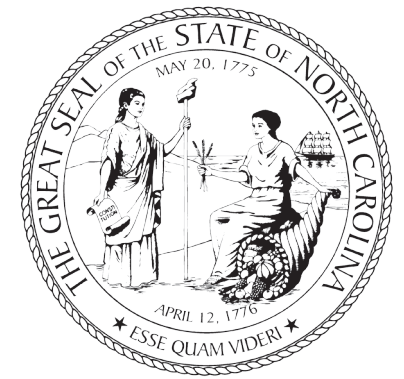


# NORTH CAROLINA BOARD of MASSAGE & BODYWORK THERAPY



*Regulating the practice of massage and bodywork therapy and its educational institutions, for the protection of the public.*

## 2020 NEWSLETTER

### *Message from the Board Chair, Kim Turk, LMBT*

2020 was a challenging year, to say the least. We can't talk about 2020 without mentioning pandemic, quarantine, new normal, vaccines and patience.

In March, Governor Cooper signed Executive Order No. 120 which stated that all massage establishments and massage therapists were to close business as of 5:00 pm on March 24. It wasn't until May that the Governor issued EO 141 stating that massage therapists could go back to work, with face coverings, effective 5:00 pm on May 22.

Because of the hardship on LMBTs, the Board took the emergency action of allowing all CE to be completed online for the renewal year 2020, later extending that to include the renewal year 2021. The Board received approval for this emergency action through the Rules Review Commission. Later, it was agreed to delay the start of licensing establishments until July 2021 so that many in the profession could recover from the financial setbacks of 2020.

Some LMBTs moved into retirement. Some closed practices for what they thought was "a while". Some reopened to increased expenses of PPE and sanitation. Some schools closed. But, by and large, therapists kept their licenses active in case they wanted to return to massage and bodywork. Everything I'm hearing points to LMBTs working hard to provide for the safety for all involved. I want to thank YOU for all your work in keeping the public safe!

Many have asked about getting the vaccine for COVID-19. The CDC lists massage therapists as "patient facing", which allows for the ability to get the vaccine sooner rather than later. The Board does not have the authority to mandate that an LMBT receive the vaccine. Please see our website at [www.bmbt.org](http://www.bmbt.org) for the Practice Act and Rules that govern what the Board can and cannot do.

I want to recognize Nancy Harrell for her many years serving the Board and the profession. Nancy has been a steady leader, a calm presence and a good friend to the Board. I also want to thank Dr. Tim Taft for his time on the Board. He brought kind, thoughtful inquiry, his medical knowledge and a wicked sense of humor. Thank you both for your volunteer service!

We welcome Steve Green, establishment owner, and Valory Hicks, LMBT, to the Board. We are looking forward to getting to know and working with them both.

And as always, I want to thank the Board staff. The last few years have been challenging and hectic. They have been diplomatic, kind, helpful and a cheerful voice on the other end of the phone during many days that were not so cheerful.

Please remember the mask mandate is still in effect for any persons within six feet of each other. Be safe, be well.

### **NCBMBT's Top Reminders for all LMBT's**

1. Please keep the Board informed of any changes to your mailing address and email address so you will be sure to receive all pertinent information, such as renewal reminders, newsletters, etc.
2. For all up-to-date information, as well as Board contact information and/or questions regarding licensure, please refer to the NCBMBT website at [www.bmbt.org](http://www.bmbt.org).
3. The Board meets every other month on the 13th floor of the Wells Fargo Capital Center, 150 Fayetteville Street, Raleigh, NC 27601. The current meeting schedule is posted on the website under 'Board Information'. All Board meetings are open to the public.
4. You can file a complaint online by going to the File A Complaint tab on the Board's website.
5. Online renewals were required beginning August 1, 2019. You can access the online renewal system on the Board's website under the Renew Your License tab.
6. All online renewals end on December 31 at midnight. Any renewals submitted past this date will need to be mailed and include a letter stating whether or not you have been practicing massage and bodywork therapy in NC since your license expired.
7. To keep your license current, all LMBTs must complete 24 hours of continuing education, including a minimum of 3 hours of ethics. You may take a maximum of 12 hours of distance learning and a maximum of 8 hours of business management, should you choose to do so.
8. Any LMBT who has completed all of the required CE's during the year of their renewal may apply any additional CE's taken after August 1 of that year to their next renewal period, so long as they were not submitted for the prior renewal period.
9. You can verify a LMBT's license is valid in NC by accessing the Board's website, clicking on the Verify A License tab and searching by their last name or license number.
10. Licensees are required to notify the Board within 15 days if they know a person is practicing without a license, is violating the Practice Act/Rules and Regulations, is charged with certain criminal offenses, or is a defendant in a civil lawsuit related to the practice of massage and bodywork therapy.
11. Licensees are required to display their Board-issued original license at the licensee's primary place of practice. Licensees providing massage and bodywork therapy outside of their primary place of practice must have a Board-issued original license or wallet card available for inspection.
12. Licensees shall maintain documentation for each session, including the date of service, needs assessment, plan of care, observations made, and actions by the licensee.

