



# **NORTH CAROLINA BOARD of MASSAGE AND BODYWORK THERAPY**

4140 ParkLake Avenue  
Suite 100  
Raleigh, NC 27612

## **OPEN SESSION MINUTES**

*August 17, 2023; 10:00 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.; 2:00 p.m – 3:15 p.m.; 5:30 p.m.*

**GlenLake One  
Via Conference Call**

*"The mission of the NCBMBT is to regulate the practice of massage and bodywork therapy in the State of North Carolina to ensure competency, and to protect the public health, safety and welfare."*

### **TIME AND PLACE**

The North Carolina Board of Massage and Bodywork Therapy met virtually via Webex in Open Session on August 17, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Ms. Kim Turk, Mr. Robert Reeves, Ms. Kay Warren, Ms. Valory Hicks, Ms. Rachael Crawford, Ms. Ella Price, Dr. Christopher Grubb and Ms. Tawanda Auston

### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

None

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Mr. Charles Wilkins and Mr. Ben Thompson, Legal Counsel to the Board, Ms. Elizabeth Kirk, Administrative Director and Ms. Marley Clausing, Assistant Administrative Director

### **CHAIR**

Mr. Reeves, Chair

### **RECORDING SECRETARY**

Ms. Kirk

### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Mr. Reeves asked if any Board member had any conflict of interest with any item on the meeting's agenda. Mr. Reeves recused himself from discussion on Tahj Rumely and Kayden Wu. There being no additional conflict, the agenda was approved.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Board approved its minutes of June 15, 2023.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed and approved as presented.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

#### **Rules**

There are no pending rules at the Rules Review Commission.

#### **Practice Act**

There are no pending amendments to the Practice Act.

#### **Disciplinary Hearings**

Mr. Wilkins informed the Board of proposed Consent Orders regarding: David Blake, Douglas Davis and Kayden Wu for engaging in inappropriate sexual contact with a client during a massage and bodywork therapy session; Kelley Morris for practicing massage and bodywork therapy without a license. A proposed Consent Order for Tahj Rumely will be reviewed at the Board's October meeting.

There are two hearings scheduled today for Idrissa Onyame and Gregory Whitmore.

Ms. Kirk reported:

#### **Licensee Report**

21,290 have been issued.

9,917 active licenses.

#### **Renewal Report**

There are 4,523 licensees scheduled to renew for the 2024-2025 renewal period. 628 licenses expired December 31, 2021 and can renew by December 31, 2023. License renewal information was sent by email in July. The routine Continuing Education Audit was completed for 200 therapists who renewed online.

#### **Establishment Report**

1,231 establishments have requested an application.  
592 establishments have submitted an application.  
491 establishment licenses have been issued.

### **Establishment Renewal Report**

265 establishments are scheduled to renew for the 2024-2025 renewal period.  
35 establishments have renewed.

Ms. Kirk also informed the Board that pursuant to Rule .1012, late renewals are not accepted by the Board. All establishments must be renewed by December 31, 2023 in order to continue operating on or after January 1, 2024. If an establishment is not renewed by December 31, 2023, an initial application must be submitted to the Board.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Policy Committee**

No written report.

### **License Standards Committee**

Ms. Crawford reported the Committee met August 15, 2023 and discussed the matters set forth in the minutes of the Committee.

### **School Approval Committee**

No written report.

### **Communications Committee**

No written report.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **NC General Assembly Proposed Laws Affecting Licensing Boards**

Mr. Wilkins reviewed several laws proposed or pending in the North Carolina General Assembly that may affect professional licensing boards.

### **2018 Strategic Planning Conference**

Mr. Reeves reported the Board met for a Strategic Planning Conference on January 19-21, 2018 and discussed the matters set forth in the minutes of the conference. The Board agreed to consider a strategic planning conference in the Spring of 2024 to discuss various massage and bodywork therapy school issues, online education and establishment licensure.

### **CLEAR 2023 Annual Meeting**

The 2023 Annual Educational Conference will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, September 27-30, 2023.

## **FSMTB**

### **a. 2023 Annual Meeting**

The 2023 Annual Meeting will be held in San Diego, California, September 28-30, 2023.

