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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL AFFAIRS

**F I N A L M I N U T E S**

MEETING OF:

**STATE BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY**

TIME: 10:34 A.M.

Held at

**PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

2601 North Third Street

One Penn Center, Board Room C

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110

as well as

**VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

Tuesday, August 1, 2023

State Board of Massage Therapy  
August 1, 2023

BOARD MEMBERS:

Nancy M. Porambo, MS, LMT, CNMT, NCTMB, Chair,  
Professional Member  
Arion R. Claggett, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of  
Professional and Occupational Affairs  
Linda A. Chamberlain, MS, BSN, RN, CNDLTC, Secretary  
of Health designee  
Jessica Nelson, Office of Attorney General designee  
Dana J. Douglas, LMT  
Vickiann Hicks, LMT, BCTMB, CCCA  
Jennifer A. Keth, LMT, CNC  
Imelda Alumbro Shade, LMT

BUREAU PERSONNEL:

Thomas M. Davis, Esquire, Board Counsel  
Dean F. Picarella, Esquire, Senior Counsel in Charge  
J. Karl Geschwindt, Esquire, Acting Senior Board  
Prosecutor  
Andrea L. Costello, Esquire, Board Prosecution  
Liaison  
Paul Keller, Board Administrator  
Andrew LaFratte, MPA, Deputy Policy Director,  
Department of State  
Marc Farrell, Esquire, Regulatory Counsel,  
Office of Chief Counsel, Department of State  
Michael McDonald, Policy Director, Department of  
State

State Board of Massage Therapy  
August 1, 2023

ALSO PRESENT:

Ashley Hernandez, Government Relations Specialist,  
Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards  
Camille Baughman, MA, BSed, LMT, Camille Baughman &  
Associates  
Carrie Shaley, LMT, Honor Your Body Wellness  
LeeAnne Spohn, Vice President, European Medical  
School of Massage  
Edward Portley Jr., LMT, Just This Side of Heaven  
Massage & Continuing Education for Massage  
Therapists  
Jim Earley, LMT, MBA, Advanced Certification  
Instructor, GotYourBack University  
Nina M. Kottcamp-Long, LMT, NCMT, Director of  
Holistic Health and Wellness, Harrisburg Area  
Community College  
Natalie Cook, Associate, McNees-Winter Group  
Twyla Jones, Massage Therapist, Harrisburg, PA  
Christina Huber, MT, American Massage Therapy  
Association  
Erin Haden  
Jay Becker  
Bryn Erace  
Sophia Mahoney  
Mgr.nep  
Mtmgr.danver.va

1 \*\*\*

2 State Board of Massage Therapy

3 August 1, 2023

4 \*\*\*

5 [Pursuant to Section 708(a)(5) of the Sunshine Act,  
6 at 9:00 a.m. the Board entered into Executive Session  
7 with Thomas M. Davis, Esquire, Board Counsel, for the  
8 purpose of conducting quasi-judicial deliberations  
9 and to receive advice of counsel on the matters upon  
10 which the Board would later vote. The Board  
11 commenced open session at 10:30 a.m.]

12 \*\*\*

13 The regularly scheduled meeting of the State  
14 Board of Massage Therapy was held on Tuesday, August  
15 1, 2023. Nancy M. Porambo, MS, LMT, CNMT, NCTMB,  
16 Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m.

17 \*\*\*

18 [Thomas M. Davis, Esquire, Board Counsel, noted the  
19 meeting was being recorded, and those who continued  
20 to participate were giving their consent to be  
21 recorded.

22 Mr. Davis also noted the Board entered into  
23 Executive Session prior to the Board meeting for the  
24 purpose of conducting quasi-judicial deliberations  
25 and to receive advice of counsel on the matters upon

1 which the Board would later vote.]

2 \*\*\*

3 Introduction of Board Members/Attendees

4 [Chair Porambo requested an introduction of Board  
5 members and attendees.]

6 \*\*\*

7 Appointment - Introduction

8 [Michael McDonald, Director of Policy, Pennsylvania  
9 Department of State, introduced himself and provided  
10 a brief history of his professional background. He  
11 informed everyone that the DOS Policy Office works  
12 with the Secretary of State, the Governor's Office,  
13 and the individual licensing boards and commissions  
14 to develop policies and review legislation.

