



NORTH CAROLINA BOARD of MASSAGE AND BODYWORK THERAPY

4140 ParkLake Avenue
Suite 100
Raleigh, NC 27612

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

December 11, 2025; 10:00 a.m. – 2:20 p.m.; 3:00 p.m.

GlenLake One

4140 ParkLake Avenue, 4th Floor Conference Room, Raleigh, NC 27612

and

Via Conference Call

"The mission of the NCBMBT is to regulate the practice of massage and bodywork therapy in the State of North Carolina to ensure competency, and to protect the public health, safety and welfare."

TIME AND PLACE

The North Carolina Board of Massage and Bodywork Therapy met in person in Open Session on December 11, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. Members of the public attended in person and virtually via Webex.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Nancy Harrell, Ms. Tawanda Auston, Mr. Robert Reeves, Dr. Tawanda Carpenter, Ms. Laura Ford, Dr. Brian Keogh, Ms. Amy Swink and Mr. Michael Taheri

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Charles Wilkins and Mr. Ben Thompson, Legal Counsel to the Board, Ms. Elizabeth Kirk, Administrative Director and Ms. Anna Pace, Assistant Administrative Director

CHAIR

Ms. Harrell, Chair, read the statutory purpose of the Board.

RECORDING SECRETARY

Ms. Kirk

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Ms. Harrell asked if any Board member had any conflict of interest with any item on the meeting's agenda. Mr. Reeves recused himself from discussion on Southeastern College and Ms. Ford recused herself from discussion on Michael Taylor. Upon motion made by Ms. Auston, seconded by Mr. Reeves and passed unanimously, the Board approved the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion made by Mr. Taheri, seconded by Mr. Reeves, with 4 votes in favor and 2 against, the Board approved its open session minutes of October 16, 2025.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Upon motion made by Mr. Taheri, seconded by Ms. Auston and passed unanimously, the Board approved the Treasurer's Report. Upon motion made by Ms. Swink, seconded by Mr. Reeves, with 6 votes in favor and 1 against, the Board agreed to post the Treasurer's Report on the Board's website along with the previous meeting minutes.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Rules

There are no pending rules at the Rules Review Commission.

Practice Act

There are no pending amendments to the Practice Act.

Disciplinary Hearings

Mr. Wilkins informed the Board of a proposed Letter of Reprimand and proposed Consent Orders regarding: LaCentia Thompson-Freeman, Derrick Powe and Michael Taylor for failing to deliver treatment that ensured the client's safety, comfort and privacy; Kimberly Lassiter for practicing with an expired license; Arashdeep Bains, Derrick Evans, Fidel Forde and Yauheni Latyshau for engaging in inappropriate contact with a client during a massage and bodywork therapy session; Jianmei Gao for failing to disclose being disciplined by another Board in her initial application and failing to inform the Board of criminal charges for aiding and abetting prostitution and bribery.

The hearing scheduled today agreed to a proposed Consent Order.

Ms. Kirk reported:

Licensee Report

23,080 have been issued.
10,419 active licenses.

Renewal Report

There are 4,828 licensees scheduled to renew for the 2026-2027 renewal period. 568 licenses expired December 31, 2023, and can renew by December 31, 2025. 2,119 therapists have renewed. An online license renewal reminder will be sent notifying licensees that their license will expire December 31, 2025.

Establishment Report

1,779 establishments have requested an application.
897 establishments have submitted an application.
762 establishment licenses have been issued.

Establishment Renewal Report

There are 327 establishments scheduled to renew for the 2026-2027 renewal period. 137 establishments have renewed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy Committee

Mr. Reeves reported the Committee met October 13, 2025, and discussed the matters set forth in the minutes of the Committee.

Board Financials

The Committee discussed the analysis provided by Dean Dorton on the methodology for calculating civil penalties as it relates to the contract with BWST, the 2024-2025 Treasurer's report, 2025-2026 Budget, and pending payments to BWST pursuant to its current contracts with the Board. The Committee agreed to recommend the Board approve the 2024-2025 Treasurer's report and 2025-2026 Budget and that the 4th, 1st and 2nd quarter payments to BWST be processed using the same methodology as approved by the Board in past and current contracts. Any future payments to BWST will be pursuant to any subsequent contract beginning January 1, 2026. Upon motion made by Ms. Swink, seconded by Dr. Keogh, with 4 votes in favor and 2 abstentions, the Board agreed to approve the 4th quarter payment to BWST. Upon motion made, seconded and passed, with 5 in favor and 1 abstention, the Board agreed to approve the 2025-2026 Budget and 1st and 2nd quarter payments to BWST.