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## NEW BOARD MEMBER

Governor Roy Cooper appointed Steve Green of Guilford County to the establishment owner position on the Board. His term began on April 23, 2020 and will end June 30, 2022. The Honorable Phil Berger, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, appointed Valory Hicks of Wake County to the LMBT position previously held by Nancy Harrell. Her term began July 1, 2020 and will end June 30, 2023.

### Steve Green:

Steve Green is a 1993 graduate of Guilford College with a B.S. in Business Management. Mr. Green has worked with the world's largest retailer Walmart Stores in management with a specific focus in regional store planning and with Vanguard Cellular as a financial and marketing analyst. Mr. Green has also owned a small business in the Triad for many years.

Currently, Mr. Green is a multi-unit franchisee business owner with Massage Envy with 12+ years of industry experience who helps members and guests receive total body wellness and skin care services. Mr. Green provides employment to approximately 160+ employees between North Carolina and South Carolina.

Mr. Green is an avid golfer and snow skier. When not working, Mr. Green enjoys planning for the next adventure with his wife and kids.

### Valory Hicks:

Valory Hicks was born and raised in Indiana and became licensed as a massage and bodywork therapist in North Carolina in 2005. Ms. Hicks has resided in North Carolina for 26 years and has been practicing massage for 14 of those years.

Ms. Hicks currently works at Massage Envy Southpoint in Durham where she has been crafting her skills for over 10 years, including 9 years as Lead Massage Therapist. In 2018, she won Massage Envy's "Massage Therapist of the Year" award for the State of North Carolina where Massage Envy has 44 clinics and over 1,000 LMBTs employed.

Ms. Hicks is passionate and thankful to be a part of another person's healing. She is also excited about being on the Board and learning the other side of massage and bringing over 14 years of experience in the field.

## NEW BOARD OFFICERS

The Board, at its August 2020 meeting, elected the following officers:

Chair – Kim Turk

Vice Chair – Robert Reeves

Treasurer – Rachael Goolsby

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## KEEP INFORMATION UP TO DATE

To optimize communications between the Board and licensees, please update your current email address at the Update Your Record tab on the Board's website [www.bmbt.org](http://www.bmbt.org).

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## 2021 BOARD MEETING DATES

February 18, 2021

April 15, 2021

June 17, 2021

August 19, 2021

October 21, 2021

December 9, 2021

Board meetings are typically held in the large conference room on the 13th floor of the Wells Fargo Capitol Center at 150 Fayetteville St., Raleigh, NC 27601 however, due to COVID-19, meetings currently are being conducted via Webex. Meetings begin at 10:00 a.m. and are open to the public. There is a 15 minute period of Public Comment at the end of each meeting. Those interested in addressing the Board during Public Comment must sign up before or during the meeting.

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## ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Licenses currently active..... 9,087  
Licenses issued  
through 12/31/2020..... 19,333

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## Licensure of Establishments

The North Carolina Legislature passed Senate Bill 548 in July 2017 that provided the NCBMBT is responsible for overseeing and licensing establishments that provide massage and bodywork therapy services. In 2018, the North Carolina Rules Review Commission approved Rules for the Board to implement its licensing of massage and bodywork therapy establishments. After consideration by the 2019 North Carolina Legislature, the rules became effective November 15, 2019.

