

**BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY
OPEN SESSION MEETING AGENDA
MARCH 12, 2026, 1:30PM**

Hybrid Meeting

The Board will have a hybrid in-person and virtual meetings schedule. Please see the hybrid schedule in the Executive Director Report section of the agenda.

In-person meetings will be at 2201 Shannon Pl, SE, 2nd Floor, Washington, DC 20020. Information on how to access virtual Board meetings is listed below:

This meeting is available on the web:

<https://dcnet.webex.com/dcnet/j.php?MTID=mfb1c085fe626a413fa9f3afd9c32502b>

Meeting number: 473 998 269

Password: e8bM4kYdMu7

Join by video system

Dial 473998269@dcnet.webex.com

You can also dial 173.243.2.68 and enter your meeting number.

Join by phone

+1-202-860-2110 United States Toll (Washington D.C.)

1-650-479-3208 Call-in toll number (US/Canada)

Access code: 473 998 269

Board of Massage Therapy Open Session Meeting Agenda Roll Call

BOARD MEMBERS:	
Johanna Brooks, LMT – Board Chairperson	
Maisha Goss Johns – Board Consumer Member	
Hope Carlisle, LMT – Board Member	
Vacant – Board Member, Licensed Massage Therapist	
Vacant – Board Member, Licensed Massage Therapist	
BOARD STAFF:	
Ericka L. Walker, MSW - Executive Director	
Tiguist Zerihun, Health Licensing Specialist	
Ajay Gohil, Assistant General Counsel	
Stephen Ortiz, Assistant General Counsel	
Leonard Howard, Investigator	

OPEN SESSION AGENDA MARCH 12, 2026

OS-0312-01	<u>CALL TO ORDER</u>	
OS-0312-02	<u>ROLL CALL</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Members • Board Staff • Legal Staff • Public Attendance 	
OS-0312-03	<u>ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA</u> <u>Board Action:</u> Acceptance of March 12, 2026 , Open Session Agenda.	
OS-0312-04	<u>ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES</u> <u>Board Action:</u> Acceptance of January 15, 2026 , Open Session Minutes.	
OS-0312-05	<u>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DC Health Updates • Census:680 • Board Meeting Dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ March 12, 2026 (In-person & Virtual) ➤ May 14, 2026 (Virtual) ➤ July 9, 2026 (In-person & Virtual) ➤ September 10, 2026 (Virtual) • The Mayor’s Office of Talent and Appointments (MOTA) recruits talented and interested individuals from all eight Wards to serve on District Boards. Link to apply to serve on a Board: https://mota.dc.gov/page/boards-vacancies-or-available-seat 	
OS-0312-06	<u>CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT</u>	

OS-0312-07	<u>BOARD ATTORNEY'S REPORT</u>	
OS-0312-08	<u>CONSENT AGENDA</u> <u>Board Action:</u> Consideration of the applications approved and items for review and/or ratification of Board actions taken since the last Board meeting. <u>Background:</u> The Consent Agenda records the decisions and/or actions taken by the Board or its staff since the last Board meeting. <u>APPLICATION APPROVED SINCE JANUARY 15, 2026</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Teresa Rodriguez2. Mark Conrad3. Sabrina Carroll4. Audrey Okech5. Phouangboupha Khambay6. Andrew Kressel7. Deanna Pineda8. Claudia Cieplinski9. Nicole Zalesak10. Huaping Xu11. Edmund Morris12. Coretta Gittens13. Tidawan Leith14. Emily Chard15. Sara Reynolds16. Brizeyda S Barahona Reyes	

