

Department of Commerce, Community  
and Economic Development

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Division of Corporations, Business  
and Professional Licensing

# Board of Massage Therapists

## Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2023



Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development  
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing  
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Board of Massage Therapists  
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**Identification of the Board**

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Duty Station</b>	<b>Date Appointed</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>
Jill Motz Licensed Massage Therapist	Wasilla	Jan 23, 2017	Mar 1, 2022
Keli Shew Licensed Massage Therapist	Chugiak	Feb 24, 2022	Mar 1, 2025
Julie Endle Public Member	Palmer	Jan 24, 2019	Mar 1, 2025
Anetta Atwell Licensed Massage Therapist	North Pole	Mar 25, 2022	Mar 1, 2026
Tonia Nelson Licensed Massage Therapist	Anchorage	Mar 1, 2023	Mar 1, 2024

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**Identification of Staff**

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**Identification of Staff (continued)**

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**Narrative Statement**

The State of Alaska Board of Massage Therapists licensing program is operating as an established licensing program. Ongoing regulatory obligations have been satisfactory met. The board can anticipate adjustments to the regulatory framework as the massage profession evolves over time. The board continues to partner with the division of professional licensing to improve efficiency in application processing, reduce program costs and decrease application processing time.

This Board has been successful working as a team to regulate the massage therapy profession in Alaska by issuing licenses to competent and safe therapists. This board has had a large turn over in senior board members in the last year, successfully replacing two with qualified therapists. The board has partnered with the division of professional licensing to discuss new board member training and transition strategies while asking one experienced board member to continue to serve until new members are trained and gain experience in their roles as board members.

The Board of Massage Therapist General Licensing Data:

The Board of Massage Therapists program has a total of 1149 active licenses.

COVID-19 Board Action:

The board worked through the challenges the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021. As the first board to adopt guidance of best practices for health and safety compliance in the massage profession, the board remained dedicated to updating this guidance, as necessary. The board worked to maintain communication with the licensed massage therapists as the pandemic evolved.

The board chair attended bi-weekly virtual meetings of boards chairs representing health care boards to discuss the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. This information was important for all parties in collaborative work to develop a consensus of understandings as many licensed health care providers work in parallel of each other.

Massage Establishment Regulations:

Massage establishment regulations were adopted by the office of the governor to finalize the initial regulatory obligations of the board. Regulations included to reflect registration fee as per 12.AAC 396 and investigative fee as per 12 AAC 79.930(b).

Currently 7 massage establishments have been registered

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**Narrative Statement (continued)**

**Distance Education Accreditation:**

The board adopted acceptance of two distance accreditation bodies. The Distance Education Accreditation Commission and the 195 Council on Higher Education Accreditation are approved by the board as accrediting bodies for massage therapy distance education programs.

**Continued Education and Parallel Professions:**

The board determined that it was important to increase the available of continued education opportunities for licensed massage therapists. This action allows a licensed massage therapist to attend a course relevant to massage therapy that is presented by a health care provider that practices parallel to a massage therapist. It was approved by the board to accept continued education course provided by licensed parallel professions that are within the scope of practice for massage therapy. A written explanation of the applicability to the practice of massage therapy as per 08.61.100 is required upon renewal.

**FSMTB Membership and Annual Meeting:**

Kelli Shew attended a virtual FSMTB meeting to represent the board as a delegate to vote on resolutions that impact the by-laws of the FSMTB.

**Board Transition to New Members:**

The board has brought on three new members and is currently working to make sure that they are fully trained to oversee the regulatory process and issuance of licenses

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**Budget Recommendations for FY 2024**

Budget Recommendations section anticipates the board's fiscal priorities for the upcoming year. Please complete all parts of this section with details about anticipated meetings, conferences, memberships, supplies, equipment, to other board requests. Meeting expenses that are being funded through third-party reimbursement or direct booking must be identified separately from expenses paid through license fees (receipt-supported services or RSS). Be sure to explain any items listed as "other" so they may be tracked appropriately.

