

# NORTH CAROLINA BOARD of MASSAGE & BODYWORK THERAPY



*Regulating the practice of massage and bodywork therapy and its educational institutions, for the protection of the public.*

## 2016 NEWSLETTER

### ***Message from the Board Chair, Holly Foster, LMBT***

So, 2016 draws to a close. This has been another year of effort and achievements for the North Carolina Board of Massage and Bodywork Therapy. The Board's staff, as always, works tirelessly to improve the processing of applications and respond to inquiries from applicants, licensees and members of the general public. The appointed members of the board could not do their jobs without the knowledge and experience of our staff. Many thanks to you all.

I would like to extend a personal welcome to Dr. Tim Taft, medical member of the board. Dr Taft assumes the position from Dr Ed Preston who completed his second term in June.

As is part of the role of public safety, the Board investigates complaints it receives. Many of these include complaints of inappropriate activity or providing massage or bodywork therapy by unlicensed individuals. Some of the cases seemed to be linked to human trafficking. The Board has sought input from experts on methods it may use to help combat human trafficking and preserve the public's trust in the safety and efficacy of Massage and Bodywork therapy in North Carolina.

The Board only has authority to regulate Licensed Massage and Bodywork therapists. This year, the Board worked closely with investigators, local police and sheriff's offices and the Governor's Human Trafficking Commission to review the laws currently in place in North Carolina and to advise them of what the Board regularly sees regarding illicit practices under the guise of massage or massage and bodywork therapy.

Readers of this Newsletter may have seen news reports from Cumberland County and Apex in 2016 about arrests for illicit activities under the guise of massage. Both of these were the result of complaints filed by individuals followed by investigations conducted by the Board. The raids were carried out by local law enforcement with assistance from the Board's investigator.

As 2017 appears on the horizon, the North Carolina Board of Massage and Bodywork Therapy will continue to fulfill its mandate to protect the health and safety of the citizens of this State. The Board will continue its public awareness campaign and its work with local law enforcement and the Human Trafficking Commission. The Board will also continue to work with the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards to develop tools to fight fraud in testing and license applications.

And, we need your help. Your license is a privilege and a responsibility. Please endeavor to protect your license. You must post your original license on the wall where you practice. Make sure you remove your expired licenses from the wall. If you leave a business, take your license with you. If you know of someone who is misusing a license, report this to the Board. The Board cannot take action if it is not made aware.

As Chair of the North Carolina Board of Massage and Bodywork Therapy, I would like to extend my appreciation to our licensees for your support of the Board. Best wishes to you, my fellow Board members, and Board staff in 2017.

### **NCBMBT's Top 10 List of Reminders for all LMBT's**

1. Please keep the Board informed of any changes to your mailing address and email address so you will be sure to receive all pertinent information, such as renewal reminders, newsletters, etc.
2. For all up-to-date information, as well as Board contact information and/or questions regarding licensure, please refer to the NCBMBT website at [www.bmbt.org](http://www.bmbt.org).
3. The Board meets every other month on the 13th floor of the Wells Fargo Capital Center located at 150 Fayetteville Street Raleigh, NC 27601. The current meeting schedule is posted on the website under the 'Board Meetings' tab. All Board meetings are open to the public.
4. Please direct all requests, inquiries, and comments to the Board office and not to individual Board members.
5. You may access the License Renewal tab on the Board's website at any time to print copies of your license. You can log in with your name and password that you created when you originally renewed online.
6. All online renewals end on December 31 at midnight. Any renewals submitted past this date will need to be mailed and include a letter stating whether or not you have been practicing massage and bodywork therapy in NC since your license expired.
7. To keep your license current, all LMBTs must complete 24 hours of continuing education, including a minimum of 3 hours of ethics, through an approved provider. You may take a maximum of 12 hours of distance learning and a maximum of 8 hours of business management, should you choose to do so.
8. Any LMBT, who has completed all of the required CEU's during the year of their renewal, may apply any additional CEU's taken after August 1 of that year to their next renewal period, as long as they were not submitted for the prior renewal period.
9. At anytime, you may verify that a LMBT's license is valid in NC by accessing the Board's website and clicking on the License Verification tab and searching by their last name or license number.
10. Licensees are required to notify the Board within 15 days if they know a person is practicing without a license, is violating the Practice Act/Rules and Regulations, is charged with certain criminal offenses, or is a defendant in a civil lawsuit related to the practice of massage and bodywork therapy.

