



Alaska Board of Massage Therapists – February 7, 2024 - Special Meeting
Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing

Time: February 7, 2024 12:302 PM 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 I

Reid Bowman, Program Coordinator II

Sara Chambers, Boards and Regulations Advisor

Sylvan Robb, Director of Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing

Public Attendance: Traci Gilmour, Sachi Cote

1. **Roll Call - 12:30 PM**

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

2. **Review/Approve Agenda**

A motion made by Julie Endle, seconded by Kelli Shew, and passed with unanimous roll call vote; it was RESOLVED to APPROVE the agenda as amended to include a tabled application review for Sachi Cote, A Voluntary Surrender, and discussion of the Sunset Audit.

3. **Ethics Review/Disclosure**

Chair Atwell requested the board disclose any ethics concerns for the record. No disclosures were presented.

4. **Public Comment 12:35**

Traci Gilmour has been meeting with legislators to seek sponsorship for the Board of Massage Therapists Sunset Bill. She has currently not been successful. Ms. Gilmour informed the board that that the Sunset Bill will need a sponsor by February 19. Traci stated that she was speaking on behalf of the board to legislators.

Program Coordinator II Reid Bowman clarified with Ms. Gilmour that no one is authorized to speak on behalf of the board without authorization. Ms. Gilmour then clarified that she misspoke and that she is only speaking for herself to legislators.

Public comment closed at 12:41

5. Executive Order 127

Chair Atwell spoke to the letter of non-support that the board voted on yesterday in Onboard. She asked for clarification on how this letter was to be distributed to the legislators. Ms. Atwell was informed that the letter would be distributed to the chair of the labor and finance committee.

Board and Regulations Advisor Sara Chambers reviewed a letter of clarification from the Division of Insurance regarding the impact of medical billing in massage therapy if executive order 127 goes into effect. Ms. Chambers informed the board if Executive Order 127 is upheld, there will be no impact on the ability to bill and receive reimbursement for services from health care insurers.

Chair Atwell asked Ms. Chambers for direction on seeking a legislative sponsor for the sunset bill. Ms. Chambers informed Chair Atwell that it is typical for legislators to pick up sunset bill and she encouraged board members to reach out to legislators to seek sponsorship. Director Robb informed the board that the board will have the opportunity to address the sunset bill next session if a sponsor is not achieved this session. Chair Atwell expressed concerns of the board continuing to receive support in the event of failure to secure a sunset bill sponsorship. Director Robb assured that the board will continue to have full power and support from the division until July 1 in the event executive order 127 becomes law. Chair Atwell asked Director Robb to clarify whether it is the partial responsibility of the division to seek sponsor. Sylvan informed the board that the legislative auditor does seek bill sponsorship. Ms. Chambers informed the board that the ultimately a legislator needs to sponsor a bill to keep this board in place.

Chair Atwell asked Ms. Chambers if executive order 127 goes into effect what happens if the board is how does the board become reinstated in the future. Ms. Chamber informed the board that a bill would need to be introduced to the legislature to enact a Board of Massage Therapists.

Sara conveyed an appreciated for the board's navigation of the executive order situation. She encouraged the board and staff to reach out with any questions and concerns.

Annetta asked if the Board has any additional questions for additional questions. No additional question from board.

Emily Foster joins the meeting at 12:45

6. Tabled Application Review Sachi Cote

Julie spoke to the concerns of the difference in education hours from the original transcript submission to the updated transcript submission. The new submission from the massage school Sachi attended included an additional 4 hours of education. These extra hours being added to a transcript helped to fulfill the requirements she needed for licensure. The original transcript was 621 hours and the second transcript received was 625 hours.

Sachi explains that her concerns were legitimate. There was an error in the transcript and spoke to the fact that all records are maintained by hand. She reported that she did complete more hours than what was required in the school. She completed private sessions to meet the requirements.

A motion made by Julie Endle, seconded by Emily Foster, and passed with unanimous roll call vote; it was RESOLVED to APPROVE the application of Sachi Cote pending the documentation of a letter of explanation from the school regarding the additional four hours of education.

Chair Atwell leaves the meeting at 1:40

7. Voluntary Surrender Case Review Investigations - Case # 2023-000959 - Voluntary

The board reviewed the case information that was provided by Investigator Kendra Wardlaw. Chair Atwell asked the board after their review of the case documentation if there was any discussion. No board members presented any discussion matters.

A motion made by Julie Endle, seconded by Emily Foster, and passed with a roll call vote; it was RESOLVED to ACCEPT the voluntary surrender of case# 2023-000959.

**Julie Endle: Yes
Emily Foster: Yes
Kelli Shew: Abstain**

Adjourn at 1:46