An Establishment license requires persons operating a business that provides massage and bodywork therapy services to meet the requirements set forth in Senate Bill 548 and the Rules of the Board to protect the public and to promote the safe practice of massage and bodywork therapy. Some of those requirements are:

1. Adequate, safe and sanitary facilities
2. Compliance with building, fire, safety and health codes
3. All employees or independent contractors who provide massage and bodywork therapy services are currently licensed by the Board and in good standing

The Board is in the process of implementing the Legislature's mandate to license establishments that provide massage and bodywork therapy services to the public. An Establishment license will cost \$150 and will be effective for a two-year period. It is anticipated the necessary forms and online licensing process will be ready by March 2021 and licensing will begin in the Spring or Summer of 2021.

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## COVID-19

It has been almost a year since the Board made its first announcement to all LMBTs regarding COVID-19. Since March 2020, the Board has monitored the effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the massage and bodywork therapy profession and has provided updates according to Governor Cooper's Executive Orders. You can view the Board's announcements on the News and Announcements page under the Board Information tab on the Board's website [www.bmbt.org](http://www.bmbt.org).

In response to the serious and unforeseen threat to the public health, safety, or welfare that has arisen with the coronavirus outbreak in North Carolina, the Board implemented emergency and temporary rules and is currently going through the permanent rule-making process with the Rules Review Commission to adopt two new rules. Below are the details of those rules:

- Rule .0636 eliminates rules that prevent massage and bodywork therapy schools from being able to offer online classes during a state of emergency.
- Rule .0704 allows massage and bodywork therapists to complete all continuing education courses by distance learning when there is a risk of harm to licensed therapists attending in-classroom courses.

Please remain aware Governor Cooper's Executive Order 147 and various extensions require LMBTs and their clients to wear face coverings when social distancing is not possible. This directive applies to all massage and bodywork therapy sessions. LMBTs should continue to be aware of and comply with Federal, North Carolina, and local directives related to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

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## DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE BOARD FROM JANUARY 1, 2020 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020

The Board is authorized to investigate complaints and institute disciplinary actions,  
as set forth in Section .0900 of the Rules.

### HEARINGS BEFORE THE BOARD:

**Terry Harris** – Following a hearing on February 20, 2020, regarding inappropriate sexual contact with a client during a massage and bodywork therapy session, the Board Ordered that Mr. Harris’ license be revoked and he pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$500.

**Kishon-Ahsiem Holts** - Following a hearing on February 20, 2020, regarding inappropriate sexual contact with a client during a massage and bodywork therapy session, the Board Ordered that Mr. Holts’ license be revoked and he pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$1000.

**JonClaude Harris** - Following a hearing on August 20, 2020, regarding inappropriate sexual contact with a client during a massage and bodywork therapy session, the Board Ordered that Mr. Harris’ license be revoked and he pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$1000.

**Michael Becker** - Following a hearing on August 21, 2020, regarding exposure of his penis and masturbating during a massage and bodywork therapy session, the Board Ordered that Mr. Becker’s license be revoked and he pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$1000.

**Jill Bernthisel** - Following a hearing on August 21, 2020, regarding failure to respond and comply, within a timely manner, with the 2019 continuing education audit, the Board Ordered that Ms. Bernthisel’s license be reprimanded and she pay a civil penalty of \$100 and costs of \$250.

**Natasha Bryant** - Following a hearing on August 21, 2020, regarding failure to respond and comply, within a timely manner, with the 2019 continuing education audit, the Board Ordered that Ms. Bryant’s license be reprimanded and she pay a civil penalty of \$100 and costs of \$250.

**Jeisson Chaves** - Following a hearing on August 21, 2020, regarding inappropriate sexual contact with a client during a massage and bodywork therapy session, the Board Ordered that Mr. Chaves’ license be revoked and he pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$1000.

**Ryan Robinson** - Following a hearing on August 21, 2020, regarding inappropriate sexual contact with a client during a massage and bodywork therapy session, the Board Ordered that Mr. Robinson’s license be revoked and he pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$1000.

**Ashley Burns** - Following a hearing on October 22, 2020, regarding failure to provide treatment that delivered the safety, comfort and privacy of the client, the Board Ordered that Mr. Burns complete three hours through the FSMTB REACH program.

**Daniel Curran** - Following a hearing on December 11, 2020, regarding inappropriate sexual contact with a client during a massage and bodywork therapy session, the Board Ordered that Mr. Curran’s license be revoked and he pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$1000.

### CONSENT ORDERS:

**Latonya Bowman** - Prior to a hearing scheduled for February 20, 2020, Ms. Bowman entered into a Consent Order for practicing massage and bodywork therapy without a current license wherein her license was placed on probation for one year and she agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$500 and costs of \$200.

