

**South Carolina Massage/Bodywork Therapy
Special Called Panel Meeting
March 9, 2018, 10:00 a.m.
110 Centerview Drive
Synergy Business Park
Kingstree Building, Conference Room 105
Columbia, South Carolina 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
- c. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Introduction of Panel Members and All Other Persons Attending

Chairman Janet Shaw attended and called the meeting of the SC Massage/Bodywork Therapy Panel to order. Other panel members participating in the meeting included:

- ❖ Jennifer Griffitt
- ❖ Mary Lou Kelley
- ❖ Denise Van Nostran
- ❖ Anthony Ruggiero
- ❖ Jenny Vaughn

Staff members present included: Georgia Lewis, Advice Counsel; Theresa Brown, Administrator; Priscilla Louis, Staff

3. Approval of Excused Absences

N/A

4. Approval of the Minutes for the Following Meetings:

January 5, 2018 (Task Force)

Ms. Mary Lou Kelley made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the task force meeting on January 5, 2018, and it was seconded by Ms. Jennifer Griffitt. The motion carried.

January 12, 2018 (Task Force)

Ms. Denise Van Nostran made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the task force meeting on January 12, 2018, and it was seconded by Ms. Kelley. The motion carried.

March 2, 2018 (Task Force)

Ms. Griffitt made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from March 2, 2018, and it was seconded by Ms. Jenny Vaughn. The motion carried.

5. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Vaughn made a motion to accept the meeting agenda and it was seconded by Ms. Van Nostran. The motion carried.

- 6. Chairperson's Remarks – Janet Shaw** – They have been continuing with the task force meetings to create a license for massage establishments, so within a short period of time, they hope that establishments will be required to be licensed. There will be rules that go along with the license, along with inspections. The task force meetings will be ongoing. Monthly meetings were mentioned for the task force, which will require more homework on the members' parts to get ideas together ahead of time. Ms. Georgia Lewis, Advice Counsel, stated that whatever Chairperson Shaw asks of from the task force members, the input is needed to have a good, productive, and progressive discussion at the task force meetings. She and Ms. Theresa Brown, Administrator, try to set the parameters for task force meetings. There was consideration on starting meetings earlier, since meetings have been running longer. Beginning a meeting at 9:00 a.m. will be reasonable for future meetings.

Ms. Kelley made a motion to move the panel/task force meetings to 9:00 a.m. and the motion was seconded by Mr. Anthony Ruggiero. The motion carried.

Ms. Van Nostran inquired about having task force meetings immediately following panel meetings. That would have to be considered on a month by month basis, according to the needs of the panel meeting.

- 7. Administrator's Remarks – Theresa Brown** – On the agenda for item 9. b., e-mails and hard copies have been sent out to the Panel members. Everyone must ensure that they file the statement prior to March 30, 2018, to avoid penalties.

8. Old Business

a. Consideration of Licensure

i. Cai Fen Zhou

Ms. Zhou came before the Panel seeking approval to obtain licensure with a revoked North Carolina massage therapist license. Mr. Don Cupit served as a witness for Ms. Zhou. Ms. Zhou's main question was that South Carolina was not accepting her national certification examination.

Ms. Zhou attended the November 2017 panel meeting and documentation was presented that she had a revoked license in the state of North Carolina because FSMTB invalidated her MBLEx scores and she would be eligible to retest in May of 2018. The Panel stated that she would need to correct everything with North Carolina and to come back before the Panel for a decision. Ms. Van Nostran inquired about the other issues and/or stipulations that she had in North Carolina with her conditional license. Falsified information was placed on her MBLEx application as well as far as the education that Ms. Zhou received. She could not remember what year she attended the massage school in New York. The transcript is needed from that school as she would have to have provided a valid transcript in order to take the national certification examination. Relevant, authentic documentation is needed to make the determination for Ms. Zhou to become licensed in the state of South Carolina or she will need to take the MBLEx again. Mr. Cupit spoke as her witness.

Mr. Ruggiero made a motion to go into an executive session in order to garner legal advice on the matter. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kelley and it carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Ruggiero to come out of the executive session and Ms. Griffith seconded that motion. It carried.

There were no motions made or votes taken during the executive session.

