

Board of Registration of Massage Therapy
August 14, 2017, Public Session Meeting Minutes
Location: 436 Dwight St., Springfield, MA 01103, Room 305

Present:

Board members:

Paul Andrews, Board Chair
Alexei Levine, Vice Chair
Sheri Sarmiento, Board Secretary
Matthew Olds, Board Member
Jennie Pelletier, Board Member

DPL Staff:

Ana Garcia, Executive Director
Peter Kelley, Board Counsel
Joanne Termine, Board Administrator
Shawn Croke, Board Investigator

Board members not present:

Ann Marie Kennedy, Board Member

Item 1) 10:16 a.m. Meeting called to order:

Housekeeping and Evacuation Procedure – Executive Director detailed the evacuation plan to be followed in the event of an emergency. Do not use the elevators, exit down the stairwell to Tyler St.

Item 2) 10:17 a.m. Board Meeting Business:

- **Public Minutes (July)** – Motion made by Mr. Olds to accept the Public Minutes with corrections for July 10, 2017, seconded by Ms. Pelletier. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Executive Minutes (July)** – Motion made by Ms. Pelletier to accept the Executive Minutes for July 10, 2017, seconded by Mr. Levine. Motion passed unanimously.

At 10:40 a.m. Mr. Levine recused himself and exit the meeting room.

Item 3) 10:22 a.m. Application Review:

- **2017-118-MT-MF-APP & 2017-118-MT-MF-APP** - The massage therapist noted on the application that she is no longer working at both locations for application as a licensed establishment. The corporate office acknowledged that they will not be able to hire therapist until the fall. Mr. Levine made a motion to keep the applications open for 180 days and invite the therapist hired to a Board meeting, Mr. Olds seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- **2017-132-MT-MF-APP** – The inspector report states that the owner could not be reached despite multiple attempts. Mr. Croke stated that the owner works out of her home and has always been responsive and perhaps we should give her more time to respond. Ms. Pelletier

made a motion to hold open the application pending further attempts, Mr. Levine seconded, motion passed unanimously. The Board also requested to have Assistant Chief to attend a meeting to inquire about the procedure for contacting applicants.

Item 4) 10:41 a.m. Curriculum Review:

Present for the Curriculum Review of Shang Shung Institute were Attorney Kate Cook, Instructor Phuntsog Wagmo and Student Adam Okerblom.

Mr. Andrews asked Instructor Wagmo to describe Kunye Massage. She stated that you apply oil and rub like a deep tissue massage. Mr. Andrews asked her to describe what a Kunye massage would be like. Ms. Wagmo described the parts of the Kunye massage. The first part is the environment; the person giving the massage must be healthy, calm and clean. Once the person is on the table the massage is divided into four parts, the first part is draping, the second is applying the oil, the third part is rubbing the body to absorb the oil and create heat for the body, and then the massaging of the body. She described how they work on the body starting with the person face down and then turning over.

Mr. Andrews asked if during training if students are trained in emotional or energy work. Ms. Wagmo stated that Tibetan medicine is prohibited from doing energy work. Kunye it is based on anatomy. She acknowledged that the vocabulary and terminology is different.

Mr. Andrews asked Mr. Okerblom if Kunye fits into our definition of massage and not energy work. Mr. Okerblom stated that he began the program in 2001. He received his MA license and has worked professionally in two states. He stated that they worked on standard body massage techniques, different positions, oil massage, effleurage and deep tissue, petrissage. He stated that Kunye starts with relaxation and moves into deep tissue and joint mobilization. They use hot oils and steam therapy.

Mr. Andrews asked about energy work. Mr. Okerblom stated that there is nothing about energy work, it is not part of the curriculum. He offered that energy work is Chinese medicine.

Mr. Andrews asked about the diagnostic procedure of urinalysis observation in the literature. Mr. Okerblom stated that the school has different Tibetan medicine classes. Mr. Okerblom stated that he has a four year degree from the school. Mr. Andrews also inquired about the diagnostic procedures for pulse taking that is in the literature. Mr. Okerblom stated that these classes are post basic massage certification classes.

After a brief discussion Ms. Pelletier made a motion to approve the curriculum for Shang Shung because Kunye fits into our definition of massage, Mr. Olds seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Levine recused from the discussion.

Item 5) 11:16 a.m. Candidate Interviews: [Executive Session – closed pursuant to G.L. 30A]

Mr. Olds moved to enter into Executive Session pursuant to G.L.30A §21(1) to discuss the character rather than competence of applicants for licensure. Ms. Pelletier seconded. Mr. Levine recused himself. After taking a roll call vote (all “yes”), motion passed.

Item 6) 11:45 a.m. Investigative Conference: New Case Appeals: [Closed session pursuant to MGL. C. 112 §65C]

Mr. Olds moved to exit closed executive session and enter into closed session for the purpose of conducting investigatory conferences and settlement conferences pursuant to G.L. c. 112, § 65C and quasi-judicial conferences pursuant to G.L.c. 30A, § 18(5)(d). Seconded by Ms. Pelletier, motion passed unanimously.

During investigative conference the Board voted to take the following action:

- **2016-001004-IT-ENF[HE]-Tabled**
- **2151006MT048-IT-ENF[SG]-Dismissed w/advisory**
- **20160406MT141-IT-ENF[AL] – Dismissed**

Item 7) 12:07 p.m. Final Decision & Order: [Deliberative session: closed session pursuant to G.L.30A § 18, 5 (d)]

The board reviewed cases in closed session to conduct quasi-judicial deliberations

At the end of the Quasi-Judicial session Mr. Levine moved to exit closed session to resume the open session. Ms. Pelletier seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 8) 12:09 p.m. General Board Business:

- **September and November Meeting Dates** – Mr. Andrews isn’t available for September and November meetings. It was decided to cancel the September Board meeting. The next meeting will be October 16, 2017. This will also be Ms. Pelletier and Mr. Olds last meeting.
- **FSMTB Resolutions for September Meeting** – Mr. Andrews made a motion to recuse vote for Resolution 3, Resolutions 1 & 2 were rejected as not being proper resolutions, one is more policy and the other is more of a by-law. Therefore, a no vote on Resolutions 1 & 2, Ms. Pelletier seconded, vote passed unanimously.

Item 9) 12:22 p.m. New Business/Open Session for Topics:

- Executive Director informed the Board that travel reimbursement forms are due August 31, 2017.
- Mr. Andrews inquired as to why the Board was not informed about the Bodywork bills.
- Investigator Croke informed the Board that a therapist accused of a sex crime case declined to sign a voluntary surrender of his license. The prosecutor is asking to go directly to Show/Cause. Therapist must agree to not practice until the criminal matter is disposed of.

Item 10) 12:32 p.m. Adjournment:

Ms. Pelletier moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Levine seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ana Garcia". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ana Garcia
Executive Director