Discussion on Standard Operations Procedures

The Committee discussed the Standard Operations Procedures and agreed to recommend the Board not move forward with developing standard operating procedures as they were not necessary. Upon motion made by Mr. Taheri, seconded by Ms. Auston, with 4 votes in favor and 3 against, the Board agreed not to develop standard operating procedures.

Email from Sharron Rose regarding VibroAcoustic Healing Arts

The Committee reviewed an email from Sharron Rose regarding VibroAcoustic Healing Arts and VibroAcoustic Healing Arts is not within the scope of practice of massage and bodywork

therapy. Upon motion made by Ms. Swink, seconded by Dr. Keough and passed unanimously, the Board agreed with the Committee's recommendation.

Email from Jae Capel regarding yoni massage

The Committee reviewed an email from Jae Capel regarding yoni massage and agreed yoni massage is not within the scope of practice of massage and bodywork therapy but an LMBT may provide treatment in body cavities as long as the therapist is trained and competent to provide the services and the therapist's training and competence is demonstrated and documented and all services are in compliance with the Practice Act and Rules of the Board, including Rules .0508, .0509 and .0516. Upon motion made by Ms. Swink, seconded by Dr. Keough and passed unanimously, the Board agreed with the Committee's recommendation.

Email from Melissa Cope regarding stretch

The Committee reviewed an email from Melissa Cope regarding stretch and agreed it is not within the scope of practice as defined in the NC Massage and Bodywork Therapy Practice Act for a LMBT to practice or teach stretching at the therapist's place of business or to instruct a client stretching to do at home. An LMBT may provide passive or active stretching within the normal anatomical range of movement. Upon motion made by Ms. Swink, seconded by Dr. Keough and passed unanimously, the Board agreed it is not within the scope of practice as defined in the NC Massage and Bodywork Therapy Practice Act for an LMBT to instruct a client on whether or how to do stretching at home. An LMBT may provide passive or active stretching within the normal anatomical range of movement.

License Standards Committee

No written report.

School Approval Committee

Dr. Carpenter reported the Committee met December 3, 2025, and discussed the matters set forth in the minutes of the Committee.

M&M Consulting

Mary Johnson, a principal in M&M Consulting, reviewed M&M's history with the Board, as well as the services and processes M&M provides, including new school applications, school renewals and approvals, site visits, and other assistance.

Review curriculum changes for Gwinnett College

The Committee reviewed and recommended approval of curriculum changes for Gwinnett College. Upon motion made by Ms. Swink, seconded by Mr. Reeves and passed unanimously, the Board approved curriculum changes for Gwinnett College.

Review M&M Consulting Site Visit Summaries:

1. Institute for Massage and Bodywork Therapy
The Committee reviewed and approved the site visit summary for Institute for Massage and Bodywork Therapy.

2. NC School of Advanced Bodywork

The Committee reviewed and approved the site visit summary for NC School of Advanced Bodywork.

Southeastern College

1. Review M&M Consulting Comprehensive Attendance Audit Report

The Committee reviewed and approved the comprehensive attendance audit report.

2. Discuss Action Plan & future requirements

The Committee discussed the action plan and agreed to recommend that the school no longer remain on the action plan but it will be required to renew annually.

Upon motion made by Mr. Taheri, seconded by Ms. Swink and passed unanimously, the Board agreed that Southeastern College shall no longer remain on the action plan but will be required to renew annually. Board staff agreed to send the school a letter with the recommendation along with its attendance audit report and invoice.

Communications Committee

Ms. Ford reported the Committee met December 2, 2025, and discussed the matters set forth in the minutes of the Committee.

Use of social media

The Committee reviewed and discussed 12 draft posts for the Board's Facebook page. Upon motion made by Mr. Reeves, seconded by Ms. Swink and passed unanimously, the Board agreed to accept the questions as written and to add a link to the website in #3. Upon motion made by Mr. Reeves, seconded by Dr. Carpenter and passed unanimously, the Board agreed to review a mock Facebook page before it would "go live."