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## NEW BOARD MEMBER

Governor Patrick F. McCrory appointed Dr. Timothy N. Taft of Orange County to the position previously held by Dr. Edwin Thornton Preston. His term began on June 15, 2016 and will end June 30, 2019.

### **Timothy Taft, MD:**

Dr. Timothy N. Taft serves as the physician member of the Board. Dr. Taft is the Max M Novich Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Sports Medicine and professor emeritus of Orthopaedic Surgery at UNC – Chapel Hill. A graduate of Princeton University and the University of Missouri - Columbia medical school, he completed his residency in Orthopaedics at UNC – Chapel Hill where he has been on the faculty since 1973. In addition to being the team physician and Director of Sports Medicine for the Tar Heels, he has been the national team physician for USA Swimming and has served on the medical staff for USA teams at the Olympic Games, Pan American Games, World University Games and the World Championships for men’s and women’s basketball. Dr. Taft is active in the Boy Scouts and currently serves as the national team physician for Special Olympics USA.

## NEW BOARD OFFICERS

The Board, at its June 2016 meeting, elected the following officers:

Chair – Holly Foster

Vice Chair – Nancy Harrell

Treasurer – Dianne Layden

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## KEEP INFORMATION UP TO DATE

To optimize communications between the Board and licensees, please update your current email address at the Information Update tab on the Board’s website [www.bmbt.org](http://www.bmbt.org).

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## 2017 BOARD MEETING DATES

February 16, 2017

April 20, 2017

June 15, 2017

August 17, 2017

October 19, 2017

December 14, 2017

Board meetings are held in the large conference room on the 13th floor of the Wells Fargo Capitol Center at 150 Fayetteville St., Raleigh, NC 27601. Meetings begin at 10:00 a.m. and are open to the public. There is a 15 minute period of Public Comment at the end of each meeting. Those interested in addressing the Board during Public Comment must sign up in person before or during the meeting.

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## ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Licenses currently active..... 8,382  
Licenses issued  
through 12/31/2016..... 16,152

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## Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery. It is an illegal practice in which traffickers will use force, fraud, or coercion to make victims engage in commercial sex acts or services of labor against his or her will. This practice has increasingly found its way to an intersection with massage therapy. According to the ABMP “In our world of complementary care, (human trafficking) is often disguised as free-agent prostitution and marketed as massage. In fact, a website maintained for and by men who buy sex, lists more than 7,000 brothels posing as legitimate massage establishments nationwide.” Victims are often lured to the United States and told that a large debt is owed for their transportation and ongoing living expenses. Many do not speak English and may have their passports confiscated. They are kept living in isolation and frequently moved across the country from one fraudulent massage establishment to another which prevents them from reaching out for help.

“North Carolina is reported to be one of the top 10 states in the nation in human trafficking, owing to our location as an east-coast hub for transportation, a state with many military installations and colleges, an economy dependent on agriculture and tourism and where immigrants come seeking work. In small towns and metropolitan areas traffickers prey on vulnerable people, exploiting, coercing and/or defrauding them into modern day slavery. The U.S. State Department estimates there are some 27 million men, women and children entrapped in this \$150 billion a year worldwide criminal enterprise, second only to drugs.” Tom Campbell, Executive Producer and Moderator, NC Spin, January 26, 2017

Law enforcement agencies in North Carolina have recently become more aware of certain massage establishments connections to human trafficking and conducted raids in Apex and Fayetteville in October and August of 2016, respectively. According to the Apex Police Department "common persons of interest" in the raid "own more than 15 massage parlors in the Raleigh/Wake County area as well as in Johnston County, Charlotte, Greensboro, and Wilmington areas".

