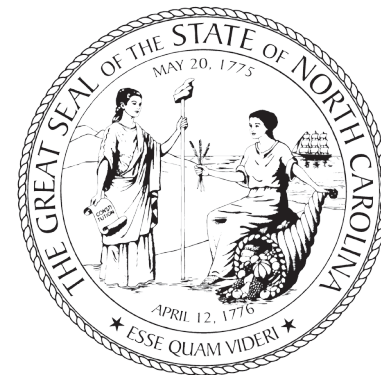


NORTH CAROLINA BOARD of MASSAGE & BODYWORK THERAPY



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

2023 NEWSLETTER

Message from the Board Chair, Robert Reeves, LMBT

Greetings to all,

I extend a warm welcome to Amy Swink, our newest addition to the Board. Amy's expertise has been instrumental in educating numerous therapists, contributing significantly to the mastery of this beautiful craft. She has seamlessly integrated into our team, already showcasing her commitment and passion.

In 2023 the Board decided to allow the use of CBD products on clients, provided therapists adhere to the stipulations outlined in Rules .0502 and .0503. It is imperative that therapists communicate the nature, use, and purpose of CBD products to clients, obtaining written acknowledgment of their understanding.

Looking ahead to 2024, it is a requirement for license renewal to have completed a minimum of 12 hours of in-person continuing education. Ensure your chosen CE provider is approved by the NCBTMB, FSMTB, NCCAOM or IASI, and keep a digital copy of your certificate of documentation.

I strongly urge everyone to recognize the paramount importance of communication during treatment sessions. Tailor your approach to meet the specific needs of each client within the scope of our practice. Document the effects of each session comprehensively and share these records with your clients to elucidate your therapeutic goals.

Bear in mind that the Board acts as a voice for the public, prioritizing safety and success for all involved. Familiarize yourself with the Practice Act and Rules and Regulations and stay well-versed in Board policies.

A heartfelt thank you to all our esteemed board members for your steadfast dedication, and to the board staff for your tireless efforts in ensuring the smooth functioning of everything.

In Light and Love,

Robert Reeves
LMBT 14425, Chair
NC Board of Massage and Bodywork Therapy

Top Reminders

1. Keep the Board informed of any changes to your mailing address and email address so you will receive all Board correspondence.
2. For up-to-date Board information and/or answers to questions, please refer to the NCBMBT website at www.bmbt.org.
3. Board meetings are every other month via Webex. The current meeting schedule is on the website under 'Board Information'. All Board meetings are open to the public.
4. Complaints can be filed online at the File A Complaint tab on the Board's website.
5. The online renewal is on the Board's website under the Renew Your License tab. Online renewals end on December 31 at midnight. Renewals after December 31 must be mailed with a letter stating whether or not you have been practicing massage and bodywork therapy in NC since your license expired.
6. LMBTs must complete 24 hours of continuing education, including a minimum of 3 hours of ethics. A minimum of 12 hours must be completed in-classroom. A maximum of 8 hours of business management may be completed, should you choose to do so.
7. LMBTs who complete all required CE's during the year of their renewal may apply additional, non-submitted CE's taken after August 1 of that year to their next renewal period.
8. LMBTs and establishment owners can verify a license is valid in NC on the Board's website under the Verify A License tab and searching by their last name or license number.
9. LMBTs and establishment owners are required to notify the Board if they know a person is: (1) practicing without a license, (2) violating the Practice Act/Rules and Regulations, (3) charged with certain criminal offenses, or (4) a defendant in a civil lawsuit related to the practice of massage and bodywork therapy.
10. LMBTs are required to display their Board-issued original license at their 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. Establishment owners are required to display their Board-issued original license and licenses of all LMBTs to be visible by the public.
11. LMBTs shall maintain documentation for each session, including the date of service, needs assessment, plan of care, observations made, and actions by the licensee.
12. All persons who provide massage and bodywork therapy services at an establishment shall be currently licensed by the Board.
13. Each LMBT shall work at a location that has an establishment license or at a location that is exempt from the establishment licensing requirement.
14. Information regarding establishment licensure is provided on the Board's website under the Establishments tab.