15 Mr. McDonald noted working closely with Board  
16 Counsel to help review and draft regulations or  
17 implement new policies. He also noted they research  
18 what is going on in other jurisdictions and across  
19 Pennsylvania to determine what could have an impact  
20 on the licensing population or citizens of  
21 Pennsylvania.

22 Mr. McDonald encouraged the Board to reach out to  
23 him, Deputy Policy Director Andrew LaFratte, Acting  
24 Commissioner Claggett, or Board Counsel with any  
25 questions or concerns.

1           Mr. McDonald thanked Board members for their  
2 service to the licensees and citizens of the  
3 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

4           Chair Porambo thanked Mr. McDonald for the  
5 presentation. She asked Mr. McDonald to stay for the  
6 Report of Board Counsel to possibly answer some  
7 questions.]

8

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9 Report of Board Counsel

10 [Thomas M. Davis, Esquire, Board Counsel, noted prior  
11 Board discussion regarding apprenticeship programs in  
12 high schools. He stated that Act 55 of 2022 relates  
13 to both barbers and cosmetologists and allows for the  
14 study of barber and cosmetology in high schools and  
15 noted that the Board asked if the same could be done  
16 with massage therapy. He provided information from  
17 licensee Carolyn Hubert-Black at a previous meeting  
18 for the Board's review. He noted he also reached out  
19 to the Pennsylvania Department of Education with  
20 regard to this topic.

21           Mr. Davis informed Board members that he did not  
22 believe that the implementation of high school  
23 massage therapy education was something the Board  
24 could effectuate through regulations because the  
25 Barber and the Cosmetology Acts are somewhat

1 different than the Massage Therapy Act and he  
2 addressed the differences. He opined that the only  
3 way to establish a massage therapy program in high  
4 schools would be through legislation. He commented  
5 that the Board has talked about the possibility of  
6 trying to get more people interested in the  
7 profession.

8 Mr. McDonald stated the idea of apprenticeships  
9 for this licensee population had not been discussed  
10 expressly, but the policy office looked at  
11 encouraging and increasing access to programs like  
12 apprenticeships across professions to expand  
13 workforce development across the Commonwealth. He  
14 noted the possible need for a legislative change. He  
15 will follow up with colleagues at the Department of  
16 Education and explore options.

17 Chair Porambo suggested adding the topic to the  
18 next Board meeting to inform everyone of any updates.

19 Nina M. Kottcamp-Long, LMT, NCMT, Director of  
20 Holistic Health and Wellness, Harrisburg Area  
21 Community College, noted that providing massage  
22 therapy to someone under the age of 18 requires a  
23 guardian or parent to be in the room and asked how  
24 that would reflect if they were teaching and whether  
25 a change in the regulation would be required as well.

1           Chair Porambo noted there is anatomy, physiology,  
2 and pathology weaved into the cosmetology program, so  
3 it may very well be that a high school student under  
4 the age of 18 may be able to take a program from a  
5 theoretical standpoint to get the anatomy, physiology  
6 and have the practicum until after they have  
7 graduated to become an adult 18, and they can maybe  
8 attend an adult education program.

9           Edward Portley Jr., LMT, Just This Side of Heaven  
10 Massage & Continuing Education for Massage  
11 Therapists, noted being in favor of teaching massage  
12 theory in high schools.]

13

\*\*\*

14 **Regulatory Report**

15 [Thomas M. Davis, Esquire, Board Counsel, noted prior  
16 Board discussion about two proposed regulations: 16A-  
17 727 regarding licensure by endorsement and  
18 examination; and 16A-729 regarding fees.

19           Attorney Davis noted previous discussion with  
20 regard to competency, which applicants for licensure  
21 prove by achieving a passing score on the MBLEx. He  
22 stated that to obtain a license in the Commonwealth,  
23 you need to have completed a 600 hour-program and  
24 pass the national exam, which is currently the MBLEx.  
25 He noted that in years past, the Board would



1 sometimes receive applications for licensure from  
2 individuals who completed 600-hour courses and  
3 completed a national exam, but never got licensed  
4 anywhere, and supposedly never worked anywhere, but  
5 were still relying upon the national exam that they  
6 passed ten years ago to prove competency, which is  
7 perfectly acceptable under the current laws and regs.  
8 But he stated that the Board has discussed amending  
9 its regulations with regard to proving current  
10 competency, especially in light of the fact the  
11 Board's regulations, with regard to reactivation of a  
12 license after a period of more than five years, would  
13 require completion of another MBLEx.