	<p>17. Angela Hicks</p> <p>18. TaeJun Kim</p> <p>19. James North</p> <p>20. Alanah Dixon</p>	
OS-0312-09	<p><u>Public Comment:</u> The Board received an email from the public on July 16, 2025 regarding Whistleblower Statement via Student Oversight Collective. The email is attached to the Board agenda.</p>	
OS-0312-10	<p><u>Public Comment:</u> The Board received an email from the public on January 20, 2026 regarding Request for Regulatory Interpretation: Employer-Mandated Booking Algorithms and Independent Clinical Judgment. The email is attached to the Board agenda.</p>	
OS-0312-11	<p><u>MOTION TO CLOSE</u></p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> To go into closed session to discuss confidential matters as permitted in DC Official Code section 2-575(b).</p> <p><u>Background:</u> Pursuant to DC Official Code section 2-575(b), the Board will move into the Closed Executive Session portion of the meeting to discuss the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To consult with an attorney to obtain legal advice and to preserve the attorney-client privilege between an attorney and a public body, or to approve settlement agreements pursuant to section 2-575(b)(4)(a); 2. To discuss disciplinary matters pursuant to section 2-575(b)(9). 3. To plan, discuss or hear reports concerning the ongoing or planned investigation of alleged criminal or civil misconduct or violations of law or regulations, if disclosure to the public would harm the investigation pursuant to section 2-575(b) (14). 	

Roll Call Vote		
	This temporarily concludes the Public Open Session of the meeting. The Board will now move into the Closed Executive Session portion of the meeting pursuant to D.C. Official Code section 2-575(b) for the reasons outlined in the motion.	
OPEN SESSION BOARD REPORT		
OS-0312-12	Board Action: Board report, as appropriate, of action taken during the Executive Session.	
MOTION TO ADJOURN		
OS-0312-13	Motion to Adjourn Board Action: The Board to adjourn the meeting.	

This ends the Open Session Agenda.

The next meeting is scheduled for **May 14, 2026 (Virtual)**.

This meeting is governed by the Open Meetings Act. Please address any questions or complaints arising under this meeting to the Office of Open Government at opengovoffice@dc.gov

From: "Bennett, Ayanna (DOH)" <ayanna.bennett@dc.gov>
Date: July 17, 2025 at 9:21:12 AM EDT
To: "Nixon, Aisha (DOH)" <aisha.nixon@dc.gov>
Subject: Fw: Public Comment Submission – Whistleblower Statement via Student Oversight Collective (for 7/17 BOMT Meeting)

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From: studentoversightprotonmail.com <studentoversightprotonmail.com@proton.me>
Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 11:30:24 PM
To: Board of Massage Therapy, (DOH) <dcbomt@dc.gov>
Cc: ATD OIG <oig@dc.gov>; chenderson@dccouncil.gov <chenderson@dccouncil.gov>; abonds@dccouncil.gov <abonds@dccouncil.gov>; Bennett, Ayanna (DOH) <ayanna.bennett@dc.gov>
Subject: Public Comment Submission – Whistleblower Statement via Student Oversight Collective (for 7/17 BOMT Meeting)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the DC Government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know that the content is safe. If you believe that this email is suspicious, please forward to phishing@dc.gov for additional analysis by OCTO Security Operations Center (SOC).

You don't often get email from studentoversightprotonmail.com@proton.me. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Members of the DC Board of Massage Therapy,

My name is [Taylor Morgan](#), and I am writing on behalf of the **Student Oversight Collective** to submit the following **public comment** ahead of the Board's July 17, 2025, meeting. This comment is submitted on behalf of a licensed massage therapist in Washington, DC, who wishes to remain anonymous as a whistleblower due to the credible risk of retaliation.

Public Comment – Read into the Record or Include in Meeting Minutes

We are deeply concerned by the systemic failure of the DC Board of Massage Therapy (BOMT) to meaningfully enforce licensure standards and protect workers in the District's massage therapy industry. The whistleblower we represent has submitted multiple complaints and reports directly to the Board, including evidence of unlicensed practice, retaliation, wage theft, and the misuse of supervised practice clauses by local employers.