The NCBMBT takes very seriously the effect of human tracking on the legal massage therapy business in North Carolina. One of our Board members, Dianne Layden is a member of The North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission as well as the FSMTB Human Trafficking Task Force. The Board is actively partnering with law enforcement to address establishments that are using massage therapy as a cover for illegal activities.

If you know of someone that you suspect is being trafficked, or believe it is happening in your community, what can you do? You can call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 and you can contact your local law enforcement agency. Visit the Polaris Project at [www.polarisproject.org](http://www.polarisproject.org) for more information on human trafficking and how you can become involved to help put an end to this practice.

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## DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE BOARD FROM JANUARY 1, 2016 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2016

The Board is authorized to investigate complaints and institute disciplinary actions, as set forth in Section .0900 of the Rules.

### HEARINGS BEFORE THE BOARD:

**Cecilia Hatley** – Following a hearing on April 21, 2016, for practicing massage and bodywork therapy without a current license, the Board Ordered that Ms. Hatley be issued a conditional license, be placed on probation, obtain additional CEs and pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$500.

**QuiYing Liang** - Following a hearing on April 21, 2016, upon aiding and abetting illegal massage and bodywork therapy activity at her place of business, the Board Ordered that Ms. Liang's license be revoked and she pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$500.

**Rashawn Bowman** - Following a hearing on April 21, 2016, upon engaging in inappropriate sexual activity with a client during a massage and bodywork therapy session, the Board Ordered that Mr. Bowman's license be revoked and he pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$500.

**Lan Fen Zhou** - Following a hearing on October 20, 2016, upon aiding and abetting illegal massage and bodywork therapy activity at her place of business, the Board Ordered that Ms. Zhou's license be revoked and she pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$750.

**Hong Wei Zhang** - Following a hearing on October 20, 2016, upon aiding and abetting illegal massage and bodywork therapy activity, the Board Ordered that Mr. Zhang's license be revoked and he pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$750.

**Cai Fen Zhou** - Following a hearing on October 20, 2016, upon aiding and abetting illegal massage and bodywork therapy activity, the Board Ordered that Ms. Zhou's license be reprimanded, she complete the jurisprudence exam and pay costs of \$250.

**Yongmei Lu** - Following a hearing on October 20, 2016, upon aiding and abetting illegal massage and bodywork therapy activity at her place of business, the Board Ordered that Ms. Lu's license be revoked and she pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$750.

**Xiaoyan He** - Following a hearing on October 20, 2016, upon aiding and abetting illegal massage and bodywork therapy activity, the Board Ordered that Ms. He's license be reprimanded, she complete the jurisprudence exam and pay costs of \$250.

**Meng Xun Wang** - Following a hearing on October 20, 2016, upon aiding and abetting illegal massage and bodywork therapy activity at his place of business, the Board Ordered that Mr. Wang's license be revoked and he pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$750.

**Suxia Tao** - Following a hearing on October 20, 2016, upon aiding and abetting illegal massage and bodywork therapy activity at her place of business, the Board Ordered that Ms. Tao's license be revoked and she pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$750.

### CONSENT ORDERS:

**Carrie Bobis** – Prior to a hearing scheduled for February 18, 2016, Ms. Bobis entered into a Consent Order for practicing massage and bodywork therapy without a current license wherein she agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$500.

**Guy Wachob** – Prior to a hearing scheduled for February 18, 2016, Mr. Wachob entered into a Consent Order for engaging in inappropriate sexual activity and providing improper draping to a client during a massage and bodywork therapy session wherein his license was revoked and he agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$500 and costs of \$150.

**Joshua Branam** – Prior to a hearing scheduled for April 21, 2016, Mr. Branam entered into a Consent Order for practicing massage and bodywork therapy without a current license wherein he agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$500 and costs of \$200.