### **b. July and August In Touch**

The Board reviewed emails dated July 3, 2023 and August 1, 2023, respectively, regarding the July and August In Touch newsletters.

### **c. Review proposed Resolutions and Bylaw Amendments**

The Board reviewed an email dated July 28, 2023 regarding the proposed Resolutions and Bylaw Amendments. Upon motion made, seconded and passed, the Board agreed for Ms. Kirk, delegate for the Board at the annual meeting, to vote in favor of all the proposed resolutions and bylaw amendments.

## **Response to Lori Maury regarding cryoskin**

The Board reviewed and approved the response from Ms. Kirk to Ms. Maury regarding cryoskin.

## **Response to Calandra Sain regarding 9 in 1 cavitation machine**

The Board reviewed and approved the response from Ms. Kirk to Ms. Sain regarding the 9 in 1 cavitation machine.

## **Response to Caci Di Russo regarding letter of reprimand**

The Board reviewed and approved the response from Ms. Kirk to Ms. Di Russo regarding a letter of reprimand issued to her establishment.

## **Review and discuss legislative bills, emails and Board opinions on CBD**

The Board reviewed several legislative bills, emails and past Board opinions on CBD and agreed for Mr. Wilkins to send a draft response to the Policy Committee of the Board and the full Board for consideration at their October meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

No new business.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no requests for comments from the public.

## **DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS**

### **Gregory Whitmore**

The Board conducted a disciplinary hearing regarding allegations Mr. Whitmore engaged in inappropriate sexual contact with a client during a massage and bodywork therapy session. Mr. Whitmore did not appear for the hearing.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Upon motion made, seconded, and passed, and pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(1), (3) and (7) as well as NCGS 143-318.18(6), the Board went into Closed Session on August 17, 2023 at 1:15 p.m.

## **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

The Board returned to Open Session on August 17, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

## **DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS**

### **Idrissa Onyame**

The Board conducted a disciplinary hearing regarding allegations Mr. Onyame engaged in inappropriate sexual contact with a client during a massage and bodywork therapy session. Mr. Onyame appeared for the hearing and testified.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Upon motion made, seconded, and passed, and pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(1), (3) and (7) as well as NCGS 143-318.18(6), the Board went into Closed Session on August 17, 2023 at 3:15 p.m.

## **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

The Board returned to Open Session on August 17, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

### **David Blake**

Mr. Reeves reported Mr. Blake's Consent Order was approved.

### **Kelley Morris**

Mr. Reeves reported Ms. Morris' Consent Order was approved.

### **Tahj Rumely**

Mr. Reeves reported Mr. Rumely did not agree to a proposed Consent Order and the matter will be reviewed at the October meeting.

**Douglas Davis**

Mr. Reeves reported Mr. Davis’ Consent Order was approved.

**Idrissa Onyame**

Mr. Reeves reported the Board reviewed the evidence presented during Mr. Onyame’s hearing and was of the opinion Mr. Onyame failed to deliver treatment that ensured the client’s safety, comfort and privacy and failed to communicate effectively during a massage and bodywork therapy session. The Board Ordered that Mr. Onyame’s license be placed on probation for two years, he complete nine continuing education hours in roles, boundaries, ethics, draping and communication and he pay a civil penalty of \$500 and costs of \$500.

**Gregory Whitmore**

Mr. Reeves reported the Board reviewed the evidence presented during Mr. Whitmore’s hearing and was of the opinion Mr. Whitmore engaged in inappropriate sexual contact with a client during a massage and bodywork therapy session. The Board Ordered that Mr. Whitmore’s license be revoked and he pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$500.

**Kayden Wu**

Mr. Reeves reported Mr. Wu’s Consent Order was not approved.

**2022-23 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Legal Services provided by Broughton, Wilkins, Sugg & Thompson, PLLC**

Mr. Reeves reported the Board reviewed and approved payment to Broughton, Wilkins, Sugg & Thompson, PLLC for in court legal services provided in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter fiscal year 2022-2023.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion duly made, seconded and passed, the August 17, 2023 meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

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Mr. Robert Reeves, Chair

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Ms. Kay Warren, Treasurer