Contract Committee

Ms. Harrell reported the Committee discussed the RFP process and determined RFPs were not necessary for its review of the Board's contracts, except the contract with the Board's auditors. The Committee also reviewed NCGS 114-9.4 and 114.2.3 and discussed whether the statutes applied to the Board's contract with BWST. Ms. Harrell reported she contacted the Attorney General's office at the request of the Committee to ask that it render an opinion on whether NCGS 114-9.4 or 114.2.3 is applicable to BWST's contract with the Board.

Ms. Harrell reported that at the request of the Contract Committee, the term of the proposed contract with BWST had been reduced from 5 years to 3 years and, since Ms. Harrell had requested an opinion from the Attorney General about N.C.G.S. 114-2.3 or 114-9.4, a provision had been added to the contract to provide: "This contract will be renegotiated should N.C.G.S. 114-2.3 or 114-9.4 apply to its terms and may be amended upon mutual consent of both parties."

Ms. Harrell also reported that the Committee had reviewed the amended proposed contract with BWST and agreed to recommend to the Board that it enter into the proposed contract with BWST beginning

January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2029. The amended proposed contract was provided to the Board in its meeting materials for review and discussion.

Following discussion, upon motion made by Mr. Taheri, seconded by Mr. Reeves with 4 votes in favor and 3 against, the Board agreed to the contract with BWST from January 1, 2026, until December 31, 2029.

Upon motion made by Mr. Reeves, seconded by Ms. Auston and passed unanimously, the Board agreed that the committee share access to its meeting minutes in its Dropbox folder with Board members. Upon motion made by Mr. Taheri, seconded by Mr. Reeves with 5 votes in favor and 1 abstention, the Board agreed to keep the Contract Committee meeting minutes confidential among Board members.

The Board further discussed reviewing North Carolina law on the requirements of an RFP process. Upon motion made by Mr. Taheri, seconded by Mr. Reeves and passed unanimously, the Board agreed to investigate whether an RFP is a requirement of North Carolina law for any future Board contracts.

OLD BUSINESS

NC General Assembly Proposed Laws Affecting Licensing Boards

Mr. Wilkins informed the Board as previously stated that there are bills pending in the North Carolina General Assembly that may affect the Board.

CLEAR November 2025 Update

The Board reviewed an email dated November 25, 2025, regarding the November 2025 Update.

FSMTB

a. November and December In Touch

The Board reviewed emails dated November 3, 2025, and December 1, 2025, respectively, regarding the November and December In Touch newsletters.

b. Important Notice from President

The Board reviewed an email dated October 31, 2025 regarding an important notice from the FSMTB President regarding proposed changes to the IMpact model legislation.

c. IMpact Update

The Board reviewed an email dated November 12, 2025 regarding an update regarding recent developments related to IMpact.

Response from Josiane Wiggins regarding moxibustion

The Board reviewed and approved the response from Ms. Kirk to Ms. Wiggins regarding moxibustion.

Response from Robin McCarty regarding tuning forks

The Board reviewed and approved the response from Ms. Kirk to Ms. McCarty regarding tuning forks.

Response from Ashley Bradshaw regarding microcurrent therapy

The Board reviewed and approved the response from Ms. Kirk to Ms. Bradshaw regarding microcurrent therapy.

Response from Henry Helton regarding taking the MBLEx in Spanish

The Board reviewed and approved the response from Ms. Kirk to Mr. Helton regarding taking the MBLEx in Spanish.

Response from Katie Snyder regarding spinal flow technique

The Board reviewed and approved the response from Ms. Kirk to Ms. Snyder regarding spinal flow technique.

Response from Tricia Paxton regarding various modalities

The Board reviewed and approved the response from Ms. Kirk to Ms. Paxton regarding various modalities.

Response from Kristen Vargo regarding CEs

The Board reviewed and approved the response from Ms. Kirk to Ms. Vargo regarding CEs.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were seven verbal comments from the public.

CLOSED SESSION

Upon motion made, seconded, and passed, and pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(1), (3) and (7) as well as NCGS 143-318.18(6), the Board went into Closed Session on December 11, 2025, at 2:20 p.m.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to Open Session on December 11, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.

LaCentia Thompson-Freeman

Ms. Harrell reported Ms. Thompson-Freeman's Letter of Reprimand was approved.

