



NORTH CAROLINA BOARD of MASSAGE AND BODYWORK THERAPY

4140 ParkLake Avenue
Suite 100
Raleigh, NC 27612

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

October 16, 2025; 10:05 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.; 3:00 p.m.

GlenLake One

4140 ParkLake Avenue, 4th Floor Conference Room, Raleigh, NC 27612
and
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 in person in Open Session on October 16, 2025, at 10:05 a.m. Members of the public attended in person and virtually via Webex

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Nancy Harrell, Ms. Tawanda Auston, Mr. Robert Reeves, Dr. Tawanda Carpenter, Ms. Laura Ford, Dr. Brian Keogh, Ms. Amy Swink and Mr. Michael Taheri

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT

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

CHAIR

Ms. Harrell, Chair read the statutory purpose of the Board.

RECORDING SECRETARY

Ms. Kirk

DR. BRIAN KEOGH

Ms. Harrell welcomed and administered the Oath of Office to Dr. Keogh as the new physician member of the Board appointed by Governor Josh Stein.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Ms. Harrell 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 robotic tables. Upon motion made by Ms. Swink, seconded by Dr. Carpenter and passed unanimously, the Board agreed to amend the agenda to include discussion on professional recordings of the meeting and to add public comments in the minutes under Old Business.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion made by Ms. Swink, seconded by Mr. Reeves and passed unanimously, the Board approved its open session minutes of August 21, 2025, as amended to capitalize Christina Poole's last name and add the first motion made in the Treasurer's/Budget Reports.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Upon motion made by Ms. Auston, seconded by Dr. Keogh and passed unanimously, the Board approved the Treasurer's Report.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Rules

There are no pending rules at the Rules Review Commission. Mr. Wilkins informed the Board the Rules Review Commission attorney is pre-reviewing the Board's rules for the readoption process required pursuant to the periodic review process scheduled to begin in 2026.

Practice Act

Mr. Wilkins informed the Board of H926 which would require an agency to give 30 days' notice before a hearing and for a Board to verify the authenticity of an applicant's social security number as well as H693 which would require the Board to establish and enter into an interstate compact for the practice of massage therapy.

Disciplinary Hearings

Mr. Wilkins informed the Board of proposed Consent Orders regarding: Jarrod Crawford for using his phone to take a video recording of a client undressing and dressing in the treatment room; Daryl Ghent for failing to deliver treatment that ensured the client's safety, comfort and privacy; Ericka Hardaway and Alfonso Smith for practicing with an expired license; Veronica Lock for practicing prior to being licensed; Arashdeep Bains for engaging in inappropriate contact with a client during a massage and bodywork therapy session; Erika Buzun-Suiter for stealing money from clients during massage sessions and failing to notify the Board of prior criminal charges and convictions.

The two hearings scheduled today agreed to proposed Consent Orders.

Ms. Kirk reported:

Licensee Report

22,948 have been issued.
10,257 active licenses.

Renewal Report

There are 4,828 licensees scheduled to renew for the 2026-2027 renewal period. 568 licenses expired December 31, 2023, and can renew by December 31, 2025. Updates to renewals were sent in July and license renewal instructions were sent in September.

Establishment Report

1,751 establishments have requested an application.
880 establishments have submitted an application.
741 establishment licenses have been issued.

Establishment Renewal Report

There are 327 establishments scheduled to renew for the 2026-2027 renewal period.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy Committee

Mr. Reeves reported the Committee met October 13, 2025, and discussed the matters set forth in the minutes of the Committee.

Board Financials

The Committee reviewed and discussed an analysis provided by Dean Dorton on the methodology for calculating civil penalties as it relates to the contract with BWST, the 2024-2025 Treasurer's report, 2025-2026 Budget and pending payments to BWST pursuant to its contract with the Board. Upon motion made, seconded and passed, the Committee agreed to recommend the Board approve the 2024-2025 Treasurer's report and 2025-2026 Budget and that the 4th, 1st and 2nd quarter payments to BWST be processed using the same methodology as approved by the Board in the past and current contracts. Any future payments to BWST will be pursuant to any subsequent contract beginning January 1, 2026. Upon motion made by Ms. Ford and seconded by Dr. Keogh and passed unanimously, the Board agreed to request that the Office of State Budget and Management review the analysis provided by Dean Dorton regarding NCGS 115C-457.2 civil penalty payments.

Discussion on robotic tables

The Committee reviewed and discussed robotic tables, specifically the Aescape machine, and agreed the machine is a mechanical device that mimics or enhances actions that may possibly be

done by the hands and would be permissible to use in a massage and bodywork therapy practice so long as the use of the machine would be further enhanced by a medical intake for the client and only operated under the supervision of an LMBT who is on site at the same location where the machine is being used.

Email from Josiane Wiggins regarding moxibustion

The Committee reviewed an email from Josiane Wiggins regarding moxibustion and agreed moxibustion is not within the scope of practice of massage and bodywork therapy.

