

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY

Open Board Meeting - Special Session

April 26, 2010

The special session of the Louisiana State Board of Massage Therapy was called to order at 1:32 PM on Monday 4/26/2010 at 12022 Plank Road, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70811.

Call to order was made by Mary Donker Syvertsen.

Roll call by the Chairman showed the following members were present: Suzanne Schwing, Keith Thompson, Julianne Menn, Pam Little. Members absent were Bruce Evans and Jan DeBenedetto.

Julianne moved to add an agenda item regarding permanent employment of Kyle Crane. Pam Little seconded the motion. All approved.

Suzanne Schwing moved to dispense with the reading of the 2/19/2010 meeting minutes. Julianne Menn seconded the motion. All approved.

Suzanne Schwing moved to accept the 2/19/2010 minutes as written. Keith Thompson seconded the motion. All approved.

Suzanne Schwing moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the 3/4/2010 and 3/19/2010 meetings. Julianne Menn seconded the motion. All approved.

Pam Little moved to approve the minutes from the 3/4/2010 and 3/19/2010 meetings as written. Keith Thompson seconded the motion. All approved.

Julianne Menn moved to hire Rhonda McManus as Executive Director of the Louisiana Board of Massage Therapy at an annual salary of \$75,000.00. Pam Little seconded the motion. Julianne reported the Executive Staff search process including LBMT website notice and Baton Rouge Advocate advertisements, as well as 5 applicant standardized interviews. The written summary of Ms. McManus's key employment history and qualifications was reviewed by all board members. A vote was called and all approved.

Julianne Menn moved to continue the employment of Kyle Crane, Executive Staff on LBMT, and Keith Thompson seconded the motion. All approved.

Julianne Menn moved to hire Leslie Hill as Executive Staff of the LBMT at an annual salary of \$65,000.00. Pam Little seconded the motion. The search process was as stated earlier. The written summary of Ms. Hill's key employment history and qualifications was reviewed by all board members. A vote was called and all approved.

Vernon Smith, member of the public, voiced concerned about education standards for instructors being decreased by the LBMT since the Board assumed responsibilities for instructor certification from the Board of Regents. Board members requested Mr. Smith to write a letter to

the Board detailing his concerns so they can be addressed appropriately. Mr. Smith agreed to do so.

The Board went into Executive Session at 2:23 pm to discuss a lawsuit regarding Billie Jo Young vs. LSBMT. Executive Session ended at 2:34 pm.

Open Session reconvened at 2:44 pm. Call to order was made by Mary Donker Syvertsen.

Roll call by the Chairman showed the following members were present: Suzanne Schwing, Keith Thompson, Julianne Menn, Pam Little. Members absent were Bruce Evans and Jan DeBenedetto.

Billy Belsom gave his report. He discussed a public records request by WWL.

Prosecutor vs. Hearing Officer roles for the LBMT were explained by Mr. Belsom. Conflict counsel should be identified and contract process initiated in the case this should be required in the future. Board members asked Mr. Belsom to provide several recommendations to be discussed at the next session.

In response to Board members' inquiries, Mr. Belsom reported that per diem is not limited to work done at Board meetings, though requirements to entitle per diem are poorly if at all defined. Policy should be determined by the Board in the coming months.

Issue with non-massage therapists charging money for provision of "massage" was discussed by the Board and legal counsel. Board members or staff should notify the appropriate DA as per Billy Belsom, as the LBMT has no jurisdiction over non-massage therapists. Our Executive Staff should open dialogue with the appropriate DA offices in case of complaint. Kyle Crane recommended creation of a Board approved form to send to the DA's office to document Board response to complaints.

Billy Belsom recommended the Board begin formal process of updating and clarifying Rules and Regulations through the Administrative Procedures Act process. Timelines should be addressed at the next meeting.

Pam Little recommended to provide a form on the LBMT website for public comment on an ongoing basis. Special forums could be held as needed.

Julianne Menn is to contact webmaster to publish minutes on the LBMT website. Mary Syvertsen recommended a FAQ for the website.

Billy Belsom voiced concern over property being removed from the LBMT office without presentation of proof of ownership. In future ownership supporting documents should be presented to staff before property is removed.

Pam Little raised discussion regarding completion of Camp Morrison's contract and his company's job performance. The Board went into Executive Session at 3:39 pm.

Executive Session ended and the Open Meeting re-convened with all prior members present at 3:57. Meeting adjourned at 4:02.