Despite these efforts, the Board has failed to provide updates or follow-through. Executive Director Ericka Walker acknowledged one such complaint on **July 3, 2025**, stating an investigator would follow up—no contact has been made since. The whistleblower requested redactions to protect their identity, but the lack of communication raises serious doubts about whether proper whistleblower protocols are being followed.

Furthermore, the BOMT website has displayed "**Disciplinary Actions – to come**" for well over a year, indicating a disturbing lack of transparency and enforcement.

This absence of regulatory clarity is enabling a toxic labor environment where:

- Unlicensed individuals are working unsupervised.
- Independent contractors are being misclassified and exploited.
- Legal practitioners face retaliation for speaking up.
- Clinical and ethical standards are being eroded for profit.

The harm is not theoretical. The failure to regulate disproportionately affects **Black women**, **immigrant workers**, and those with **disabilities**—who are more likely to face exploitation in this broken system. DC is quickly becoming a national cautionary tale for unregulated massage labor practices.

In light of these ongoing failures, we request:

1. **An immediate investigation** into the Board's complaint handling, confidentiality practices, and leadership under Chair Johanna Brooks.
2. **Transparency about disciplinary actions and complaint outcomes.**
3. **Public guidance on the legal scope and limits of "supervised practice"** to prevent abuse of this clause by employers.

This comment is submitted **in solidarity with all LMTs working under exploitative conditions**, and in support of those who have risked their livelihoods to tell the truth.

Sincerely,

Taylor Morgan

On behalf of the **Student Oversight Collective**

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.

From: DC Licensed Health Workers Accountability Coalition <dclmtadvocacyproton.me@proton.me>
Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2026 4:16 PM
To: Walker, Ericka (DOH) <ericka.walker@dc.gov>; Gohil, Ajay (DOH) <ajay.gohil@dc.gov>
Cc: Board of Massage Therapy, (DOH) <dcbomt@dc.gov>
Subject: Request for Regulatory Interpretation: Employer-Mandated Booking Algorithms and Independent Clinical Judgment

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the DC Government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know that the content is safe. If you believe that this email is suspicious, please forward to phishing@dc.gov for additional analysis by OCTO Security Operations Center (SOC).

Some people who received this message don't often get email from dclmtadvocacyproton.me@proton.me. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Board of Massage Therapy Staff and Counsel,

I am writing on behalf of a coalition of Licensed Massage Therapists practicing in the District of Columbia to request a formal regulatory interpretation regarding the interaction between employer-mandated booking procedures and the professional standards governing licensed massage therapists under 17 DCMR § 7514 and the Health Occupations Revision Act (HORA).

The coalition seeks clarification to ensure that licensed practitioners remain in full compliance with District law and ethical obligations while practicing in employer-controlled clinical settings.

Specifically, we request guidance on whether a non-licensed employer's implementation of a booking "Sort Order," "Priority Ranking," or algorithmic scheduling system—which assigns or restricts client access to licensees based on prior-period revenue, rebooking volume, or sales-related performance metrics—is consistent with the District's standards for licensed health professionals.

We respectfully request clarification on the following points:

1. Fiduciary Duty vs. Revenue Metrics

Under District law and regulation, a licensee's primary duty is to the client and to the delivery of appropriate, client-centered care. Does a booking system that prioritizes therapists based on revenue or sales metrics comport with this fiduciary and clinical obligation?

2. Independent Professional Judgment

Does an employer-controlled algorithm that restricts or "throttles" client access based on financial performance metrics constitute an undue influence on a licensee's independent professional judgment, as contemplated by **17 DCMR § 7514**?

3. Corporate Practice Considerations

Where a non-licensed entity designs and enforces ranking or prioritization systems that functionally determine clinical triage or access to care, does this raise concerns under the Health Occupations Revision Act regarding the unauthorized control or direction of licensed massage therapy practice?

This request is submitted in good faith to obtain clear guidance for licensed practitioners and employers operating within the District. We respectfully request that the Board provide written regulatory clarification for reference by the profession.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

DC Licensed Health Workers Accountability Coalition

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.