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# Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Occupational Licensure

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SARAH R. WILKINSON COMMISSIONER, DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE

## Board of Registration of Massage Therapy May 12, 2025 Meeting Minutes

A public meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Massage Therapy (the Board) was held remotely via video and telephone conferencing pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2022, allowing remote participation by Board members and the public.

Attending Members: Paul Andrews/Chair, Alexei Levine/Vice Chair, Pallas Hutchison, and

Kimberlee Schuler

Members Absent: Anthony Chui

Staff: Kerry Cassidy, Executive Director; Nirit Eriksson, Board Counsel

#### **Meeting Called to Order**

Remote meeting procedures – At approximately, 10:01 AM, Paul Andrews confirmed quorum via roll call which showed the following members participating via remote means; Paul Andrews, Alexei Levine, Pallas Hutchison, and Kimberlee Schuler; Paul Andrews called the meeting to order.

#### **Board Business**

- The Board reviewed the Public Session Meeting Minutes for March 10, 2025. Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented: So Moved by Kimberlee Schuler; Seconded by Pallas Hutchison
  - Paul Andrews called for a roll call vote
  - Members in favor: Paul Andrews, Alexei Levine, Pallas Hutchison, and Kimberlee Schuler
  - Members opposed: None; Motion passed
- The Board reviewed the Executive Session Meeting Minutes for March 10, 2025. Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented: So Moved by Kimberlee Schuler; Seconded by Pallas Hutchison
  - Paul Andrews called for a roll call vote
  - Members in favor: Paul Andrews, Alexei Levine, Pallas Hutchison, and Kimberlee Schuler
  - Members opposed: None; Motion passed
- The Board reviewed the Public Session Meeting Minutes for March 27, 2025. Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented: So Moved by Kimberlee Schuler; Seconded by Pallas Hutchison
  - Paul Andrews called for a roll call vote
  - Members in favor: Paul Andrews, Alexei Levine, Pallas Hutchison, and Kimberlee Schuler

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- Members opposed: None; Motion passed
- The Board reviewed the Public Session Meeting Minutes for April 17, 2025. Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented: So Moved by Pallas Hutchison; Seconded by Kimberlee Schuler
  - Paul Andrews called for a roll call vote
  - Members in favor: Paul Andrews, Alexei Levine, Pallas Hutchison, and Kimberlee Schuler
  - Members opposed: None; Motion passed
- The Board reviewed the Executive Session Meeting Minutes for April 17, 2025. Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented: So Moved by Kimberlee Schuler; Seconded by Pallas Hutchison
  - Paul Andrews called for a roll call vote
  - Members in favor: Paul Andrews, Alexei Levine, Pallas Hutchison, and Kimberlee Schuler
  - Members opposed: None; Motion passed
- FSMTB Delegates Paul Andrews announced that the Annual FSMTB meeting held in October will be in Kansas City for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Federation. Pallas Hutchison volunteered to be the delegate. Motion was made to nominate Pallas Hutchison as the delegate and to authorize her to vote on matters therein as she deems appropriate, unless specific prior board guidance has been provided; So Moved by Paul Andrews; Seconded by Kimberlee Schuler
  - Paul Andrews called for a roll call vote
  - Members in favor: Paul Andrews, Alexei Levine, Pallas Hutchison, and Kimberlee Schuler
  - Members opposed: None; Motion passed
- FSMTB Alternate Delegate- Paul Andrews explained that this year FSMTB is reimbursing for an alternate delegate. Paul stated that the experience of attending this conference is important and beneficial. Motion was made to nominate Kerry Cassidy as the alternate delegate and to authorize her to vote on matters therein as she deems appropriate, unless specific prior board guidance has been provided; So Moved by Paul Andrews; Seconded by Pallas Hutchison
  - Paul Andrews called for a roll call vote
  - Members in favor: Paul Andrews, Alexei Levine, Pallas Hutchison, and Kimberlee Schuler
  - Members opposed: None; Motion passed
- Vote for Revised Subcommittee Delegated Authority- Board Counsel noted that our regulations give our agency the ability to approve a school's course of study even for those that are located outside of Massachusetts. At times, the Executive Director has concerns about the legitimacy of schools as it pertains to the licensure process. The Subcommittee Delegated Authority that was recently voted on in January has been updated to allow the Subcommittee to review and make final determinations as to such schools. Motion was made to accept the revised Subcommittee Delegated Authority as presented; So Moved by Alexei Levine; Seconded by Pallas Hutchison
  - Paul Andrews called for a roll call vote
  - Members in favor: Paul Andrews, Alexei Levine, Pallas Hutchison, and Kimberlee Schuler
  - Members opposed: None; Motion passed
- Review/Discussion/Vote: Proposed Revisions to Massage Therapy Regulation-Paul Andrews stated that although the agenda includes the opportunity to vote, the Board should have time to review the proposed regulations and allow stakeholders time to comment. Board Counsel explained that the proposed regulations have now gone through the internal review process. Once the Board votes on the regulations, the process

moving forward will include public notice and a public hearing. The documents in the packet were reviewed and a summary was provided of changes compared to the previously voted-on set of proposed regulations.