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NEW BOARD MEMBER

The Honorable Phil Berger, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, appointed Amy Swink of Caldwell County to the LMBT position previously held by Kim Turk. Her term began on August 18, 2023 and will end June 30, 2026.

Amy Swink:

Amy Swink has been a licensed massage and bodywork therapist in North Carolina since 2013. She ran a successful private practice for five years prior to pivoting massage therapy education. Since 2019, she has worked as the Program Coordinator for the Massage Therapy program at Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute running cohorts on both the Watauga and Caldwell campuses. Additionally, she has been the college's Director of Health Services since 2022. She earned her Associate of Arts degree and her certificate in Massage Therapy at Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute and is also a NCBTMB Approved Continuing Education Provider.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

LMBT licenses currently active	9,675
Total LMBT licenses issued through 12/31/2023.....	21,632
Total Establishment licenses issued through	
12/31/2023.....	546

NEW BOARD OFFICERS

The Board, at its June 2023 meeting, elected the following officers:

Chair – Robert Reeves

Vice Chair – Rachael Crawford

Treasurer – Kay Warren

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.

2024 BOARD MEETING DATES

February 15, 2024
April 18, 2024
June 20, 2024
August 15, 2024
October 17, 2024
December 12, 2024

Board meetings are currently being conducted via Webex but, in the future, may be held in the large conference room on the 4th floor of the GlenLake One building at 4140 ParkLake Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27612. 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.

Licensure of Establishments

The Board began the process of licensing establishments in August 2021. More than 1,300 persons have requested applications, more than 650 applications have been submitted and more than 550 licenses have been issued as of December 31, 2023.

Please be aware:

The Establishment License is for the location (site or premises) where the massage and bodywork therapy services are provided.

All persons who provide massage and bodywork therapy services at the location of the Establishment are required to be currently licensed by the Board and in good standing.

Every LMBT is required to either work at a location that has an Establishment License, or at a location that is exempt from the licensing requirement.

If an LMBT is working at an Establishment that is not licensed by the Board or exempt, the LMBT is in violation of the Practice Act and subject to disciplinary action.

If an Establishment allows non-LMBTs to provide massage and bodywork therapy services, the Establishment owners and operators are in violation of the Practice Act and subject to disciplinary action.

Every LMBT should make sure the Establishment where they work has an Establishment License issued by the Board.

If the Establishment does not have a license issued by the Board, the LMBT shall not provide massage and bodywork therapy services at the Establishment and shall report the Establishment to the Board.

NC Department of Revenue Privilege License Tax Update

Pursuant to NCGS 105-41, the NC Department of Revenue required every individual in North Carolina who practiced a profession or engaged in business to obtain from the Secretary a statewide license for the privilege of practicing a profession or engaging in the business. The Board received official notification from the NC Department of Revenue that the privilege license tax will no longer be required beginning July 1, 2024. LMBTs are no longer required to apply to the Secretary for a privilege license, or renew an existing privilege license. The last license period will be for the fiscal year, July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

CBD Oil

Many therapists and massage and bodywork therapy establishments have been calling and writing to find out if they can use or sell CBD oil in their massage and bodywork therapy practices and businesses.

It is legal to grow hemp in NC under certain parameters. In June 2022, the North Carolina Legislature passed a bill that permanently removed hemp, the crop used to produce popular CBD health products, from the state's list of controlled substances. Therefore, the use of CBD oils and products is no longer a criminal offense in North Carolina, as long as its use adheres to all state and federal standards, is derived from hemp and contains less than 0.3% THC by weight.

Hemp products, including CBD oils, have been approved for a few limited uses but they have not been approved widely, or for a wide range of uses. The Board is not aware of any statement by the Attorney General's Office, the NC Legislature, the NC Courts, nor the NC Department of Agriculture that the use of CBD oils during massage and bodywork therapy sessions is safe for the therapist or the client, particularly with long term use. Likewise, the Board is not aware of any long-range studies that say CBD oils are harmless.

