panel Statute for Proposed Recommendation of Establishment Licensure and Criteria

Chairperson Janet Shaw called the task force meeting of the S.C. Massage/Bodywork Therapy Panel to order. Other task force members/staff participating in the meeting included:

- Megan Flannery, Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) (LLR)
- Lane Goodwin, South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
- Rebecca Leach, Director of Governmental Affairs (LLR)
- Jenny Mitchell, Panel Member
- Georgia Lewis, Advice Counsel (LLR)
- Shalon Genwright, Staff (LLR)
- Theresa Brown, Board Administrator (LLR)

Ms. Rebecca Leach stated that legislation passed a few years ago that created the study committee to look at human trafficking in our state. That committee has met several times under the purview of the Attorney General in our state. There is an interest in looking at the massage therapy industry and to increase regulations to detect and deter human trafficking. It was asked that changes to our regulations and statute be given to help with that. Chairperson Janet Shaw gave opening remarks regarding her reasons to creating the task force, based on what they have been tasked with.

Ms. Georgia Lewis stated that this is a process that will take some time and asked what the expectations were. Ms. Leach stated that a task force was created by the legislation to create human trafficking language and within the task force are subcommittees. One subcommittee is a legislative task force that looks at and reviews state statutes for changes to be made with this issue in our state. The massage establishments came up as places where human trafficking could possibly occur. Pulling North Carolina's recently passed statute was their attempt to addressing the same issue. The task force understands the time that it is going to take. They want to move quickly as possible and to do it right. They are pleased to know that we are working on this.

The guidance given by Ms. Lewis consisted of the following:

- Determine the definition of 'establishment'.
- Do we want to call it a permit, registration, or license?
- What are the requirements for the establishment?
- Do we want a person in charge and should they be licensed as a Massage Therapist?
- How do we want the inspections conducted?
- What do we want inspected?
- Will massage only be done in a licensed establishment?
- Exceptions may be needed.
- How often will the establishments have to renew and what will the fees be?
- The individual's license needs to be posted.
- There will need to be a disciplinary process.

If the task force is able to get the definition of the establishment, requirements, exceptions, and the inspections portion completed, that language would be good to give to the legislation's task force. The interest is to protecting

the health and safety of the public. Ethics are allowed to be established in the regulations, so that will be on the horizon as well to deal with the unethical behavior.

The legislative task force heavily referenced North Carolina as it is a neighboring state, so it would be beneficial to look at what they have done.

Chairperson Shaw was interested in brainstorming, rather than being boxed in with looking at other states, initially. She wanted each perspective that was represented at the task force meeting.

A lengthy discussion ensued.

A massage establishment can be any site or premises licensed as required by this chapter in which licensed massage and bodywork therapy is practiced. An owner is the person or sole proprietor, partnership, limited partnership, or corporation that operates the massage/bodywork therapy establishment. Any number of defined terms may be added to assist with the definition or exceptions.

Missouri has good language for exemptions. Exemptions for establishments were also given.

Inspections must be periodic, unannounced, and random.

The legislative task force will be looking for an indication that the board is moving forward, in which they are.

3. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.