

# BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY

## OPEN SESSION MEETING MINUTES

**JULY 15, 2021**

**1:30PM**

### 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:*

#### **Board of Massage Therapy - Open Session**

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

Thursday, July 15, 2021, 1:30 pm | 1 hour | (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

Meeting number: 473 998 269

Password: e8bM4kYdMu7

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

**OPEN SESSION MINUTES JULY 15, 2021**

OS-0715-01	<p><b><u>CALL TO ORDER</u></b> 1:30PM</p>	
OS-0715-02	<p><b><u>ROLL CALL</u></b></p> <p>Cary Bland – Chairman Darlene Jackson -Member Tiffany Ferriss- Member Joseph Reo- Member Johanna Brooks – Member (Excused Absent) Ericka Walker – Executive Director Thelma Ofosu- Mensah- Health Licensing Specialist Ajay Gohil – Assistant Attorney General Leonard Howard – Investigator</p> <p><b><u>VISITORS</u></b> Christine Hooper Laura Embleton</p>	
OS-0715-03	<p><b><u>ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> Acceptance of the July 15, 2021, Open Session Agenda.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b> Motion made by Mr. Reo to accept the July 15, 2021 Open Session Agenda. Seconded by Ms. Ferris.</p> <p>Mr. Bland, Ms. Ferriss, Mr. Reo and Ms. Jackson voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
OS-0715-04	<p><b><u>CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT</u></b></p> <p>No Report</p>	
OS-0715-05	<p><b><u>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT</u></b> Ms. Ericka gave an update on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On April 13, 2021 DC Health, Health Regulation and Licensing Administration launched a new online licensing system for any healthcare provider who is interested in applying for a new health professional license, or to renewal, reinstate, or reactivate an existing license</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective June 14, 2021, DC Health stopped accepting paper applications.</li> <li>• On July 12, DC Health staff returned to work, working in a new in-office work schedule.</li> <li>• Public Health Emergency is expected to end on July 25, 2021. If the Public Health Emergency is lifted, health care providers working under the purview of the Waiver Requirements, will have a 60-day grace period after July 25, 2021 to obtain a license to practice in the District of Columbia.</li> <li>• 602 licensed Massage Therapist in the District.</li> <li>• The Board meetings will still be held virtually based on a poll conducted by the Associate Director, Frank Meyers. Based on the poll, most Board members prefer virtual meetings.</li> </ul>	
OS-0715-06	<p><b><u>BOARD ATTORNEY’S REPORT</u></b> Mr. Gohil gave an update on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Health Emergency will end July 25, 2021 and that all practitioners will have 60 days after the July 25, 2021 expiration date to get a license to practice in the District of Columbia.</li> <li>• The Annual Meeting for FSMTB will be held on October 7-9, 2021 at Charlotte, NC Hilton Charlotte University Place.</li> <li>• Board meetings will still be held in the virtual mode/setting based on a poll conducted by the Associate Director, Frank Meyers. Most Board members preferred the virtual meetings.</li> <li>• There haven’t been any changes to the criminal background check regulations enacted by DC Council pertaining to licensure.</li> </ul>	
OS-0715-07	<p><b><u>OPEN SESSION MINUTES</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> Consideration of the Open Session Minutes from the May 20, 2021, meeting.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b> Motion made by Ms. Jackson to accept the May 20 2021 Open Session Minutes. Seconded by Mr. Reo.</p> <p>Mr. Bland, Ms. Ferriss, Mr. Reo and Ms. Jackson voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
OS-0715-08	<p><b><u>FYI</u></b> <b><u>Census</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 602</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Meeting Dates for 2021.</u></b></p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>September 16,2021</li> <li>November18,2021</li> </ul>	
OS-0715-09	<p><b><u>ASSESSMENT FEE SCHEDULE</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> Draft an assessment fee schedule.</p> <p><b><u>Background:</u></b> To assist the Board with its work on administering fees. The schedule features the Board’s most frequently assessed matters.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b> Motion made by Mr. Reo to assess the following fees for frequently assessed matters. Seconded by Ms. Ferriss.</p> <p>Mr. Bland, Ms. Ferriss, Mr. Reo and Ms. Jackson voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Practicing with an Expired License - \$100 per month not to exceed \$2,000</li> <li>Practicing without a license or certification - \$100 per month not to exceed \$2,000</li> <li>Aiding and Assisting Unlicensed Practice - \$500 per person and an additional \$200 per month, not to exceed \$5,000</li> <li>Continuing Education Unit Deficiency-\$25 per CEU</li> <li>Misrepresentation/Failure to Disclose-\$250</li> </ul>	
OS-0715-10	<p><b><u>INQUIRY FROM THE PUBLIC</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> Board to review inquiry and discuss.</p> <p><b><u>Background:</u></b> Heyrick Research is a research nonprofit dedicated to fighting human trafficking, especially in the illicit massage industry (IMI). Heyrick Research sent an email wanting to know the impact of illicit massage businesses on legitimate LMTs.</p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> The member from the public who submitted the inquiry was not present during the Open Session No Action was Required</p>	

OS-0715-11	<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> <i>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.</i></p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b> Motion made by Ms. Jackson to close the Open Session Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Reo.</p> <p>Mr. Bland, Ms. Ferriss, Mr. Reo and Ms. Jackson voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
OS-0715-12	<p><b><u>MOTION TO ADJOURN</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> To adjourn the meeting.</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. Bland to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Ferriss.</p> <p>Mr. Bland, Ms. Ferriss, Mr. Reo and Ms. Jackson voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	

This ends the Open Session Agenda. The next meeting is scheduled for **September 16, 2021.**

*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)*