

## **BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY**

### **MINUTES**

**May 21, 2020**

**1:30PM to 4:30PM**

#### **Virtual Meeting Notice**

*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all board meetings will be held virtually during the declared public health emergency.*

*Information on how to access the public portion of the meeting is listed below:*

#### **Join by Web**

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

#### **Join by Phone**

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

Access Code: 473 998 269

**OPEN SESSION MINUTES MAY 21, 2020**

OS-0521-01	<p><b><u>CALL TO ORDER</u></b> The meeting was called to order at 1:30pm</p>	
OS-0521-02	<p><b><u>ROLL CALL</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Members:</u></b> Cary Bland – Chairman Darlene Jackson Member Johanna Brooks-Member Joseph Reo – Member Tiffany Ferriss- Member -Absent</p> <p><b><u>Board Staff:</u></b> Aisha Nixon – Executive Director Thelma Ofosu- Mensah- Health Licensing Specialist Panavee Vongjaroenrat – Assistant General Counsel Leonard Howard – Investigator Patrick D. O’Neil- Legal Intern</p> <p><b><u>Visitors:</u></b> Jerald Yanuck- Visitor Kevin Snedden- FSMTB Director of Professional Standards</p>	
OS-0521-03	<p><b><u>ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> Acceptance of the May 21, 2020 Open Session Agenda.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b> Motion made by Ms. Jackson to accept the agenda with the additional items. Seconded by Ms. Brooks.</p> <p>Mr. Bland, Mr. Reo, Ms. Jackson and Ms. Brooks voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
OS-0521-04	<p><b><u>CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT</u></b> No Report</p>	
OS-0521-05	<p><b><u>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT</u></b></p> <p>Ms. Nixon gave an update on the following issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Appreciated the Board for taking time to join the virtual meeting</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Informed the Board that the Mayor’s re-opening plan is scheduled for June 8, 2020.</li> <li>➤ She informed the Board that virtual meeting will still be in place until further notice.</li> <li>➤ The Board currently has 804 active licensees</li> <li>➤ The Health Regulation has a new organizational structure, which will directly affect her leadership. The Boards under her purview will be divided into two parts the Allied and Behavioral and there will be a new Executive Director she will be working directly with.</li> </ul>	
OS-0521-06	<p><b><u>BOARD ATTORNEY’S REPORT</u></b> No Report</p>	
OS-0521-07	<p><b><u>OPEN SESSION MINUTES</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> Consideration of the Open Session Minutes from the January 16, 2020 meeting.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b> Motion made by Ms. Jackson to approve the January 16, 2020 Open Session minutes. Seconded by Ms. Brooks.</p> <p>Mr. Bland. Mr. Reo, Ms. Jackson, and Ms. Brooks voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
OS-0521-08	<p><b><u>FYI</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Background:</u></b> Meeting dates for 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July 16, 2020</li> <li>• September 17, 2020</li> <li>• November 19, 2020</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b> No formal motion needed.</p>	
OS-0521-09	<p><b><u>COVID-19</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> Discuss and decide actions to address licensees concerns around, in-person continuing education requirements and CPR certifications, national examinations, and standards of care during the pandemic.</p>	

**Background:**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mayor issued an Administrative Order that waived licensure requirements and for the allowance of telehealth. In addition, staff has received questions regarding what massage therapist can do during this time and based on the Administrative Order closing non-essential businesses.

Based on the request from several jurisdictions the Federation of State Massage Therapy Board developed the *Guidelines for Practice with COVID-19 Considerations*. The intent of the Guidelines is to provide a resource for FSMTB Member Boards and Agencies and recommendations and guidelines for massage and bodywork practitioners to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

[Guidelines for Practice with COVID-19 Considerations](#)

**Motion:**

Motion made by Ms. Brooks to review on case by case basis prior disciplinary orders that have actions pertaining to the face to face continuing education requirements. This is due to the inability of licensees to enroll in face to face continuing education classes because of COVID 19. Seconded by Mr. Reo.

Mr. Bland. Mr. Reo, Ms. Jackson, and Ms. Brooks voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Motion:**

Motion made by Ms. Brooks to waive the face to face continuing education requirements and CPR requirement during the COVID 19 period. The waiver will allow licensees and applicants to submit online massage technique courses in lieu of face to face and CPR courses taken online for licensure and audit purposes. Seconded by Mr. Reo.

Mr. Bland. Mr. Reo, and Ms. Brooks voted in favor of the motion. Ms. Jackson abstained from the vote. The motion passed unanimously

OS-0521-10	<p><b><u>REGULATION AMENDMENT</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> Review of the draft proposed regulation updates and decide whether to accept or not to accept.</p> <p><b><u>Background:</u></b> The Board reviewed and discussed the current draft regulation and ended the discussions on section 7503.1 of the draft regulation.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b></p>	
OS-0521-11	<p><b><u>FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS BY APPLICANTS</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> To review and provide feedback regarding frequently asked questions.</p> <p><b><u>Background:</u></b> The team has been given the opportunity to create a FAQ section on the Board’s current webpage. This FAQ section will allow applicants and licensees the ability to get information in a timely manner. The FAQ section consist of questions that our Health Licensing Specialist are frequently asked.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b> No formal motion needed. Ms. Nixon gave the rationale for formation of FAQs section for all the Boards under her supervision. She informed the Board that suggestions are welcomed from Board members.</p>	
OS-0521-12	<p><b><u>WORKFORCE SURVEY</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> To provide feedback regarding core questions related to the profession.</p> <p><b><u>Background:</u></b> The Health Regulation and Licensing Administration plans to incorporate workforce surveys during renewals for all professions. The Workforce Survey is used to capture the distribution of healthcare providers across the District and obtain feedback regarding hot topics related to your profession.</p>	

	<p><b><u>Motion:</u></b> No formal motion needed. Ms. Nixon gave the rationale behind the creation of the workforce survey. She further indicated that suggestions are welcomed from the Board members.</p>	
OS-0521-13	<p><b><u>MOTION TO CLOSE</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> To go into closed session to discuss confidential matters as permitted in DC Official Code § 2-575(b).</p> <p><b><u>Background:</u></b> Upon conclusion of the open session meeting pursuant to the DC Official Code 2-575B and for the purposes set forth therein, the Board will move into the closed executive session portion of the meeting to consult with the Board attorney, discuss disciplinary matters and hear reports concerning violations of the law or regulations.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b> Motion made by Mr. Reo to close the Open Session portion of the meeting at 3:34 PM. Seconded by Ms. Brooks.</p> <p>Mr. Bland, Mr. Reo, Ms. Jackson, Ms. Brooks voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
OS-0521-47	<p><b><u>MOTION TO ADJOURN</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> To adjourn the meeting at 3:35pm.</p> <p><b><u>Background:</u></b> At the end of every meeting, a motion to adjourn must be made in open session to close out the business of the Boards.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b> Motion made by Ms. Brooks to adjourn the May 21, 2020 Board of Massage Therapy meeting at 6:36 PM. Seconded by Mr. Reo.</p> <p>Mr. Bland, Mr. Reo, and Ms. Brooks voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	

This ends the May 21, 2020 meeting. The next Board meeting is scheduled for July 16, 2020.

*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](mailto:opengovoffice@dc.gov)*