

Alaska Board of Massage Therapists – March 5, 2026 – Regular Meeting



Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing

Time: March 5, 2026, 9:00 AM Alaska

Location: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

1. Call to Order – 9:00 AM

Chair Atwell called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

2. Roll Call

Board Members Present:

- Annetta Atwell, Licensed Massage Therapist (Chair)
- Vickie Acree, Licensed Massage Therapist (Vice Chair)
- Michelle Steiner, Licensed Massage Therapist

Board Members Not Present:

- Scherri Hooped, Public Member

DCBPL Staff:

- David Edwards-Smith, Occupational Licensing Examiner III
- Reid Bowman, Program Coordinator II
- Roger Rouse, Investigator
- Jenni Summers, Senior Investigator
- Tyler Eggen (ACPE)

Public Attendance:

Morris dean, Mckenzie Francis, Rachel Stancil, Seth Dinkel (FSMTB), Jacie Sturm, Starla Dufresne, Lacey Rummer, Josh Hawley, Adam Diggers, Cynthia McMullen

3. Review / Approve Agenda – 9:05 AM

A motion made by Vickie Acree, seconded by Michelle Steiner, and passed unanimously to APPROVE the agenda as written.

4. Ethics Review / Disclosure – 9:10 AM

No ethics conflicts were reported.

5. Review / Approve Previous Minutes – 9:15 AM

A motion made by Vickie Acree, seconded by Michelle Steiner, and passed unanimously to APPROVE the MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 4, 2025.

6. Correspondence – 9:20 AM

Correspondence from the Department of Labor apprenticeship program was discussed. The board determined all communications should be routed through the OLE. DOL representatives will be invited to the June 2026 meeting.

Additional correspondence regarding the Massage Compact was reviewed. FSMTB will send updated materials.

7. Public Comment – 9:36 AM

No public comments offered. Closed at 10:03 AM.

8. Application Review – 10:05 AM

OLE Edwards-Smith provided updates to the weekly application review process, including:

- Discontinuation of incomplete applications being sent to the board.
- Removal of “approval pending” language.
- Development of a new SOP for application review.

9. ACPE / School & Distance Education Items – 10:30 AM

Alaska Institute of Oriental Medicine requested approval for distance-education video modules via Thinkific. Board requested two weeks for platform review before voting.

Joshua Hawley presented a new massage school proposal for the Kenai Peninsula. Board requested additional review time.

10. Investigative Report – 11:00 AM

Presented by Investigator Roger Rouse:

15 open cases; 2 newly closed. One Imposition of a Civil Fine(ICF) was ready for board action.

A motion made by Michelle Steiner, seconded by Vickie Acree, and passed unanimously to APPROVE the IMPOSITION OF CIVIL FINE for CASE 2025001153.

12. Administrative Order 360 – Regulation Review – 11:20 AM

Board reviewed and approved the AO360 regulatory reduction package.

Chair Atwell and OLE Edwards-Smith led a comprehensive review of regulatory amendments required under Administrative Order 360.

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Discussion included removal of outdated transitional language; replacement of ELAP references with COMTA standards; ethics CE content considerations; removal of duplicative record-retention and stale-documentation rules; and elimination of notarized self-inspection requirements.

The Board confirmed all proposed AO360 reductions aligned with December 2025 direction.

13. Apprenticeship Model Review – 11:35 AM

Chair Atwell informed the board that the ACPE regulation update increases the reasonability of the board to regulate approved apprenticeship programs.

Tyler Eggen, Institutional Authorization Program Coordinator with the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE), joined the meeting to provide an update on how ACPE's regulatory responsibilities intersect with the Board's ongoing development of an apprenticeship model.

Mr. Eggen explained that under **Administrative Order 360**, ACPE is reviewing and repealing regulations that previously governed apprenticeship or on-the-job-training programs. He noted that ACPE's existing regulation—requiring certain apprenticeships to fall under postsecondary authorization—has been determined to be overly broad and restrictive, and therefore will be **repealed** as part of AO360 compliance.

He clarified that **the removal of ACPE's apprenticeship regulations does not prevent the Board of Massage Therapists from establishing and overseeing its own apprenticeship standards**. Rather, ACPE's repeal simply means that massage therapy apprenticeships will no longer fall under ACPE's jurisdiction or receive ACPE oversight, inspections, or annual reporting.

Mr. Eggen further reported that **a new bill under consideration (House Bill 360)** may create a state-level apprenticeship approval structure housed within the Department of Labor. If enacted, this could provide statewide apprenticeship recognition, though details are still forthcoming.

Board members expressed concern that ACPE's withdrawal leaves greater oversight responsibilities on the Board, including compliance monitoring, curriculum review, and enforcement mechanisms, especially given the Board's volunteer composition. Chair Atwell emphasized the need for adequate structure and support if apprenticeships are ultimately authorized through regulation.

The Board thanked Mr. Eggen for the clarification and agreed to continue developing an apprenticeship framework through the existing subcommittee.

Break for Lunch at 12:00 On Record at 1:00

Roll Call: Annetta Atwell, Michelle Steiner, Vickie Acree

13. Future Meetings – 1:10 PM

Upcoming meetings:

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- June 4, 2026 – Zoom
- September 3–4, 2026 – In-Person, Fairbanks (with town hall)
- December 3, 2026 – Zoom
- March 4, 2027 – Zoom

A motion approving travel and in-person meeting was passed unanimously.

14. Additional Board Member Comments – 1:25 PM

Board discussed CE compliance trends and applicant errors.

Off record at 2:00 on record at 2:12

Roll Call: Annetta Atwell, Michelle Steiner, Vickie Acree

11. Application Review – 2:00

- Cynthia McMullen

Annetta spoke to the question of ethics continued education being taught by the applicant. Cynthia described the course as a round table discussion. She informed the board that she submitted this in good faith. She told the board that she facilitated the course discussion. Cynthia did not see any specific regulation that prevents an instructor from submitting CEU's instructed. Annetta concurred that there is no specific regulation that prevents an instructor from submitting CEU's. Cynthia offered to complete 2 continued education credits in ethics to satisfy the board's requirements.

A motion made by Vickie Acree, seconded by Michelle Steiner, and passed unanimously to APPROVE the application for Cynthia McMullen pending the completion of 2 CEU's on the subject of ethics.

Application reviews for:

- Melissa Brooder – forwarded to Investigations.
- License #101544 (Campbell) – forwarded to Investigations.

15. Adjournment – 2:58 PM

A motion made by Steiner, seconded by Acree, passed unanimously to ADJOURN the meeting at 2:58 PM.