Arashdeep Bains

Ms. Harrell reported Mr. Bains' Consent Order was approved.

Derrick Evans

Ms. Harrell reported Mr. Evans' Consent Order was approved.

Fidel Forde

Ms. Harrell reported Mr. Forde's Consent Order was approved.

Jianmei Gao

Ms. Harrell reported Ms. Gao's Consent Order was approved.

Kimberly Lassiter

Ms. Harrell reported Ms. Lassiter's Consent Order was approved.

Derrick Powe

Ms. Harrell reported Mr. Powe's Consent Order was approved.

Michael Taylor

Ms. Harrell reported Mr. Taylor's Consent Order was approved.

Yauheni Latyshau

Ms. Harrell reported Mr. Latyshau's Consent Order was approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made, seconded and passed, the December 11, 2025, meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Ms. Nancy Harrell, Chair

Mr. Robert Reeves, Treasurer

NCBMBT
Treasurer's Report
 July 2025 through January 2026

Cash Basis

	Jul '25 - Jan 26	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Income			
Civil Penalties	11,700.00	20,000.00	-8,300.00
Disciplinary Costs	15,647.16	15,000.00	647.16
Est. Application Fees	2,860.00	4,000.00	-1,140.00
Est. Duplicate Certificate	75.00	100.00	-25.00
Est. Initial License Fees	9,900.00	15,000.00	-5,100.00
Est. Late Renewal Fee	750.00	2,025.00	-1,275.00
Est. License Renewal Fee	24,400.00	25,000.00	-600.00
Income-Miscellaneous	0.00	100.00	-100.00
Interest	0.00	8,010.00	-8,010.00
LMBT Application Fees	14,460.00	25,000.00	-10,540.00
LMBT Duplicate Certificate	4,575.00	5,650.00	-1,075.00
LMBT Initial License Fees	79,050.00	135,000.00	-55,950.00
LMBT Late Renewal Fee	13,125.00	24,375.00	-11,250.00
LMBT License Renewal Fee	402,400.00	425,000.00	-22,600.00
Mailing Lists	1,200.00	3,300.00	-2,100.00
Returned Check Fee	79.00	100.00	-21.00
SBI Report Fee	23,840.00	40,000.00	-16,160.00
School Application Fee	0.00	40.00	-40.00
School Approval Fee	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00
School Renewal Fee	0.00	8,000.00	-8,000.00
School Site Visit Fee	3,000.00	9,000.00	-6,000.00
Verification of Credentials	2,460.00	4,300.00	-1,840.00
Total Income	611,521.16	771,000.00	-159,478.84
Gross Profit	611,521.16	771,000.00	-159,478.84
Expense			
Accounting	11,000.00	11,000.00	0.00
Board Per Diem	4,350.00	8,000.00	-3,650.00
Board Subsistence	1,433.52	10,000.00	-8,566.48
Board/Committee Meeting Expense	803.23	1,000.00	-196.77
Civil Penalties Remitted	5,600.00	16,000.00	-10,400.00
Computer Services	4,225.37	20,000.00	-15,774.63
Copies/postage/fax	9,207.28	15,000.00	-5,792.72
Expense-Miscellaneous	686.71	100.00	586.71
Hearings/Investigations	22,870.60	50,000.00	-27,129.40
Internet Services	375.75	1,000.00	-624.25
Membership Dues	0.00	3,100.00	-3,100.00
Merchant Fees	18,002.17	37,533.00	-19,530.83
Office supplies	751.40	2,000.00	-1,248.60
Printing/Binding	11,406.73	15,000.00	-3,593.27
Professional Services	236,583.50	473,167.00	-236,583.50
SBI Report Payment	23,750.00	38,000.00	-14,250.00
School Approval Assistance	0.00	10,000.00	-10,000.00
School Consulting Fee	21,837.30	50,000.00	-28,162.70
Seminars/Training	0.00	4,000.00	-4,000.00
Special Legal	12,450.00	40,000.00	-27,550.00
Telephone	1,225.00	2,100.00	-875.00
Travel/Parking/Mileage	2,667.70	7,000.00	-4,332.30
Total Expense	389,226.26	814,000.00	-424,773.74
Net Income	222,294.90	-43,000.00	265,294.90