LMBTs are permitted to use or sell legal products. If a LMBT chooses to use or sell CBD products in their practice, the LMBT shall follow the requirements of Rules .0502 and .0503. When using CBD products during massage and bodywork therapy sessions, LMBTs must inform the client of the nature, use and purpose of CBD products and obtain the client's written understanding and acknowledgement of such use.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE BOARD FROM JANUARY 1, 2023 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023

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

HEARINGS BEFORE THE BOARD:

William Gross - Following a hearing on February 16, 2023, regarding inappropriate sexual contact with a client during a massage and bodywork therapy session, the Board Ordered that Mr. Gross be placed on probation for two years, complete additional CE and he pay a civil penalty of \$750 and costs of \$750.

Trae Copeland - Following a hearing on April 20, 2023, regarding inappropriate sexual contact with a client during a massage and bodywork therapy session, the Board Ordered that Mr. Copeland's license be revoked and he pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$1000.

Rolando Zevallos - Following a hearing on April 20, 2023, regarding inappropriate sexual contact with a client during a massage and bodywork therapy session, the Board Ordered that Mr. Zevallos' license be revoked and he pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$1000.

Casey Bitz - Following a hearing on June 15, 2023, regarding inappropriate sexual contact with a client during a massage and bodywork therapy session, the Board Ordered that Mr. Bitz be placed on probation for six months, complete additional CE and he pay a civil penalty of \$500 and costs of \$500.

Jonathan Woolard - Following a hearing on June 15, 2023, regarding inappropriate sexual contact with a client during a massage and bodywork therapy session, the Board Ordered that Mr. Woolard's license be suspended for one year, complete additional CE and he pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$1000.

Siyang Yin - Following a hearing on June 15, 2023, regarding aiding and abetting unlicensed practice at your business, the Board Ordered that Mr. Yin's license be revoked and he pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$1000.

Idrissa Onyame - Following a hearing on August 17, 2023, for failing to ensure the safety, comfort and privacy of a client during a massage and bodywork therapy session, the Board Ordered that Mr. Onyame be placed on probation for two years, complete additional CE and he pay a civil penalty of \$500 and costs of \$500.

Gregory Whitmore - Following a hearing on August 17, 2023, regarding inappropriate sexual contact with a client during a massage and bodywork therapy session, the Board Ordered that Mr. Whitmore's license be revoked and he pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$500.

Tara Hammer - Following a hearing on October 19, 2023, regarding practicing with an expired license, the Board Ordered that Ms. Hammer's license renewal be denied, complete additional CE and she pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$500.

Kayden Wu - Following a hearing on October 19, 2023, for failing to ensure the safety, comfort and privacy of a client during a massage and bodywork therapy session, the Board Ordered that Mr. Wu be placed on probation for two years, complete additional CE and he pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$750.

Osemwegie Eghidemwivbie - Following a hearing on December 7, 2023, regarding inappropriate sexual contact with a client during a massage and bodywork therapy session, the Board Ordered that Mr. Eghidemwivbie's license be revoked and he pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$750.

CONSENT ORDERS:

Jessenia Acevedo Quintana - Prior to a hearing scheduled for February 16, 2023, Ms. Acevedo Quintana entered into a Consent Order for practicing with an expired 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.

Shelby Andrews - Prior to a hearing scheduled for February 16, 2023, Ms. Andrews entered into a Consent Order for being under the influence of an intoxicating substance wherein her license was placed on probation for two years, she complete a treatment program and she agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$500 and costs of \$250.

Tracey Antoniou - Prior to a hearing scheduled for February 16, 2023, Ms. Antoniou entered into a Consent Order for failing to deliver treatment that ensured the client's safety and comfort wherein she agreed to complete additional CE and she agreed to pay costs of \$250.

Gregory Bumbarger - Prior to a hearing scheduled for February 16, 2023, Mr. Bumbarger entered into a Consent Order for practicing with an expired 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.

Zackery Clark - Prior to a hearing scheduled for February 16, 2023, Mr. Clark entered into a Consent Order for practicing with an expired 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.

Emanuel Greasamar - Prior to a hearing scheduled for February 16, 2023, Mr. Greasamar entered into a Consent Order for failing to ensure the safety and comfort of a client during a massage and bodywork therapy session wherein he agreed to complete additional CE and he agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$750 and costs of \$750.