Ms. Van Nostran made a motion regarding the license application of Ms. Cai Fen Zhou. The Panel has concerns over the North Carolina disciplinary issues. Specific to the South Carolina license application, it is incomplete. Ms. Zhou may complete the MBLEx with a passing score, requesting the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB) to send official passing scores to the Panel. She should also submit sealed, official copies of her transcript from the American and European Massage Clinic where she completed her 500 hours of massage training. This will be evaluated by staff. At this time, the application is denied due to being incomplete. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kelley and it carried.

9. New Business

a. Consideration of Licensure

i. Faith Young

Ms. Young came before the Panel to gain approval of licensure. Her massage transcript did not give a breakdown of actual clock hours, nor had she passed a national examination as she was grandfathered in while licensed in Georgia.

Mr. Ruggiero made a motion to go into an executive session to garner legal advice and the motion was seconded by Ms. Vaughn. The motion carried.

Mr. Ruggiero made a motion to come out of the executive session and it was seconded by Ms. Griffith.

The motion carried.

There were no motions made or votes taken during the executive session.

A motion was made by Ms. Van Nostran that the documentation of education is substantially equivalent to the educational requirements in the state of South Carolina. The state requires that Ms. Young complete the MBLEx to become licensed in South Carolina. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ruggiero and it carried.

ii. Wen Xu

Mr. Xu came before the Panel to gain approval of licensure. His massage school was under a revoked status while he attended and completed the program. He also stated that he was not licensed in another state on his application, but stated at the meeting that he had a current massage license in Connecticut, which was shown to Ms. Lewis via his cellular device.

Mr., Ruggiero made a motion to go into an executive session to garner legal advice and it was seconded by Ms. Vaughn. The motion carried.

Mr. Ruggiero made a motion to come out of the executive session and it was seconded by Ms. Kelley. The motion carried.

There were no motions made or votes taken during the executive session.

Ms. Van Nostran made a motion to approve the licensure for Mr. Wen Xu based on the official transcript being submitted, along with official MBLEx results. He was advised that in the future, he should be very careful when completing documentation for the Panel as they want him to move forward successfully. This motion was seconded by Mr. Ruggiero and it carried.

iii. Ketoya Monero

Ms. Monero came before the Panel to gain approval of licensure. Ms. Monero previously held a nursing license that has been revoked. She is currently licensed as a massage therapist in the state of New Jersey.

A motion was made by Mr. Ruggiero to accept the education, prior licensing from the state of New Jersey, and the MBLEx to issue a massage/bodywork license to Ms. Ketoya Monero. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kelley and it carried.

iv. Lingdi Ge

Ms. Ge came before the Panel to gain approval of licensure. She attended a massage school that was under a revoked status when she attended and completed the program. Mr. David Garrett served as a witness for Ms. Ge. Ms. Ge also had a letter of recommendation from a physician that was not able to attend the meeting. She has practiced massage for almost a decade prior to coming to the United States.

Ms. Van Nostran made a motion to go into an executive session to garner legal advice and it was seconded by Ms. Vaughn. The motion carried.

Mr. Ruggiero made a motion to come out of the executive session and it was seconded by Ms. Kelley. The motion carried.

There were no motions made or votes taken during the executive session.

Ms. Van Nostran made a motion to approve the licensure for Ms. Lingdi Ge based in her submission of educational transcript and the successful completion of the MBLEx. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ruggiero and it carried.

Mr. Garrett commended the Panel for their patience with those who spoke English as a second language.

b. Statement of Economic Interest

This was discussed previously during the meeting.

c. 2018 Member Board Executive Summit

Chairperson Shaw would like for Ms. Brown and another staff member to be able to attend this meeting as it is for administrative personnel. They review red flags, the processing of paperwork, and share a lot of information on a national scale.

A motion was made by Mr. Ruggiero to authorize Ms. Theresa Brown and another staff person to attend the 2018 Executive Summit in Missouri. This motion was seconded by Ms. Van Nostran and it carried.

10. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

11. Discussion

Military spouses were mentioned in the case for Ms. Faith Young, but the statute states that the Panel may issue a temporary license. Since the Panel doesn't have anything in place, they may opt out since it was not mandatory to approve spouses. The Panel may stand as decided. This can be brought up for further discussion further down the road.

It was requested that everyone clear their whole day for meetings.

12. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Griffith and seconded by Ms. Van Nostran. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:30 p.m.

The next meeting of the SC Massage/Bodywork Therapy Panel is scheduled for May 18, 2018.