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
Sept 11th , 12th	Anchorage	5	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			\$ 400.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			\$ 600.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:			\$ 250.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:			
<b>Total Estimated Cost:</b>			\$ 1,250.00

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:			
<b>Total Estimated Cost:</b>			\$ 0.00

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:			
<b>Total Estimated Cost:</b>			\$ 0.00



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**Budget Recommendations for FY 2024 (continued)**

**Out-of-State Meetings and Additional In-State Travel** (Rank in order of importance)

#1 Rank in Importance or  Not Applicable

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff

**Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:**

Expenditure	License Fees (RSS)	Third-Party Reimbursement	Third-Party Direct Booked	Total
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:				\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:				\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:				\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Conference:				\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other				\$0.00
Describe "Other" (break out all sections):				
<b>Net Total:</b>	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

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**Budget Recommendations for FY 2024 (continued)**

**Non-Travel Budget Requests**

- Not Applicable       Resources       Examinations  
 Membership       Training       Other

Product or Service	Provider	Cost Per Event
FSMTB Membership	FSMTB	\$950

**Description of item and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:**

The mission of the Federation is to support its Member Boards in their work to ensure that the practice of massage therapy is provided to the public safely and competently.

**Non-Travel Budget Requests**

- Not Applicable       Resources       Examinations  
 Membership       Training       Other

Product or Service	Provider	Cost Per Event

**Description of item and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:**

**Non-Travel Budget Requests**

- Not Applicable       Resources       Examinations  
 Membership       Training       Other

Product or Service	Provider	Cost Per Event

**Description of item and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:**

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**Legislative Recommendations - Proposed Legislation for FY 2024**

**No Recommendations**

The Board has no recommendations for proposed legislation at this time.

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**Recommendations**

The Board has the following recommendations for proposed legislation:

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**Regulation Recommendations - Proposed Regulations for FY 2024**

**No Recommendations**

The Board has no recommendations for proposed regulations at this time.

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**Recommendations**

The Board has the following recommendations for proposed regulations:

**Regulation Review:**

The board is working with partnership with the DCBPL regulation specialists to review and update regulation language that is no longer relevant. The regulations related to transitional licensing is an example of irrelevant regulation as it no longer in effect as of June of 21017.

**Massage License Display in Advertising:**

The board has determined that it is the interest of public safety to amend the code of ehtics and standards of practice to require the display of a massage therapists license number with advertisement.

**Moral Turpitude Conviction Reporting:**

In the interest of public safety the board will be working to complete a regulations project to determine time-frames of reporting of convictions and or charges related to a crime of moral turpitude.

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**Goals and Objectives**

**Part I**

**FY 2023's goals and objectives and how they were met:**

**Operating Budget:**

The board will operate with a positive budget to meet board goals and objectives.

**National Board Representation:**

The board maintained national representation at the national level including sending board appointed member staff to the 2023 Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards executive summit to represent Alaska.

**Annual In-State In person Meeting:**

The board held an town hall forum to address questions presented by the public regarding the board of massage therapy. This forum was well attended as attendees provided valuable feedback regarding regulations and license processing and had questions clarified with productive dialogue.

**Goals and Objectives (continued)**

**Part II**

**FY 2024's goals and objectives, and proposed methods to achieve them.**

**Describe any strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats and required resources:**

Annual In-State In person Meeting:

The board will continue to hold a yearly in person town hall forum to address questions presented by the public regarding the board of massage therapy. This forum provides valuable feedback to the board's goals of objective to continue to improve the application process and its knowledge of the massage profession as it pertains to Alaska.

Regulations Review:

Board has determined a goal to review and update regulations that are outdated or irrelevant. This includes regulations related to transitional licensing.

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Sunset Audit Recommendations

Date of Last Legislative Audit:

Board Sunset Date:

**Audit Recommendation:**

Improvements are needed to comply with the federal standards over criminal history record information obtained as part of the licensing process

**Action Taken:**

Implementation of OnBoard for secure transmission of confidential materials, additional disclosure information relating to fingerprint cards and background reports was included on the board's website and

**Next Steps:**

N/A

Completed:  No  Yes

If yes, date completed:

**Audit Recommendation:**

Recommendation to work to fill the public member position.

**Action Taken:**

The Board of Massage Therapists successfully worked with the legislature to enact a statutory change to address the stringent requirements that made it difficult to find applicants for the public member board seat. A public board member was seated in January

**Next Steps:**

Completed:  No  Yes

If yes, date completed:

**Audit Recommendation:**

**Action Taken:**

Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing's (DCBPL) director, in consultation with the Board of Massage Therapists (board), should take action to improve procedures to ensure licensure requirements are met.

**Next Steps:**

Additional training and amendments to policies and procedures have been implemented

Completed:  No  Yes

If yes, date completed: