



# **NORTH CAROLINA BOARD of MASSAGE AND BODYWORK THERAPY**

4140 ParkLake Avenue  
Suite 100  
Raleigh, NC 27612

## **OPEN SESSION MINUTES**

*February 12, 2026; 10:00 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.; 3:45 p.m.*

**GlenLake One**

**4140 ParkLake Avenue, 4<sup>th</sup> 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 February 12, 2026, 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, Ms. Amy Swink and Mr. Michael Taheri

### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Dr. Brian Keogh

### **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 and reminded Board members of the Board Member Code of Conduct and Meeting Procedures.

### **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. Ms. Carpenter recused herself from discussion on LaVida Massage and Mr. Reeves recused himself from discussion on Anthony Collareta and LaVida Massage. Upon motion made by Mr. Reeves, seconded Ms. Auston and passed unanimously, the Board approved the agenda.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon motion made by Mr. Reeves, seconded by Ms. Auston and passed unanimously, the Board approved its open session minutes of December 11, 2025.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Upon motion made by Ms. Swink, seconded by Ms. Auston and passed unanimously, the Board approved the Treasurer's Report.

## **2024-2025 FINANCIAL AUDIT**

Upon motion made by Ms. Auston, seconded by Mr. Taheri and passed unanimously, the 2024-2025 Financial Audit was reviewed and approved as presented.

## **PENDING LITIGATION**

### **1. Laura Ford & Kay Warren v. NCBMBT**

Mr. Thompson informed the Board that Ms. Ford and Ms. Warren have filed a lawsuit against the Board seeking to declare the Board's contract with Broughton, Wilkins, Sugg & Thompson, PLLC null and void.

## **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 proposed Consent Orders regarding: Anthony Collareta for failing to notify the Board of criminal charges; Phillip Jarman for failing to deliver treatment that ensured the client's safety, comfort and privacy, failing to assess the needs of the client and inform and receive informed consent and engaging in inappropriate contact with the client; John Leonard for engaging in inappropriate sexual contact with a client during a massage and bodywork therapy session; Lianyi Qin and LaVida Massage Ballantyne for aiding and abetting

unlicensed persons to provide massage and bodywork therapy services at the business; Bethany Ross and Shalmeen Sommerville for practicing with an expired license.

There is one hearing scheduled today for Qiuying Liang. The other hearing scheduled today for Barry Stewart was postponed to the April meeting.

Ms. Kirk reported:

### **Licensee Report**

23,183 have been issued.  
9,644 active licenses.

### **Renewal Report**

There were 4,828 licensees scheduled to renew for the 2026-2027 renewal period. 4,005 therapists have renewed. An online license renewal reminder was sent on December 15, 2025 and an expired license notice was sent on January 2, 2026.

### **Establishment Report**

1,817 establishments have requested an application.  
912 establishments have submitted an application.  
774 establishment licenses have been issued.

### **Establishment Renewal Report**

There were 327 establishments scheduled to renew for the 2026-2027 renewal period. 244 establishments have renewed.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Policy Committee**

Mr. Reeves reported the Committee met February 9, 2026, and discussed the matters set forth in the minutes of the Committee.

#### **Email from Melissa Cope regarding stretch**

The Committee reviewed an email from Melissa Cope regarding stretch, the Board's decision following its December meeting, additional information on the issue, including that "educational...purposes" language is in the scope of practice, and agreed to discuss the issue with the full Board at its February meeting. Upon motion made by Ms. Harrell, seconded by Mr. Reeves, with 4 votes in favor and 2 against, the Board agreed it is within the scope of practice as defined in the NC Massage and Bodywork Therapy Practice Act NCGS 90-622(3) for a licensed massage and bodywork therapist (LMBT) to practice or teach stretching at the therapist's place of business or to recommend stretches to a client to do at home. The LMBT shall be trained and competent to provide, teach and recommend stretching and such competence shall be

demonstrated and documented. A LMBT may provide passive or active stretching within the normal anatomical range of movement NCGS 90-622(3)(a).

### **Canceled Board meetings due to lack of a quorum**

The Committee discussed the recent Board meetings that were cancelled for lack of a quorum. The Committee reviewed the Board's Meeting Procedures regarding members attendance and voting. The Committee agreed to recommend to the Board that the Meeting Procedures be amended to allow Board members to participate in Board meetings remotely at the discretion of the Board Chair (Rule 20) and to clarify voting on motions (Rule 13). Upon motion made by Ms. Auston, seconded by Mr. Reeves and passed unanimously, the Board agreed to amend Rule 20 of the Meeting Procedures to allow Board members to attend no more than two meetings remotely a year so long as the members who attend remotely have adequate technology so they can be seen and heard at all times and can attend Closed Session in a private location. Upon motion made by Mr. Reeves, seconded by Mr. Taheri and passed unanimously, the Board agreed to amend Rule 13 of the Meeting Procedures to clarify voting on motions.

### **License Standards Committee**

No written report.

### **School Approval Committee**

No written report.

### **Communications Committee**

The Board reviewed and discussed a mock Facebook page. Upon motion made by Ms. Ford, seconded by Ms. Swink, and passed unanimously, the Board agreed to make changes in the Board meeting so the page can go "live". Upon motion made by Ms. Swink, seconded by Mr. Taheri, and passed unanimously, the Board agreed to use the full name of the Board, North Carolina Board of Massage and Bodywork Therapy, on the page as well change the icon to NCBMBT.

### **Contract Committee**

No written report.

## **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 January 2026 Update**

The Board reviewed an email dated January 27, 2026, regarding the January 2026 Update.