14 Attorney Davis stated, regarding current  
15 competence and licensure by endorsement under Act 41,  
16 practice in another jurisdiction had to be proven  
17 while under a license in good standing for a period  
18 of at least two of the last five years. There had  
19 been previous discussion that, with regard to initial  
20 licensure, the Board may add something to the  
21 regulations stating that the individual applying for  
22 initial licensure by examination must have passed the  
23 MBLEx within the past five years. He stated that  
24 proposed amendment has now bounced between the  
25 General Revisions and Licensure by Endorsement under

1 Act 41 regulations in an attempt to find the most  
2 appropriate vehicle for that amendment.

3 Attorney Davis proposed removing the language  
4 from the Act 41/Endorsement regulation package and  
5 moving it back to the General Revisions regulation  
6 package, which would allow him to get it done via a  
7 different and more appropriate regulation package  
8 while simultaneously streamlining the Act  
9 41/Endorsement regulation.

10 Attorney Davis stated under Act 41, one must have  
11 current active licensure in another jurisdiction.  
12 However, when the Board receives an application from  
13 an individual who has allowed their license to  
14 expire, the Board has oftentimes been able to issue a  
15 license after review of the applicant's education and  
16 exam score. These are often individuals who passed  
17 the MBLEx or other acceptable examination 10, 15  
18 years ago. Should the Board begin accepting exam  
19 scores from only the last five years, that would make  
20 it harder for those individuals to obtain licensure.

21 Attorney Davis suggested amendment of the  
22 language slightly to say that the five-year  
23 requirement only applies to those who are trying to  
24 obtain initial licensure - those who have never held  
25 licensure anywhere else - thereby allowing the Board

1 to accept old exam scores from individuals who have  
2 been working as licensed massage therapists in other  
3 jurisdictions. Accordingly, the new five-year-rule  
4 would only apply to individuals who have never held a  
5 license in another jurisdiction.

6 He inquired if the Board would want him to  
7 continue down this road of trying to find a way to  
8 effectuate the five-year rule or does it want to  
9 continue doing what it is currently doing, which is  
10 accepting exam scores from however long ago. Board  
11 members had questions and comments, but ultimately  
12 indicated it no longer wished to add the proposed  
13 five-year rule to its regulations.

14 Attorney Davis will delete the proposed five-year  
15 rule for exam scores from both the Act 41/Endorsement  
16 regulation as well as from the General Revisions  
17 Regulation.

18 There was discussion with regard to increasing  
19 fees for PLAA repayment. The matter would be placed  
20 on the next meeting agenda.

21 \*\*\*

22 Report of Board Counsel (Continued)

23 [Thomas M. Davis, Esquire, Board Counsel, had  
24 discussion regarding the MT Annual Report and HB 1241  
25 of 2023.

1 Attorney Davis noted the MT Annual Report is an  
2 annual report that must be provided to the General  
3 Assembly. He indicated that in the past, Carolyn De  
4 Laurentis, when she was still with the prosecution  
5 department, presented the annual report for the year  
6 2022 to the Board at one of its meetings. She has now  
7 provided the Board with a full, written report.

8 He provided a few highlights of that report which  
9 noted 9,263 licensees for this Board which has  
10 dropped to 7,000-plus based on BPOA numbers. The  
11 report noted 149 cases were opened in 2022 and at the  
12 time of the report, there were 127 current open  
13 cases, 160 cases were closed in the year 2022 and the  
14 average age to close the case in days was 304.  
15 Attorney Davis indicated that 23 of those cases ended  
16 in a simple fine under Act 48, 17 individuals were  
17 suspended, in 20 cases prosecution was not warranted,  
18 and a warning letter was sent in 53 cases. Anyone  
19 wanting a copy of that report was asked to contact  
20 the Board.

21 Attorney Davis discussed the Massage  
22 Establishment Licensing Bill. He noted that House  
23 Bill 1241 of 2023 was last discussed at the June 2023  
24 meeting, and said it is the same as HB 2899 of 2022  
25 which was discussed at the November meeting. It is

1 called "Providing for the Licensure of Bodywork  
2 Facilities," and it is described as "an act providing  
3 for the licensure of bodywork facilities, imposing  
4 powers and duties on the Department of State and  
5 prescribing penalties."

6 The Board had previously discussed the bill being  
7 referred to the House Professional Licensure  
8 Committee on May 24 of 2023. He reported it was in  
9 Committee and there had not been any movement since.

10 He suggested that, should anyone wish to have input  
11 on this Bill, they should contact their local  
12 representative.

13 \*\*\*

14 Adjudications and Orders

15 MR. DAVIS:

16 Moving on to number 8. These are all  
17 matters discussed in Executive Session,  
18 so I have proposed motions for each one  
19 of these. Numbers 8, 9, and 10 are all  
20 similar.

21 Based on the Board's discussions in  
22 Executive Session, I believe the Chair  
23 would entertain a motion to approve as  
24 final the Draft Adjudication and Order  
25 in the following matters: Commonwealth

1           BPOA v. Christina Guiden, Case No. 22-  
2           72-015091; Commonwealth BPOA v. Leon  
3           Morancie, Case No. 22-72-003491;  
4           Application for Licensure as a Massage  
5           Therapist of Kathleen Barbour, Case No.  
6           22-72-012576.

7 CHAIR PORAMBO:

8           Do I have a motion?

9 MS. KETH:

10           I move.

11 MS. DOUGLAS:

12           I second the motion.

13 MR. KELLER:

14           Porambo, aye; Chamberlain, aye; Nelson,  
15           aye; Douglas, aye; Hicks, aye; Keth,  
16           aye; Alumbro Shade, aye; Strawser, aye.

17 [The motion carried unanimously.]

18   \*\*\*

19 Record for Deliberation

20 MR. DAVIS:

21           Number 11 on the Board's agenda is an  
22           Application matter.

23                           Based on the Board's discussion in  
24           Executive Session, I believe the Chair  
25           would entertain a motion to

1                   provisionally deny the Application for  
2                   Licensure as a Massage Therapist of  
3                   Essence Birch-Wilkes.

4 CHAIR PORAMBO:

5                   Do I have a motion?

6 MS. KETH:

7                   I move.

8 MS. DOUGLAS:

9                   I second the motion.

10 MR. KELLER:

11                   Porambo, aye; Chamberlain, aye; Nelson,  
12                   aye; Douglas, aye; Hicks, aye; Keth,  
13                   aye; Alumbro Shade, aye; Strawser, aye.

14 [The motion carried unanimously.]

15   \*\*\*

16 Report of Board Prosecutors

17 [Andrea L. Costello, Esquire, Board Prosecution

18 Liaison, presented the Consent Agreement for Case No.  
19 23-72-006588.]

20 MR. DAVIS:

21                   Based on the Board's discussions in  
22                   Executive Session, I believe the Chair  
23                   would accept a motion to approve the  
24                   Consent Agreement in the following  
25                   matter: Case No. 23-72-006588.

1 CHAIR PORAMBO:

2 Do I have a motion?

3 MS. KETH:

4 I support the motion.

5 MS. DOUGLAS:

6 I second the motion.

7 MR. KELLER:

8 Porambo, aye; Chamberlain, aye; Nelson,  
9 recuse; Douglas, aye; Hicks, aye; Keth,  
10 aye; Alumbro Shade, aye; Strawser, aye.

11 [The motion carried. Jessica Nelson recused herself  
12 from deliberations and voting on the motion. That is  
13 Commonwealth BPOA v. Alex Le'Chone Hairston, L.M.T.]

14 \*\*\*

15 MR. DAVIS:

16 Matters 13, 14, and 15 are all Mr.  
17 Suter's cases and tabled for this  
18 meeting.

19 \*\*\*

20 Report of Board Administrator

21 Applications

22 MR. DAVIS:

23 Number 16 on the Board's agenda. Based  
24 on the Board's discussions in Executive  
25 Session, I believe the Chair would



1 entertain a motion to approve the  
2 Application for Licensure as a Massage  
3 Therapist of Laura Dyson.

4 CHAIR PORAMBO:

5 Do I have a motion?

6 MS. KETH:

7 I move to accept it.

8 MS. DOUGLAS:

9 I second the motion.

10 MR. KELLER:

11 Porambo, aye; Chamberlain, aye; Nelson,  
12 aye; Douglas, aye; Hicks, aye; Keth,  
13 aye; Alumbro Shade, aye; Strawser, aye.

14 [The motion carried unanimously.]

15 \*\*\*

16 MR. DAVIS:

17 Moving to number 17. Based on the  
18 Board's discussions in Executive  
19 Session, I believe the Chair would  
20 entertain a motion to approve the  
21 Application for Licensure as a Massage  
22 Therapist of Kelly Middlebrook.