**Esther Jacobs** - Prior to a hearing scheduled for February 20, 2020, Ms. Jacobs entered into a Consent Order for practicing massage and bodywork therapy without a current license wherein her license was placed on probation for one year and she agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$500 and costs of \$200.

**Jay Sellers** - Prior to a hearing scheduled for February 20, 2020, Mr. Sellers entered into a Consent Order for practicing massage and bodywork therapy without a current license wherein his license was placed on probation for one year and he agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$500 and costs of \$200.

**Li Gong Sun** - Prior to a hearing scheduled for February 20, 2020, Mr. Sun entered into a Consent Order for aiding and abetting illegal massage and bodywork therapy wherein his license was revoked and he agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$750 and costs of \$500.

**Xia Wang** - Prior to a hearing scheduled for February 20, 2020, Ms. Wang entered into a Consent Order for aiding and abetting illegal massage and bodywork therapy wherein her license was revoked and she agreed to pay costs of \$250.

**Gene Murray** - Prior to a hearing scheduled for February 20, 2020, Mr. Murray entered into a Consent Order for aiding and abetting illegal massage and bodywork therapy wherein his license was revoked and he agreed to pay costs of \$500.

**Rachel Sauls** - Prior to a hearing scheduled for February 20, 2020, Ms. Sauls entered into a Consent Order for engaging in inappropriate sexual contact with a client during a massage and bodywork therapy session wherein her license was suspended for two years and she agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$500 and costs of \$500.

**Bruce Beery** - Prior to a hearing scheduled for June 18, 2020, Mr. Beery entered into a Consent Order for engaging in inappropriate sexual contact with a client during a massage and bodywork therapy session wherein his license was placed on probation for two years and he agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$500.

**Calvin Johnson** - Prior to a hearing scheduled for June 18, 2020, Mr. Johnson entered into a Consent Order for engaging in inappropriate conversation and failing to provide treatment that delivered the safety, comfort and privacy of the client during a massage and bodywork therapy session wherein his license was placed on probation for one year and he agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$500 and costs of \$250.

**Delisa Johnson** - Prior to a hearing scheduled for June 18, 2020, Ms. Johnson entered into a Consent Order for being charged with driving while impaired while on a conditional license with the Board wherein her license was suspended until she provides evidence of completing an alcohol dependence recovery program and she agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$500 and costs of \$500.

**Cori Brown** - Prior to a hearing scheduled for June 18, 2020, Mr. Brown entered into a Consent Order for scheduling clients and taking clients for massage and bodywork therapy sessions wherein his license was placed on probation for two years and he agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$500 and costs of \$200.

**Brandyn Miller** - Prior to a hearing scheduled for August 20, 2020, Mr. Miller entered into a Consent Order for engaging in inappropriate conduct while receiving massages as well as engaging in inappropriate draping and contact with the client during massage and bodywork sessions wherein he surrendered his license and he agreed to pay costs of \$500.

**Rinald Covington** - Prior to a hearing scheduled for October 22, 2020, Mr. Covington entered into a Consent Order for engaging in inappropriate sexual contact with a client during a massage and bodywork therapy session wherein his license was revoked and he agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$500 and costs of \$500.

**Corbett Estep** - Prior to a hearing scheduled for October 22, 2020, Mr. Estep entered into a Consent Order for engaging in an inappropriate relationship with a client wherein his license was revoked and he agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$500.

**Yifei Li** - Prior to a hearing scheduled for October 22, 2020, Ms. Li entered into a Consent Order for failing to protect and secure her license and aiding and abetting illegal massage and bodywork therapy wherein her license was reprimanded and she agreed to pay costs of \$250.

**Vladimir Bogatov and American & European Massage Clinic** - Prior to a hearing scheduled for December 10, 2020, Mr. Bogatov entered into a Consent Order for providing a fraudulent list of students to the Board and its consultants wherein his license to practice was placed on probation for two years and he agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$1000 and AEMC's school approval was revoked and the school agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$5000 and costs of \$1000.

**Phillip Irwin** - Prior to a hearing scheduled for December 10, 2020, Mr. Irwin entered into a Consent Order based upon a complaint from a client concerning a massage session wherein he surrendered his license and he agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$500.