**Shaniqua Thorpe** – Prior to a hearing scheduled for April 21, 2016, Ms. Thorpe entered into a Consent Order for practicing massage and bodywork therapy without a current license wherein she agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$500 and costs of \$200.

**Bryana Walker** – Prior to a hearing scheduled for April 21, 2016, Ms. Walker entered into a Consent Order for practicing massage and bodywork therapy without a current license wherein she agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$500 and costs of \$200.

**Austin Avent** – Prior to a hearing scheduled for October 20, 2016, Mr. Avent entered into a Consent Order for practicing massage and bodywork therapy without a current license wherein he agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$500.

**Chrissy Bruce** – Prior to a hearing scheduled for October 20, 2016, Ms. Bruce entered into a Consent Order for practicing massage and bodywork therapy without a current license wherein she agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$500.

**Pavel Cobzaru** – Prior to a hearing scheduled for October 20, 2016, Mr. Cobzaru entered into a Consent Order for engaging in inappropriate sexual activity with clients during massage and bodywork therapy sessions wherein his license was revoked and he agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$500.

**Stefanie Hall** – Prior to a hearing scheduled for October 20, 2016, Ms. Hall entered into a Consent Order for practicing massage and bodywork therapy without a current license wherein she agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$500.

**Susan Jebo** – Prior to a hearing scheduled for October 20, 2016, Ms. Jebo entered into a Consent Order for practicing massage and bodywork therapy without a current license wherein she agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$500.

**Russell Stamey** - Prior to a hearing scheduled for December 15, 2016, Mr. Stamey entered into a Consent Order for engaging in inappropriate activity with a client during a massage and bodywork therapy session wherein he agreed to be placed on probation and pay a civil penalty of \$500 and costs of \$250.

**Stacy Striks** - Prior to a hearing scheduled for December 15, 2016, Ms. Striks entered into a Consent Order for failing to correctly and properly sign and complete intake forms and SOAP notes on clients wherein she agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$250 and costs of \$200.

**Brandy Wolfe** - Prior to a hearing scheduled for December 15, 2016, Ms. Wolfe entered into a Consent Order for failing to report to the Board that she was charged and arrested in 2015 for various drug offenses wherein she agreed to be placed on probation and pay a civil penalty of \$500 and costs of \$250.

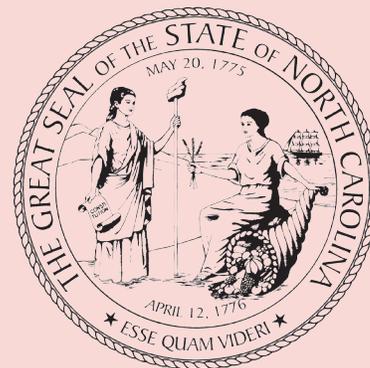
**Latoria Chamblee** - Prior to a hearing scheduled for December 15, 2016, Ms. Chamblee entered into an Order for Conditional License for aiding and abetting illegal massage and bodywork therapy activity, for failing to inform client's of the scope of her massage and for failing to obtain written, informed consent for the massage wherein her license was reprimanded and she agreed to complete the jurisprudence exam and pay costs of \$250.

**Xiaodi Fehler** - Prior to a hearing scheduled for December 15, 2016, Ms. Fehler entered into an Order for Conditional License for aiding and abetting illegal massage and bodywork therapy activity wherein her license was reprimanded and she agreed to complete the jurisprudence exam and pay costs of \$250.

**Fulong Ma** - Prior to a hearing scheduled for December 15, 2016, Mr. Ma entered into a Consent Order for aiding and abetting illegal massage and bodywork therapy activity wherein his license was reprimanded and he agreed to pay costs of \$250.

**Lixia Zhang** - Prior to a hearing scheduled for December 15, 2016, Ms. Zhang entered into a Consent Order for aiding and abetting illegal massage and bodywork therapy at her place of business wherein her license was revoked and she agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$500.