23 CHAIR PORAMBO:

24 Do I have a motion?

25 MS. KETH:

1 I make a motion.

2 MS. DOUGLAS:

3 I'll second the motion.

4 MR. KELLER:

5 Porambo, aye; Chamberlain, aye; Nelson,  
6 aye; Douglas, aye; Hicks, aye; Keth,  
7 aye; Alumbro Shade, aye; Strawser, aye.

8 [The motion carried unanimously.]

9 \*\*\*

10 Correspondence

11 MR. DAVIS:

12 Number 18 on the Board's agenda. Based  
13 on the Board's discussions in Executive  
14 Session, I believe the Chair would  
15 accept a motion approving the Waiver  
16 Request, for the current renewal period  
17 only, of all or part of the continuing  
18 education requirement of the following  
19 individual: Judy Winemiller.

20 CHAIR PORAMBO:

21 Do I have a motion?

22 MS. KETH:

23 I make a motion.

24 MS. DOUGLAS:

25 I'll second the motion.

1 MR. KELLER:

2 Porambo, aye; Chamberlain, aye; Nelson,  
3 aye; Douglas, aye; Hicks, aye; Keth,  
4 aye; Alumbro Shade, aye; Strawser, aye.

5 [The motion carried unanimously.]

6 \*\*\*

7 Approval of Minutes of the June 7, 2023 meeting

8 CHAIR PORAMBO:

9 Any changes to the Minutes of the June  
10 7, 2023 meeting? Hearing none, could I  
11 ask for a motion?

12 MS. KETH:

13 I make a motion.

14 MS. DOUGLAS:

15 I second the motion.

16 MR. KELLER:

17 Porambo, aye; Chamberlain, aye; Nelson,  
18 aye; Douglas, aye; Hicks, aye; Keth,  
19 aye; Alumbro Shade, abstain; Strawser,  
20 abstain.

21 [The motion carried. Imelda Alumbro Shade and Bryan  
22 Strawser abstained from voting on the motion.]

23 \*\*\*

24 Report of Acting Commissioner - No Report

25 \*\*\*

1 Report of Board Chair

2 [Nancy M. Porambo, MS, LMT, CNMT, NCTMB, Chair,  
3 announced that she would be attending the Federation  
4 of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB) Meeting in  
5 San Diego, CA, September 28-30. She noted a couple  
6 bylaws are on the table. She stated the meetings are  
7 valuable and would provide Board members with a full  
8 report.]

9

\*\*\*

10 2024 Board Meeting Dates

11 [Nancy M. Porambo, MS, LMT, CNMT, NCTMB, Chair, noted  
12 the Board will next meet on September 18, 2023,  
13 followed by November 14, 2023. The 2024 Board meeting  
14 dates are February 13, April 2, June 4, August 13,  
15 September 24, and December 3.]

16

\*\*\*

17 Adjournment

18 CHAIR PORAMBO:

19 I'd like to entertain a motion to  
20 adjourn.

21 MS. KETH:

22 I will support that motion.

23 MS. DOUGLAS:

24 Second.

25 CHAIR PORAMBO:

1 I'd like to thank everyone. Enjoy the  
2 rest of your summer. We'll see you in  
3 September.

4 \*\*\*

5 [There being no further business, the State Board of  
6 Massage Therapy Meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.]

7 \*\*\*

8

9 CERTIFICATE

10

11 I hereby certify that the foregoing summary  
12 minutes of the State Board of Massage Therapy  
13 Meeting, was reduced to writing by me or under my  
14 supervision, and that the minutes accurately  
15 summarize the substance of the State Board of Massage  
16 Therapy Meeting.

17

18

19



20

Sophia Mahoney,

21

Minute Clerk

22

Sargent's Court Reporting

23

Service, Inc.

24

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26

STATE BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY  
REFERENCE INDEX

August 1, 2023

| TIME  | AGENDA  |
|-------|---|
| 9:00  | Executive Session                             |
| 10:30 | Commence Open Session                         |
| 10:34 | Official Call to Order                        |
| 10:34 | Introduction of Board Members/Attendees       |
| 10:36 | Appointment - Michael McDonald                |
| 10:48 | Report of Board Counsel/<br>Regulatory Report |
| 11:25 | Report of Board Prosecutors                   |
| 11:26 | Report of Board Administrator                 |
| 11:28 | Correspondence                                |
| 11:29 | Approval of Minutes                           |
| 11:30 | Report of Board Chair                         |
| 11:32 | Adjournment                                   |