**Heather Watson** - Prior to a hearing scheduled for December 10, 2020, Ms. Watson entered into a Consent Order for practicing massage and bodywork therapy without a current license wherein her license was placed on probation for one year and she agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$500.

### LETTERS OF REPRIMAND:

There were five (5) Letters of Reprimand issued to therapists for Non-Sufficient Funds (bounced checks) and five (5) Letters of Reprimand issued to therapists for inappropriate activity during a massage and bodywork therapy session.

### NOTICE OF POTENTIAL VIOLATION:

There were nine (9) Notices served on persons for allegedly practicing without a license and seven (7) Notices served on businesses upon information they were allowing a person to practice massage and bodywork therapy without a North Carolina license.

### INDIVIDUALS:

Dawn Hodges.....Wilmington  
Jason Files.....Wilmington  
Nichollee Smith.....Fayetteville  
Michael Hickman.....Greenville  
Mike Williams.....Fayetteville  
Chadwick Cornell.....Durham  
Johnna Garrido Pearson.....Cornelius  
Alexis Valdes.....Greensboro  
Jordan Valdes.....Greensboro

**BUSINESSES:**

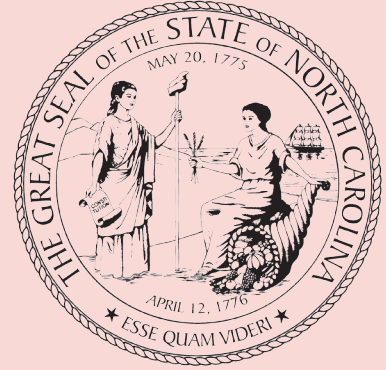
TreeBD.....Wilmington  
 Nichollee J’s 24hr Massage.....Fayetteville  
 Cyro252.....Greenville  
 Gifted Hands Massage Therapy.....Fayetteville  
 Chad’s Massage Massage.....Durham  
 JG Skin Waxing & Facials Spa.....Cornelius  
 Twin Touch Solutions.....Greensboro

**DENIAL OF LICENSE:**

The Board denied licenses to nine (9) applicants. Four (4) applicants were denied licenses because the curriculum of the massage school they attended did not meet the Board’s minimum requirements: Zhenshu An, Hollie Birritella, Donna Recckio and Judith Stuebs. Three (3) applicants were denied licenses due to lack of moral character: Jessica Johnson, Deidre Rando and Lisa Seong. Two (2) applicants were denied licenses due to pending criminal charges: Christian Holcombe and Jenna Strole.

**CONDITIONAL LICENSES:**

The License Standards Committee of the Board issued sixteen (16) Conditional Licenses to persons whose applications showed evidence of past minor criminal behavior, possibility of practicing without a license, education deficiency or other minor improper conduct.



Official Newsletter  
 NORTH CAROLINA BOARD of  
 MASSAGE & BODYWORK  
 THERAPY

POST OFFICE BOX 2539  
 RALEIGH, NC 27602

Phone: 919-546-0050  
 Email: admin@bmbt.org  
 Website: www.bmbt.org

Offices are located in the  
 Wells Fargo Capitol Center  
 150 Fayetteville Street  
 Suite 1910  
 Raleigh, NC 27601

**Members of the Board**

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 Robert Reeves, LMBT  
 Vice Chair  
 Rachael Goolsby, LMBT  
 Treasurer  
 Steve Green  
 Valory Hicks, LMBT  
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 Legal Counsel  
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 Julia Arnette  
 Assistant Administrative Director  
 Elizabeth Kirk  
 Newsletter Editor

## CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!

[www.bmbt.org](http://www.bmbt.org)

The Board Website is your  
Online Source for Information

The website provides an easily accessible source for information on the licensing program and activities of the Board. There are individual pages which give you information about:

- Applying for Initial Licensure
- License Renewals
- Online License Verification
- Update your Personal Profile
- How to Contact the Board
- Board Members and Professional Staff
- Board Meeting Schedule
- Board Approved Schools
- How to File a Complaint
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Links to Other Agencies and Organizations
- News and Announcements

A feature, called the DOCUMENT CENTER, is a popular page on the site. From this location, you can view and/or download many of the important documents which are part of the licensing program. These include:

Practice Act and Rules  
Modalities Requiring Licensure in North Carolina  
License Information and Application  
License Renewal  
Massage Therapy Schools  
Name Change Form  
Fee Schedule  
Formal Complaint Form