STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

JANET OLSZEWSKI
DIRECTOR

MICHIGAN BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 26, 2010

APPROVED MINUTES

In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, 1976, PA 267, as amended, the Michigan Board of Massage Therapy met in regular session on July 26, 2010, at the Ottawa Building, 611 W. Ottawa, Conference Room 4, Upper Level Conference Center, Lansing, Michigan.

CALL TO ORDER

Michael Ryan, Vice-Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Michael Ryan, Vice-Chairperson
Mary Ericson
Dennis Hilton-Scheffler
Jodi Kubizna
Thomas Mackowiak, Public Member
Harold Rudnianin
Amanda West, Public Member

Members Absent:

Karen Armstrong, Chairperson
Timothy Bograkos, Public Member
Tiffany Hartung, Pubic Member
Bilky Joda-Miller

Staff Present:

Bonnie Curtis, Board Secretary, Health Regulatory Division
Rae Ramsdell, Director, Health Regulatory Division
Amy Allen, Manager, Health Regulatory Division

Others Present:

Diane K. Taylor
Olha Dunbar – W.O.M.B.
Linda Pung
Sue Bibik – IME
Bruce Froelich
Bonnie Gilbea – Solspring
Kate Sebring – Solspring
Cameron Handler – Boyne Resorts
Mary Beth Holtz – Everest Institute
Sean Handler – Boyne Resorts
Dusty Fancher – Midwest
Kathy Gauthier – Irene's

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Rudnianin, seconded by Hilton-Scheffler, to approve the minutes of the June 29, 2010 meeting as presented.

MOTION PREVAILED

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Ericson, seconded by Kubizna, to approve the agenda as presented.

MOTION PREVAILED

OLD BUSINESS

DISCUSSION OF ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

Members reviewed the current draft of the administrative rules with the proposed changes. There was extensive discussion regarding prohibited conduct and client records.

Ryan recessed the meeting at 10:53 a.m.

Ryan called the meeting to order at 11:07 a.m.

DISTANCE LEARNING – MIKE RYAN

Ryan stated that it is important for the board to study the evidence related to distance learning for health professions. He reported on a study commissioned by the U.S. Department of Education related to distance learning in the health professions.

Extensive discussion followed.

NEW BUSINESS

DEPARTMENT UPDATE

No report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Froelich spoke to the issue of the intent of the Massage Therapy law with regard to distance learning and "classroom instruction" as stated in the law. He advised that he was involved in the drafting of the legislation and that it was the intent that the 500 hours of "classroom instruction" required in the law be face-to-face.

Froelich further advised that in his opinion, massage therapy is distinguished from other licensed healthcare professions in that 1) most all other licensed healthcare professions require a minimum of an associate's degree and the programs are taught in accredited schools which brings a level of oversight that many massage therapy schools do not have and 2) there is a power-imbalance in the patient-provider relationship that often exceeds what is normal with other healthcare professions in that the patient is typically lying down in a vulnerable position and mostly unclothed. Therefore, it is important to have face-to-face learning experience so that a student's potential for ethical practice can be assessed.

Bibik stated that she was involved in the development of the MBLEX exam and that it was developed with the intention of being used as a licensing exam. Therefore, an applicant to take the exam is not required to have had a specific curriculum in order to be eligible to take the exam.

Dunbar stated that she believes documentation of even simple, basic information in a client record is important for the protection of the massage therapist and for the patient. She suggested that the board look into whether a "liability waiver" would be feasible with regard to chair massage or special events. She also asked that the board consider options for distance learning.

S. Handler stated advised that the International Spa Association has a Code of Conduct and might be a good resource for language regarding prohibited conduct. He also cautioned the board to be careful of the rules developed with regard to documentation requirements in terms of being cognizant of the spa experience and preserving that. He encouraged the board to remain balanced in establishing the documentation requirements with preserving the spa experience for consumers of that. Handler further expressed his desire that the licensing process not be burdensome and encouraged the board to remain open regarding opportunities for distance learning. He suggested that the board might look at what other countries are doing in this regard.

C. Handler stated that as a massage therapist for 15 years she believes client records and documentation are important but encouraged the board to also be cognizant of the person seeking a relaxation massage and to thoughtfully consider the level of documentation required in this situation.

Gauthier advised that she was involved in the original drafting of the massage therapy law and that it was the intention that the 500 hours of classroom instruction required in the law be a face-to-face setting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on August 23, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. at the Ottawa Building, 611 W. Ottawa, Conference Room 4, Upper Level Conference Center, Lansing, Michigan.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Hilton-Scheffler, seconded by Kubizna, to adjourn the meeting at 12:04 p.m.

Michael Ryan, Vice-Chairperson

8-23-10
Date minutes approved

Bonnie Curtis, Secretary

7-26-10
Date minutes prepared