Jeff Grillo - Prior to a hearing scheduled for February 16, 2023, Mr. Grillo entered into a Consent Order for engaging in inappropriate conversation 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 \$500 and costs of \$500.

Tamara Dixon - Prior to a hearing scheduled for April 20, 2023, Ms. Dixon entered into a Consent Order for practicing with an expired 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.

Christian Hughes - Prior to a hearing scheduled for April 20, 2023, Mr. Hughes entered into a Consent Order for engaging in inappropriate physical contact with a client during a massage and bodywork therapy session wherein his license was surrendered and he agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$500 and costs of \$500.

Michael Johnson - Prior to a hearing scheduled for April 20, 2023, Mr. Johnson 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 surrendered and he agreed to pay costs of \$500.

Naomi Martin - Prior to a hearing scheduled for April 20, 2023, Ms. Martin entered into a Consent Order for practicing with an expired 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.

Danielle Overbey - Prior to a hearing scheduled for April 20, 2023, Ms. Overbey entered into a Consent Order for practicing with an expired license wherein she was placed on probation for one year and she agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$500.

Kasey Sigman - Prior to a hearing scheduled for April 20, 2023, Ms. Sigman entered into a Consent Order for practicing with an expired license wherein she was placed on probation for one year and she agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$750 and costs of \$300.

Daisy Thrailkill - Prior to a hearing scheduled for April 20, 2023, Ms. Thrailkill entered into a Consent Order for practicing with an expired license wherein her license was placed on probation for one year and she agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$750 and costs of \$300.

Ezra Davis - Prior to a hearing scheduled for June 15, 2023, Mr. Davis 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 surrendered and he agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$500.

David Morris - Prior to a hearing scheduled for June 15, 2023, Mr. Morris entered into a Consent Order for aiding and abetting unlicensed practice at his business wherein his license was placed on probation for two years and he agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$1000.

William Thompson - Prior to a hearing scheduled for June 15, 2023, Mr. Thompson 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 surrendered and he agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$500.

Megan Ward - Prior to a hearing scheduled for June 15, 2023, Ms. Ward entered into a Consent Order for practicing with an expired license wherein she was placed on probation for one year and she agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$500.

David Blake - Prior to a hearing scheduled for August 17, 2023, Mr. Blake entered into a Consent Order for engaging in inappropriate sexual contact with a client during a massage and bodywork therapy session wherein he surrendered his license and he agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$500 and costs of \$500.

Douglas Davis - Prior to a hearing scheduled for August 17, 2023, Mr. Davis entered into a Consent Order for engaging in inappropriate contact with a client during a massage and bodywork therapy session wherein he surrendered his license for six months and he agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$500 and costs of \$500.

Kelley Morris - Prior to a hearing scheduled for August 17, 2023, Ms. Morris entered into a Consent Order for practicing massage and bodywork therapy without a valid license wherein she was placed on probation for two years and she agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$500.

Ontonette Awosika - Prior to a hearing scheduled for October 19, 2023, Ms. Awosika entered into a Consent Order for practicing with an expired license wherein she was placed on probation for one year and she agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$500.

Kathryn Bass - Prior to a hearing scheduled for October 19, 2023, Ms. Bass entered into a Consent Order for practicing massage and bodywork therapy without a valid license wherein she was placed on probation for one year and she agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$500.

James Frith - Prior to a hearing scheduled for October 19, 2023, Mr. Frith entered into a Consent Order for engaging in inappropriate sexual contact with clients during massage and bodywork therapy sessions wherein he surrendered his license and he agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$500.

Tahj Rumely - Prior to a hearing scheduled for October 19, 2023, Mr. Rumely 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 \$500 and costs of \$500.

Amanda Whiteman - Prior to a hearing scheduled for October 19, 2023, Ms. Whiteman entered into a Consent Order for practicing massage and bodywork therapy without a valid license wherein she was placed on probation for two years and she agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$500 and costs of \$200.

Craig Williams - Prior to a hearing scheduled for October 19, 2023, Mr. Williams entered into a Consent Order for practicing with an expired license wherein he was placed on probation for one year and he agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$500.