**Kyle Wright** - Prior to a hearing scheduled for December 15, 2016, Mr. Wright entered into a Consent Order for engaging in inappropriate activity with a LMBT and student wherein he agreed to be placed on probation, not be a program director, staff or instructor at any Board approved school, not teach CE in NC and pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$500.



Official Newsletter  
NORTH CAROLINA BOARD of  
MASSAGE & BODYWORK  
THERAPY

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**Members of the Board**

Holly Foster, LMBT  
Chair  
Nancy Harrell, LMBT  
Vice Chair  
Dianne Layden  
Treasurer  
Renee' Hayes, LMBT  
Melissa Smith, LMBT  
Kim Turk, LMBT  
Dr. Timothy Taft

**Board Staff**

Charles P. Wilkins  
Legal Counsel  
Benjamin E. Thompson, III  
Legal Counsel  
Elizabeth Kirk  
Administrative Director

Julia Lancaster  
Assistant Administrative Director

Elizabeth Kirk  
Newsletter Editor

## LETTERS OF REPRIMAND:

There were six hundred and ninety-five (695) Letters of Reprimand issued to therapists for late renewal, six (6) Letters of Reprimand issued to therapists for Non-Sufficient Funds (bounced checks) and two (2) Letters of Reprimand issued to therapists for inappropriate activity during a massage and bodywork therapy session.

## NOTICE OF POTENTIAL VIOLATION:

There were seven (7) Notices served on persons for allegedly practicing without a license and nine (9) Notices served on businesses upon information they were allowing a person to practice massage and bodywork therapy without a North Carolina license.

## INDIVIDUALS:

Justin Farrell.....Asheville  
Shekish Cole.....Winston Salem  
Kimmen Brown.....High Point  
Rafael Suarez Florez.....Pineville  
Aimee Keenan.....Fuquay Varina  
Rebekah Saylor.....Jacksonville  
Michael Stanley Cole.....Asheville

## BUSINESSES:

Justin Time Massage.....Asheville  
House of Effleurage.....Winston Salem  
Umm Massage.....High Point  
Consentida Beauty Spa.....Charlotte  
Cameo Salon & Spa.....Fuquay Varina  
Sole Haven.....Asheville  
The Amber Dragonfly.....Jacksonville  
Tankini Salon & Day Sp.....Elizabeth City  
Massage by Michael.....Asheville

## DENIAL OF LICENSE:

The Board denied licenses to eleven (11) applicants. One (1) applicant was denied a license due to criminal charges pending or being on probation: JoJo Carroll. Four (4) applicants were denied a license due to lack of moral character: Raven Dantzler, Tori Gunn, Jennifer King and Kelley Weaver. Four (4) applicants were denied a license because the curriculum of the massage school they attended did not meet the Board's minimum requirements: Lisa He, Lam Nguyen, Gina Selman, and Carol Slamowitz. One (1) applicant was denied a license due to conduct that could potentially result in harm or injury to the public: Jinxiang Dou. One (1) applicant was denied a license since they did not appear before the License Standards Committee for their interview: Hun Lee.

## CONDITIONAL LICENSES:

The License Standards Committee of the Board issued twenty-nine (29) Conditional Licenses to persons whose applications showed evidence of past minor criminal behavior, possibility of practicing without a license, education deficiency or other minor improper conduct.

## The Board Website is your Online Source for Information

The website provides an easily accessible source for information on the licensing program and activities of the Board. There are individual pages which give you information about:

- Applying for Initial Licensure
- License Renewals
- Licensure by Endorsement
- Online License Verification
- Update your Personal Profile
- How to Contact the Board
- Board Members and Professional Staff
- Board Meeting Schedule
- Board Approved Schools
- How to File a Complaint
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Links to Other Agencies and Organizations

A feature, called the ***DOCUMENT CENTER***, is a popular page on the site. From this location, you can view and/or download many of the important documents which are part of the licensing program. These include:

Practice Act and Rules  
Modalities Requiring Licensure in North Carolina  
License Information and Application  
License Renewal  
Massage Therapy Schools  
Duplicate License Request  
Name Change Form  
Formal Complaint Form