#### **Other Board Business**

#### **Curriculum Review**

- Program Renewal The Massage School- Tabled
- Program Renewal Shang Shung Institute of America Tabled
- Program Renewal The New England School of Therapeutics After a brief discussion, Paul Andrews stated that the Business and Ethics courses should include information regarding state regulations and jurisprudence. Motion was made to approve the curriculum providing those revisions are made; So Moved by Alexei Levine; Seconded by Pallas Hutchison
  - Paul Andrews called for a roll call vote
  - Members in favor: Paul Andrews, Alexei Levine, Pallas Hutchison, and Kimberlee Schuler
  - Members opposed: None; Motion passed
- Tri-County Vocational Technical School- Bob Foley, Director of Post-Secondary, Continuing, and Adult Education, was available to answer questions. Paul Andrews clarified that this program is only for students that are over the age of 18 and that should be defined in the curriculum. Other suggestions were to update language to state licensed massage establishment rather than salon, the table should be updated to include massage therapy or be removed, the time allotted for massage theory & technique doesn't appear to be equal to other courses. Motion was made to approve the curriculum with the instructions provided; So Moved by Alexei Levine; Seconded by Pallas Hutchison
  - Paul Andrews called for a roll call vote
  - Members in favor: Paul Andrews, Alexei Levine, Pallas Hutchison, and Kimberlee Schuler
  - Members opposed: None; Motion passed

#### **Executive Director Report**

- Kerry Cassidy directed the Board to the letter in the packet from AMTA to Governor Healey regarding regulatory changes.
- Kerry Cassidy attended the FSMTB Massage Board Executive Summit in April. Ms. Cassidy stated that there were presentations on human trafficking, Impact, the CE Registry, as well as panel discussions. These conversations and the networking opportunities help to develop relationships and enhance the learning experience.
- Updated licensure numbers were also presented for individual massage therapists and establishments. It was also noted that delays in applications are due to missing documentation and CORI issues.

#### **Board Counsel Report**

• None

#### **Compliance Monitoring**

• 2024-000343-IT-ENF -Zixiu Zhou- Roxy Rocker, the proposed compliance monitor candidate for Zixiu Zhou, was present. An interpreter was available to assist with translation. Paul Andrews interviewed Ms. Rocker on the requirements necessary to fulfill the position of compliance monitor and if she had reviewed the consent agreement for Ms. Zhou. Paul Andrews directed Ms. Rocker to Section 6 (e) of the consent agreement for the specifics. Ms. Rocker had questions regarding the intake and that

process. Paul Andrews confirmed with Board Counsel, that the Board could delegate authority to the Chair to assist Ms. Rocker with any outstanding questions or issues. Motion to approve Roxy Rocker as the compliance monitor and delegate authority to the Board Chair to assist Ms. Rocker; So Moved by Alexei Levine; Seconded by Pallas Hutchison

- Paul Andrews called for a roll call vote
- Members in favor: Paul Andrews, Alexei Levine, Pallas Hutchison, and Kimberlee Schuler
- Members opposed: None; Motion passed

#### Discuss other matters not reasonably anticipated within 48 hours in advance of meeting.

• Paul Andrews stated that he has been made aware of issues with licenses being charged late fees for renewals due to the recent move. Kerry Cassidy to check with administration regarding any process for resolution.

At 11:17 a.m., Kimberlee Schuler moved to exit Public Session and enter into Executive Session pursuant to G. L. c. 30A, §21(a) (1) for the purpose of reviewing reputation or character rather than professional competence, and to enter Closed Session pursuant to G. L c. 112, § 65C for the purpose of conducting investigatory and settlement conferences, and pursuant to G. L. c. 30A, § 18, ¶ 5(d) for the purpose of conducting adjudicatory conferences; So Moved by Kimberlee Schuler; Seconded by Pallas Hutchison

- Paul Andrews called for a roll call vote
- Members in favor: Paul Andrews, Alexei Levine, Pallas Hutchison, and Kimberlee Schuler
- Members opposed: None; Motion passed

#### The Board took the following actions during closed session:

- 2025-000087-IT-ENF Refer to Prosecution
- 2025-000070-IT-ENF Tabled
- 2025-000069-IT-ENF Tabled
- 2025-000023-IT-ENF Tabled
- 2024-000619-IT-ENF Tabled
- 2025-000140-IT-ENF Tabled
- 2025-000027-IT-ENF Tabled

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:53 PM; So Moved by Pallas Hutchison; Seconded by Kimberlee Schuler

- Paul Andrews called for a roll call vote
- Members in favor: Paul Andrews, Alexei Levine, Pallas Hutchison, and Kimberlee Schuler
- Members opposed: None, Motion passed

Respectfully Submitted,

<u>Kerry Cassidy</u> Kerry Cassidy

**Executive Director** 

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Paul Andrews Board Chair

### **List of Documents Used in the Public Meeting:**

MT Public Agenda

MT Public Meeting Minutes 03.10.2025

MT Executive Meeting Minutes 03.10.2025

MT Public Meeting Minutes 03.27.2025

MT Public Meeting Minutes 04.17.2025

MT Executive Meeting Minutes 04.17.2025

Revised Language for Board Subcommittee Delegated Authority

Proposed Revisions to Massage Therapy Regulations

Curriculum for The Massage School

Curriculum for Shang Shung Institute of America

Curriculum for The New England School of Therapeutics

Curriculum for Tri-County Vocational Technical School

AMTA Letter to Governor Healey

Updated Licensing and Application Document

2020-000863-IT-ENF – Zixiu Zhou Consent Agreement

Zixiu Zhou CEU Certificates and Transcript

Resume for Roxy Rocker