

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
STATE BOARD FOR MASSAGE THERAPY
Via Zoom Meeting
October 1, 2021

Present: Kiersten Fisher
Kyle Hierholzer
Dale Montelione-Grust, Chair
Michele Naumann Carlstrom, Vice-Chair
Linda Toomey
Amy E. Warcup

Absent: Paul Pipia

Staff: Dolores Cottrell Acting Executive Secretary
Carolyn Ferrick Professional Examination Unit
Diane Martin Board Staff
Kathleen Letzelter Board Staff

Meeting Convened

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m. by AES Cottrell.

Minutes

Motion: To approve Minutes of the June 4, 2021 board meeting. Michele Naumann Carlstrom

Second: Linda Toomey

Vote: Unanimous approval

Resolved: The Minutes of the June 4, 2021 meeting are approved as drafted.

Acting Executive Secretary Announcements and Updates

Governor, Kathy Hochul, has appointed a new Commissioner of the Department of Health, Dr. Mary T. Bassett. Brett Friedman was recently named NYS Medicaid Director.

State agencies operate under the Open Meeting Law, which allows this State Board and the public to meet remotely instead of in-person. Governor Hochul has extended the Open Meeting Law until January 15, 2021.

E-licensing – as part of the State Education Department (SED) Modernization project, the mainframe migration is proceeding. More than 53 million records have been transferred. When completed in the next 1 to 1 ½ years, applicants will be able to track the review of their application.

AES Cottrell reminded the Board that SED extended the date by which licensees may complete 100% of their continuing education hours by self-study. The new expiration date is July 1, 2022.

Guidance for COVID and infection control may be found on the Centers for Disease Control website.

The position for Executive Secretary for the State Boards for Massage Therapy, Psychology, Applied Behavior Analysis and Clinical Laboratory Technology has been posted. The applicant must be a licensed and registered psychologist in New York State.

Welcome to new Board Office Staff Member Kate Letzelter. Kate has taken the position previously held by Erin Dowd.

The Board discussed the decrease in the number of individuals applying for Massage Therapy licensure and acknowledged work needs to be done to promote the profession. Changing demographics and retirements due to COVID were cited as two possible reasons for the decline.

Job Analysis Survey

The survey is ready to be sent by Scantron to NYS Massage Therapy licensees. AES Cottrell will check on the possibility of awarding 2 continuing education credits, instead of 1, for those who complete the survey and CE questions. Tentative plan is to have the survey sent in mid-October with a response due by mid-November. The survey will be sent to approximately 21,000 licensees.

MBLEx Exam

As part of the Board's efforts to gain a better understanding of how the MBLEx exam compares to the NYS Massage Therapy exam, the FSMTB generously allowed Linda Toomey and Diane Martin to listen to the September 28, 2021 FSMTB Education Committee virtual meeting. Linda Toomey reported her observations. AES Cottrell reminded the Board that FSMTB can add questions to the MBLEx regarding NYS laws, rules and regulations and bodywork. The Board agreed it would be helpful to observe another FSMTB Education Committee meeting. Kyle Hierholzer and Michele Naumann Carlstrom volunteered to be observers. AES Cottrell will check when the first meeting of the Education Committee in 2022 is scheduled.

Executive Session

Motion: To enter into executive session to discuss the August 2021 examination for score release and the January 2022 examination. Naumann Carlstrom

Second: Montelione-Grust

Vote: Unanimous approval

Resolved: To enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing the August 2021 examination for score release and the January 2022 examination.

Next meeting December 10, 2021 will be virtual.

Adjournment

Motion: Naumann Carlstrom

Second: Fisher

Vote: Unanimous

Resolved: That the meeting be adjourned at 11:57 a.m.