Email from Robin McCarty regarding tuning forks

The Committee reviewed an email from Robin McCarty regarding tuning forks and agreed a LMBT may provide services using tuning forks as long as the therapist is trained and competent to provide the services and the therapist's training and competence is demonstrated and documented.

Email from Ashley Bradshaw regarding microcurrent therapy

The Committee reviewed an email from Ashley Bradshaw regarding microcurrent therapy and agreed microcurrent therapy is not within the scope of practice of massage and bodywork therapy. The Committee recommended that she contact the NC Board of Cosmetic Art Examiners regarding this modality.

Email from Henry Helton regarding taking the MBLEx in Spanish

The Committee reviewed an email from Henry Helton regarding taking the MBLEx in Spanish and agreed to accept the MBLEx in English or Spanish. The applicant will still need to be proficient in the English language as required in NCGS 90-629(7).

Email from Katie Snyder regarding spinal flow technique

The Committee reviewed an email from Katie Snyder regarding spinal flow technique and agreed spinal flow technique is within the scope of practice of massage and bodywork therapy and requires a license in order to provide this modality.

Email from Tricia Paxton regarding various modalities

The Committee reviewed an email from Tricia Paxton regarding an aquamassage bed, infrared sauna, cryotherapy device, and lymphatic draining machine. The Committee agreed that a massage and bodywork therapy license is not required for an aquamassage bed, infrared sauna, or cryotherapy device, but a massage and bodywork therapy license is required for a lymphatic draining machine.

Email from Kirsten Vargo regarding CEs

The Committee reviewed an email from Kristen Vargo regarding waiving CEs for massage and bodywork therapists that have been in the profession for twenty years and agreed the Board does not have the authority to waive CE requirements pursuant to its Practice Act and Rules and Regulations.

License Standards Committee

No written report.

School Approval Committee

No written report.

Communications Committee

Ms. Ford reported the Committee met October 16, 2025, and discussed the matters set forth in the minutes of the Committee.

Use of social media

The Committee discussed the use of social media and agreed to develop a Board Facebook page including 12 total posts, no comments allowed by the public, and for Board staff to manage the page with assistance from the Committee Chair or another Board member.

Discussion on Standard Operations Procedures

The Committee discussed standard operations procedures and agreed to table this agenda items for a future meeting.

Contract Committee

Ms. Harrell reported the Committee met with BWST staff at its October meeting. The Committee agreed not to proceed an RFP for legal services and will be reviewing the other Board contracts at future meetings. Ms. Swink mentioned NCGS 114-9.4 which addresses contingency fee contracts and the Committee agreed to review the statute at its next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

NC General Assembly Proposed Laws Affecting Licensing Boards

Mr. Wilkins informed the Board as previously stated that there are bills pending in the North Carolina General Assembly that may affect the Board.

Recordings of Board Meetings

Ms. Swink addressed the option for professional recordings of Board meetings and Board staff clarified Webex records all meetings despite call-in users having technical issues and the meeting being muted at times.

Public Comments

Ms. Swink addressed putting public comments in the minutes however, concerns were raised regarding the accuracy of the Board's interpretation of public comments and no motion was made or vote taken.

CLEAR

a. 2026 Events

The Board reviewed an email dated October 2, 2025, regarding CLEAR's 2026 Events.

b. September 2025 Update

The Board reviewed an email dated September 18, 2025, regarding the September 2025 Update.

FSMTB

a. September and October In Touch

The Board reviewed emails dated September 2, 2025, and October 1, 2025, respectively, regarding the September and October In Touch newsletters.

b. 2025 Annual Report

The Board reviewed the 2025 Annual Report.

c. 2025 Election Results

The Board reviewed the 2025 Election Results.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were five verbal comments from the public.

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 October 16, 2025, at 12:30 p.m.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to Open Session on October 16, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.

Jarrod Crawford

Ms. Harrell reported Mr. Crawford's Consent Order was approved.

Daryl Ghent

Ms. Harrell reported Mr. Ghent's Consent Order was approved.

Ericka Hardaway

Ms. Harrell reported Ms. Hardaway's Consent Order was approved.

Veronica Lock

Ms. Harrell reported Ms. Lock's Consent Order was approved.

Alfonso Smith

Ms. Harrell reported Mr. Smith's Consent Order was approved.

Arashdeep Bains

Ms. Harrell reported Mr. Bains' Consent Order was amended to require one year of suspension, two years of probation and 12 hours of continuing education.

Erika Buzun-Suiter

Ms. Harrell reported Ms. Buzun-Suiter's Consent Order was approved.

2025-2026 1st Quarter Legal Services provided by Broughton, Wilkins, Sugg & Thompson, PLLC

Ms. Harrell reported that the Board reviewed and approved payment to Broughton, Wilkins, Sugg & Thompson, PLLC for legal services provided in court during the 1st quarter of fiscal year 2025-2026.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made, seconded and passed, the October 16, 2025, meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Ms. Nancy Harrell, Chair

Mr. Robert Reeves, Treasurer