Robert Wooten - Prior to a hearing scheduled for October 19, 2023, Mr. Wooten entered into a Consent Order for engaging in inappropriate sexual contact with clients during massage and bodywork therapy sessions wherein he surrendered his license and he agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$750.

Jamez Burke - Prior to a hearing scheduled for December 7, 2023, Mr. Burke entered into a Consent Order for engaging in inappropriate sexual contact with clients during massage and bodywork therapy sessions wherein he surrendered his license until a subsequent Order is issued by the Board.

Audrey Fogarty - Prior to a hearing scheduled for December 7, 2023, Ms. Fogarty entered into a Consent Order for practicing with an expired license wherein she was placed on probation for one year and she agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and costs of \$300.

Scott Fors - Prior to a hearing scheduled for December 7, 2023, Mr. Fors entered into a Consent Order for engaging in improper draping, inappropriate conversation and inappropriate contact with a client during a massage and bodywork therapy session wherein he surrendered his license for nine months and he agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$500 and costs of \$500.

Stephen Howe - Prior to a hearing scheduled for December 7, 2023, Mr. Howe entered into a Consent Order for practicing with an expired license and engaging in inappropriate conversation and 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 \$1000 and costs of \$500.

NOTICE OF POTENTIAL VIOLATION:

There were seventeen (17) Notices served on persons for allegedly practicing without a license or aiding and abetting unlicensed practice and eleven (11) Notices served on businesses upon information they were allowing a person to practice massage and bodywork therapy without a North Carolina license.

INDIVIDUALS:

Javon Williams.....Concord
Daisy Thrailkill.....Wilmington
Keyla Youngblood-Stilwell.....Hayesville
Shana Wyatt.....Belmont
Tabbatha Cooks.....Rutherfordton
Sirena Flower.....Winston Salem
Shena McCroskey.....Fayetteville
Tara Hammer.....Hickory
Heather Wiskes.....Matthews
Kathryn Bass.....Edenton
Angie Allison.....Charlotte
Misty Lynn Payne.....Sylva
Leah Staley.....Asheville
Johannah Flantos.....Lumberton
Colleen Soisson.....Jefferson
Michael Houston.....Winston Salem
Alan Reynolds.....Morehead City

BUSINESSES:

Coastal Massage & Spa.....Wilmington
Zen Salon and Spa.....Hayesville
The Beauty and Balance Life.....Belmont
The Spa in Rutherfordton.....Rutherfordton
Strands Salon and Spa.....Winston Salem
Glamorous Kreations.....Fayetteville
Get Me Some Green.....Matthews
Just for the Health of It.....Edenton
Ara Healing.....Charlotte
Beauty Boost Asheville.....Asheville
Shaped By Her.....Lumberton

DENIAL OF LICENSE:

The Board denied licenses to six (6) applicants. One (1) applicant was denied a license because the curriculum of the massage school they attended did not meet the Board’s minimum requirements: In Lim. One (1) applicant was denied for proficiency in English and issues at the massage school they attended: Jingyun Zhou. Four (4) applicants were denied a license due to lack of moral character: Lisa Gerdus, Steven Navarro, Stephen Oxendine and Hong Zhao.

CONDITIONAL LICENSES:

The License Standards Committee of the Board issued thirty-six (36) 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.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!

www.bmbt.org

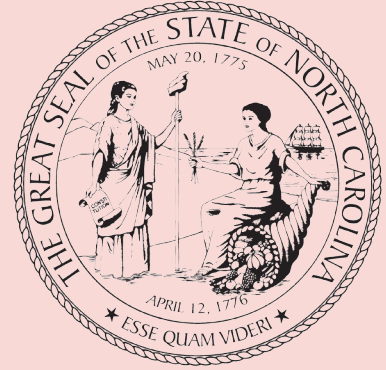
The Board Website is your Online Source for Information

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 LMBT Licensure
- Applying for Establishment 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
Advertising Requirements for LMBTs and Establishments
License Information and Application
License Renewal
Massage Therapy Schools
Name Change Form
Fee Schedule
Formal Complaint Form



Official Newsletter
NORTH CAROLINA BOARD of
MASSAGE & BODYWORK
THERAPY

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

Offices are located in the
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