### **FSMTB**

**a. January and February In Touch**

The Board reviewed emails regarding the January and February In Touch newsletters.

**b. IMpact Update**

The Board reviewed emails dated January 14, 2026 and January 22, 2026, respectively, regarding updates to IMpact.

**Response to Sharron Rose regarding VibroAcoustic Healing Arts**

The Board reviewed and approved the response from Ms. Kirk to Ms. Rose regarding VibroAcoustic Healing Arts.

**Response to Jae Capel regarding yoni massage**

The Board reviewed and approved the response from Ms. Kirk to Ms. Capel regarding yoni massage.

**NEW BUSINESS**

No new business.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were three verbal comments from the public.

**DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS**

**Qiuying Liang**

The Board conducted a disciplinary hearing regarding the denial of Ms. Qiuying Liang's application for a license.

**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 February 12, 2026, at 2:15 p.m.

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

The Board returned to Open Session on February 12, 2026, at 3:45 p.m.

**Phillip Jarman**

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

**John Leonard**

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

**Lianyi Qin**

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

**Bethany Ross**

Ms. Harrell reported Ms. Ross' Consent Order was approved.

**Shalmeen Sommerville**

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

**LaVida Massage Ballantyne**

Ms. Harrell reported LaVida Massage Ballantyne's Consent Order was approved.

**Anthony Collareta**

Ms. Harrell reported Mr. Collareta's Consent Order was approved subject to amending it to require a civil penalty of \$1000.

**Qiuying Liang**

Ms. Harrell reported the Board reviewed the evidence presented during Ms. Liang's hearing and was of the opinion that Ms. Liang engaged in practice that violated the Board's Practice Act and Rules and Regulations and she does not meet the standards to be licensed as an LMBT. The Board Ordered that Ms. Liang be denied a license.

**2025-2026 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Legal Services provided by Broughton, Wilkins, Sugg & Thompson, PLLC**

Ms. Harrell reported that the Board reviewed and approved payment to Broughton, Wilkins, Sugg & Thompson, PLLC for legal services provided in court during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of fiscal year 2025-2026.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion duly made, seconded and passed, the February 12, 2026, meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

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Ms. Nancy Harrell, Chair

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Mr. Robert Reeves, Treasurer

**NCBMBT**  
**Treasurer's Report**  
 July 2025 through March 2026

Cash Basis

	Jul '25 - Mar 26	Budget	\$ Over Budget
<b>Income</b>			
Civil Penalties	18,200.00	20,000.00	-1,800.00
Disciplinary Costs	24,480.61	15,000.00	9,480.61
Est. Application Fees	3,620.00	4,000.00	-380.00
Est. Duplicate Certificate	75.00	100.00	-25.00
Est. Initial License Fees	13,950.00	15,000.00	-1,050.00
Est. Late Renewal Fee	1,125.00	2,025.00	-900.00
Est. License Renewal Fee	24,900.00	25,000.00	-100.00
Income-Miscellaneous	0.00	100.00	-100.00
Interest	0.00	8,010.00	-8,010.00
LMBT Application Fees	17,920.00	25,000.00	-7,080.00
LMBT Duplicate Certificate	5,550.00	5,650.00	-100.00
LMBT Initial License Fees	97,950.00	135,000.00	-37,050.00
LMBT Late Renewal Fee	18,900.00	24,375.00	-5,475.00
LMBT License Renewal Fee	410,100.00	425,000.00	-14,900.00
Mailing Lists	1,500.00	3,300.00	-1,800.00
Returned Check Fee	127.00	100.00	27.00
SBI Report Fee	30,040.00	40,000.00	-9,960.00
School Application Fee	0.00	40.00	-40.00
School Approval Fee	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00
School Renewal Fee	7,000.00	8,000.00	-1,000.00
School Site Visit Fee	3,000.00	9,000.00	-6,000.00
Verification of Credentials	3,040.00	4,300.00	-1,260.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>683,477.61</b>	<b>771,000.00</b>	<b>-87,522.39</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>683,477.61</b>	<b>771,000.00</b>	<b>-87,522.39</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
Accounting	11,280.00	11,000.00	280.00
Board Per Diem	5,350.00	8,000.00	-2,650.00
Board Subsistence	2,030.14	10,000.00	-7,969.86
Board/Committee Meeting Expense	923.11	1,000.00	-76.89
Civil Penalties Remitted	15,000.00	16,000.00	-1,000.00
Computer Services	4,370.09	20,000.00	-15,629.91
Copies/postage/fax	11,762.39	15,000.00	-3,237.61
Expense-Miscellaneous	920.71	100.00	820.71
Hearings/Investigations	27,587.30	50,000.00	-22,412.70
Internet Services	501.75	1,000.00	-498.25
Membership Dues	0.00	3,100.00	-3,100.00
Merchant Fees	31,777.55	37,533.00	-5,755.45
Office supplies	2,032.71	2,000.00	32.71
Printing/Binding	11,406.73	15,000.00	-3,593.27
Professional Services	354,875.25	473,167.00	-118,291.75
SBI Report Payment	28,994.00	38,000.00	-9,006.00
School Approval Assistance	0.00	10,000.00	-10,000.00
School Consulting Fee	27,031.05	50,000.00	-22,968.95
Seminars/Training	0.00	4,000.00	-4,000.00
Special Legal	16,175.00	40,000.00	-23,825.00
Telephone	1,575.00	2,100.00	-525.00
Travel/Parking/Mileage	3,589.18	7,000.00	-3,410.82
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>557,181.96</b>	<b>814,000.00</b>	<b>-256,818.04</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>126,295.65</b>	<b>-43,000.00</b>	<b>169,295.65</b>