



Alaska Board of Massage Therapists – January 18 - 2024 Special Board Meeting
Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing

Time: January 18, 2024 - 9:00 AM Alaska

Attendance

Board Members:

Annetta Atwell, Licensed Massage Therapist

Kelli Shew, Licensed Massage Therapist

Julie Endle, Public Member

Emily Foster, Massage Therapist

DCBPL State of Alaska Staff:

David Edwards-Smith, Occupational Licensing Examiner

Shane Bannarbie, Program Coordinator 1

Reid Bowman, Program Coordinator II

Sara Chambers, Boards and Regulations Advisor

1. Roll Call - 9:00 AM

Board Members Present: Annetta Atwell, Julie Endle, Kelli Shew, Emily Foster

2. Review/Approve Agenda 9:02

A motion made by Emily Foster, seconded by Julie Endle, and passed with unanimous roll call vote; it was RESOLVED to APPROVE the agenda as amended to include a discussion on Executive Order 127.

3. Ethics Review/Disclosure 9:04

Vice Chair Endle, requested the board disclose any ethics concerns for the record. No disclosures were presented.

4. Public Comment 9:05

OLE Edwards-Smith informed the board there were no members of the public in attendance to provide public comment. Vice-Chair determined that public comment would remain open.

Public Comment Closed at 9:15

5. Board Chair Election

Vice-Chair Endle offered thanks for the hard work and dedication to the previous Board Chair Jill Motz and opened discussion about election of a new chair.

In a MOTION made by Kelli Shew, seconded by Emily Foster, and passed unanimously with roll call vote, it was RESOLVED to ELECT Annetta Atwell as Chair of the Board of Massage Therapists.

6. Executive Order 127

Boards and Regulations Advisor Sara Chambers informed the board that once an executive order is introduced that the legislature has 60 days to respond. The house and senate would need to engage in a joint session and vote to overturn the executive order. The executive order if not overturned would go into effect on July 1st. If Executive Order 127 goes into effect, the massage therapy licensing program would be regulated by the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, who would continue in the direction the board has begun. The Department would engage with the massage therapy profession to seek expert input if needed for regulation or disciplinary issues. Ms. Chambers informed the board of their options to act and address their concerns. These options include the board adopting an official position on the executive motion and drafting a letter to the legislature describing that position. The board was also advised to appoint a member to speak on behalf of the board in any board hearings.

Kelli Shew asked about the motivations driving the issuance of Executive Order 127 and how increased efficiency in the executive order could result in a decrease of fees. Sara Chambers responded that she is not aware of any motivations other than improved efficiencies. Sara spoke to the desire of the executive order to expedite the licensing of applicants who meet qualifications. Ms. Chambers spoke to the potential that fees could decrease with the Occupational Licensing Examiners being focused on application processing.

Kelli Shew asked Ms. Chambers of the impact on public safety without a board. She is currently reviewing a case of public safety concerns that require the expertise of a massage professional. She feels that the board has stepped up in being compliant with the governor's mandate for expedited licensing with some licensing approval being delegated to the Division of Corporations Business and Professional Licensing (DCBPL)

Julie Endle expressed concerns of whether application review by staff would be as effective in detecting application fraud. Ms. Endle asked about contracting licensed professionals as subject matter experts. Ms. Chambers stated an expert witness could be utilized to advise the Department in cases that require hands-on knowledge.

Chair Atwell concerns about public safety in the massage profession without an operating board. Chair Atwell stated she wanted the board to draft a letter to legislators expressing the board's position.

Ms. Chambers recommended that the board draft a letter and assign a liaison to engage with the legislature. The liaison for the board is the Chair by default.

In a MOTION made by Emily Foster, seconded by Kelly Shew, and passed unanimously with a roll call vote, it was RESOLVED to draft a letter of non-support of Executive Order 127.

The board decided to meet again to consider the letter at a meeting on January 31, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.

In a MOTION made by Julie Endle, seconded by *Annetta Atwell*, and passed unanimously by consent, it was RESOLVED to adjourn.

The board adjourned and went off the record at 10:19 a.m.

