



NORTH CAROLINA BOARD of MASSAGE AND BODYWORK THERAPY

4140 ParkLake Avenue
Suite 100
Raleigh, NC 27612

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

April 16, 2026; 10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.; 1:00 p.m. – 5:05pm; 5:40 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 April 16, 2026, at 10:00 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 and reminded Board members of the Board Member Code of Conduct and Meeting Procedures.

RECORDING SECRETARY

Ms. Kirk

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. Upon motion made by Mr. Reeves, seconded Ms. Swink and passed unanimously, the Board agreed to amend the agenda to include Ms. Ford's resignation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion made by Ms. Auston, seconded by Mr. Reeves and passed unanimously, the Board approved its open session minutes of February 12, 2026.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

PENDING LITIGATION

1. Laura Ford & Kay Warren v. NCBMBT

Mr. Thompson informed the Board that Ms. Ford and Ms. Warren filed a lawsuit against the Board on or about December 22, 2025, seeking to declare the Board's contract with Broughton, Wilkins, Sugg & Thompson, PLLC null and void and alleging the Board violated the open meetings law. The allegations were denied and a hearing was held in Wake County Superior Court on March 17, 2026. After hearing from both sides, the Judge denied the plaintiffs' requests. Ms. Ford and Ms. Warren, through their attorney, have requested the judge reconsider his decision but a hearing has not been scheduled.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Rules

There are no pending rules at the Rules Review Commission. Mr. Wilkins informed the Board that the Rules Review Commission has pre-reviewed all of its rules for its periodic review of rules and Board staff will be reviewing and responding to their suggested changes.

Practice Act

There are no pending amendments to the Practice Act.

Disciplinary Hearings

Mr. Wilkins informed the Board of a proposed Consent Order regarding Michael Denton for practicing with an expired license.

There are two hearings scheduled today for Wenyu Ma and Barry Stewart. The hearing scheduled today for Wenyu Ma was postponed to the June meeting. Ting Bo attended and requested a hearing and the Board agreed to proceed with the hearing.

Ms. Kirk reported:

Licensee Report

23,292 have been issued.

9,853 active licenses.

Renewal Report

There were 4,828 licensees scheduled to renew for the 2026-2027 renewal period. 4,084 therapists have renewed.

Establishment Report

1,862 establishments have requested an application.

941 establishments have submitted an application.

787 establishment licenses have been issued.

Establishment Renewal Report

There were 327 establishments scheduled to renew for the 2026-2027 renewal period. 249 establishments have renewed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy Committee

No written report.

License Standards Committee

No written report.

School Approval Committee

No written report.

Communications Committee

No written report

Contract Committee

No written report. Ms. Harrrell reported the Committee is working on an RFP for auditing services.

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.

CLEAR

a. March 2026 Update

The Board reviewed an email dated January 27, 2026, regarding the January 2026 Update.

b. Membership renewal

Upon motion made by Mr. Reeves, seconded by Ms. Carpenter and passed unanimously, the Board agreed to renew its membership.

FSMTB

a. March and April In Touch

The Board reviewed emails regarding the March and April In Touch newsletters.

b. 2026 Membership Educational Opportunities

The Board reviewed an email dated February 17, 2026, regarding 2026 membership educational opportunities.

c. 2026 Annual Meeting

The 2026 Annual Meeting will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada, October 21-23, 2026.

NEW BUSINESS

Laura Ford's resignation

Ms. Ford read a statement regarding her resignation from the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was one verbal comment 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 April 16, 2026, at 10:45 a.m.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to Open Session on April 16, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

Michael Denton

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

DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS

Ting Bo

The Board conducted a disciplinary hearing regarding the denial of Ms. Ting Bo's application for a license.

Barry Stewart

The Board conducted a disciplinary hearing regarding allegations Mr. Barry Stewart engaged in inappropriate sexual contact with clients during massage and bodywork therapy sessions.

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 April 16, 2026, at 5:05 p.m.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to Open Session on April 16, 2026, at 5:40 p.m.

Ting Bo

Ms. Harrell reported the Board reviewed the evidence presented during Ms. Bo's hearing and was of the opinion that Ms. Bo does not currently possess proficiency in the English language and therefore cannot be licensed as an LMBT. The Board Ordered that Ms. Bo be denied a license.

Barry Stewart

Ms. Harrell reported the Board reviewed the evidence presented during Mr. Stewart's hearing and was of the opinion that Mr. Stewart engaged in sexual activity with a client away from work while the client/therapist relationship was in effect. The Board Ordered that Mr. Stewart be placed on probation for two years, complete 12 hours of continuing education in ethics and boundaries in addition to the 24 hours to renew his license, complete the Board's jurisprudence learning exercise and pay a civil penalty of \$750 and disciplinary costs of \$1000.

2025-2026 3rd 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 3rd quarter of fiscal year 2025-2026.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made, seconded and passed, the April 16, 2026, meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Ms. Nancy Harrell, Chair

Mr. Robert Reeves, Treasurer

NCBMBT
Treasurer's Report
 July 2025 through May 2026

Cash Basis

	Jul '25 - May 26	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Income			
Civil Penalties	20,150.00	20,000.00	150.00
Disciplinary Costs	25,680.61	15,000.00	10,680.61
Est. Application Fees	4,600.00	4,000.00	600.00
Est. Duplicate Certificate	100.00	100.00	0.00
Est. Initial License Fees	16,800.00	15,000.00	1,800.00
Est. Late Renewal Fee	1,350.00	2,025.00	-675.00
Est. License Renewal Fee	25,200.00	25,000.00	200.00
Income-Miscellaneous	0.00	100.00	-100.00
Interest	0.00	8,010.00	-8,010.00
LMBT Application Fees	22,680.00	25,000.00	-2,320.00
LMBT Duplicate Certificate	6,450.00	5,650.00	800.00
LMBT Initial License Fees	124,050.00	135,000.00	-10,950.00
LMBT Late Renewal Fee	21,975.00	24,375.00	-2,400.00
LMBT License Renewal Fee	414,200.00	425,000.00	-10,800.00
Mailing Lists	2,325.00	3,300.00	-975.00
Returned Check Fee	139.00	100.00	39.00
SBI Report Fee	37,760.00	40,000.00	-2,240.00
School Application Fee	0.00	40.00	-40.00
School Approval Fee	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00
School Renewal Fee	7,000.00	8,000.00	-1,000.00
School Site Visit Fee	3,000.00	9,000.00	-6,000.00
Verification of Credentials	3,760.00	4,300.00	-540.00
Total Income	739,219.61	771,000.00	-31,780.39
Gross Profit	739,219.61	771,000.00	-31,780.39
Expense			
Accounting	11,280.00	11,000.00	280.00
Board Per Diem	6,150.00	8,000.00	-1,850.00
Board Subsistence	2,331.06	10,000.00	-7,668.94
Board/Committee Meeting Expense	971.07	1,000.00	-28.93
Civil Penalties Remitted	15,000.00	16,000.00	-1,000.00
Computer Services	4,449.46	20,000.00	-15,550.54
Copies/postage/fax	12,559.17	15,000.00	-2,440.83
Expense-Miscellaneous	962.71	100.00	862.71
Hearings/Investigations	37,816.15	50,000.00	-12,183.85
Internet Services	627.75	1,000.00	-372.25
Membership Dues	0.00	3,100.00	-3,100.00
Merchant Fees	34,717.15	37,533.00	-2,815.85
Office supplies	2,109.71	2,000.00	109.71
Printing/Binding	14,889.39	15,000.00	-110.61
Professional Services	354,875.25	473,167.00	-118,291.75
SBI Report Payment	35,150.00	38,000.00	-2,850.00
School Approval Assistance	0.00	10,000.00	-10,000.00
School Consulting Fee	32,443.55	50,000.00	-17,556.45
Seminars/Training	0.00	4,000.00	-4,000.00
Special Legal	32,518.00	40,000.00	-7,482.00
Telephone	1,925.00	2,100.00	-175.00
Travel/Parking/Mileage	4,267.64	7,000.00	-2,732.36
Total Expense	605,043.06	814,000.00	-208,956.94
Net Income	134,176.55	-43,000.00	177,176.55