

ADVISORY BOARD ON MASSAGE THERAPY  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
February 15, 2018  
1:06 p.m.  
2401 N W 23<sup>rd</sup>, Suite 84  
Testing Center  
Oklahoma City, Ok. 73107  
Laura Grisso, Chair – Presiding

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1. Call to Order

Chair Grisso called the meeting to order

(The meeting agenda had been properly posted and agenda-ized)

2. Roll Call

**Quorum was established with roll call. The following persons answered roll call:**

1. Laura Grisso, Chair
2. Pam Matherly, Vice Chair
3. Marilyn Ihloff
4. Robert Rowe
5. Theresa Schroeder

**BOARD'S LEGAL ADVISOR**

Grant Moak

**BOARD STAFF**

Sherry Lewelling, Executive Director  
John Funderburk, Principal Assistant  
Janelle Hastings, Administrative Assistant  
Laura Bryce, Massage Therapy License Department

## VISITORS

Kanjana Davidson, Laura Hickman, Jennifer Giehll, Karen Harr, Mary Elizabeth LeBlanc, Shantelle Jennings, Susan Hawkins, Lauriann Gillette, Darla DeRosa, Kimberly Johnson, Scott Rigsbee, Nora Ann House

3. Public Comment – Opportunity for the Board to Receive Public Comment – Each speaker is limited to three minutes. Comments must be related to items listed on the agenda

Mary Elizabeth LeBlanc asked if the display of the wallet ID card would be sufficient to offer chair massages at the Capitol and Ms. Lewelling said yes that would be fine.

4. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve or Disapprove Board Meeting Minutes from December 18, 2017 Board Meeting

A motion was made by Ms. Matherly and seconded by Ms. Ihloff and Mr. Rowe to approve the Board meeting Minutes from December 18, 2017

Voting: Matherly, yes; Ihloff, yes; Rowe, yes; Schroeder, yes. Motion passed.

5. Director's Report – Sherry G. Lewelling  
Deregulation

SB1063: Ms. Lewelling did not provide a written report but wanted to give updates on legislation. She announced that SB1063, the massage therapy bill did not make it on committee's agenda for today February 15 and was rescheduled for Thursday February 22, 2018 in Room #511A, those who are able to attend in person can view a live feed from another nearby room and those who cannot attend in person can view thru a live feed via the internet. Ms. Lewelling went on to say she and Mary Elizabeth LeBlanc met with Senator Bergstrom, OBN agent Mike Snowden head of human trafficking, Doug Kimberlin with the Oklahoma City Police Departments human trafficking division who offered a lot of input and support. She said we also requested that Mr. Jordan have nothing to do with this bill on the House side. We plan to reach out to House author Tammy West and set up a meeting to visit. After it passes thru committee on Senate side, we can make amendments, there's a few things we need to adjust, then it would go to the House side, then if it passes both sides it will be sent on to Governor Fallin to sign.

SB1312 on deregulation: this bill was due to be read to the Business Commerce and Tourism committee, the chair has refused to allow this bill to be read. Ms Lewelling expressed her gratitude and pride in everyone who stepped up to fight this legislation.

SB 1174 by Kim David of the Senate: The bill called the Freedom To Work Act would allow free first time licenses for anyone 18 to 25 years of age and anyone claiming to earn less than \$30,000 per year. This would cut our revenue in half and is another way to weaken licensing agencies and make us dependent upon appropriations. Ms. Lewelling asked everyone to contact their representatives and express their opposition.

6. O.B.P.V.S; Oklahoma Board of Private Vocational Schools - Nora House, O.B.P.V.S Executive Director Scope of oversight and purpose of O.B.P.V.S for massage therapy

Ms. House has been with the agency since 2011 and is one of only 3 employees, she offered an extended overview of the O.B.P.V.S, the agency was created in the 1970's to oversee G.I. bills for veterans then expanded in the 1980's to include state accrediting, at any given time the O.B.P.V.S licenses anywhere from 125-140 schools that cover all kinds of subjects such as dog grooming, horseshoeing and vet techs, culinary arts, wellness professions like dental and medical assistant, ultra sound and massage therapy and yoga teacher training.

There are 3 basic things to be a licensed school,

- 1) are you private and not government
- 2 ) do you charge for this training
- 3) and if you charge, could someone use that training to earn part of a living?

One of the main questions is do schools adequately explain what they plan to do, so if a student doesn't get what they need then they know where to go to complain. If a school is regulated by another agency such as the Health dept or Cosmetology board or the Federal government then we defer, the exception being if a school offers other programs in addition to cosmetology. The main thing we do is enforce minimum standards, they look for a lot of documentation including catalog and enrollment agreements, facilities, financial stability, on site campus directors qualifications, Instructors, owners and solicitors are those who market the school. The main thing on instructors in general, you can be an instructor in a private vocational school with 2 of the last 7 recent years in the profession, OR a bachelors degree in field OR state or national license in the field, right now you only have to have one of the three. The school catalog has to define lotsof procedures, including refund policy.

7. Board Adjournment

Chair Grisso announced the meeting to be adjourned.

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LAURA GRISSO, CHAIR

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PAM MATHERLY, VICE CHAIR

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MARILYN IHLOFF

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ROBERT ROWE

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THERESA SCHROEDER