



Oregon

John Kitzhaber, MD Governor

Board of Massage Therapists

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Rules Hearing
March 6, 2015
Board Office
748 Hawthorne Ave NE
Salem, OR 97301

Attendance

Public:

None in Attendance

Board Staff:

Kate Coffey, Executive Director
Ekaette Udosenata, Policy Analyst

Kate Coffey introduced herself and procedure for the rules hearing proceeding. Meeting begins at 9am.

Coffey reads all the written comments received by the Board in regards to concerns on the proposed rules changes. Below you will find summaries of all the written comments.

Joyce Hildebrand noted that she will not support **the proposed rule changes or the new legislative concept** because, she believes these changes are not needed and would cost more for LMTs as well as place a burden on massage therapists and their clients.

Faith Johnson expressed her concerns with the **stipend increase** for board members and vice chair. **Johnson** recommended that board members should be paid only during months with board meetings and not paid at all if not in attendance.

Joan Pellett noted that she is not in support of the **proposed rules or legislative concept** as it will be costly and pose difficulties for the massage therapists who are already struggling. **Pellett** noted that the unnecessary regulation has to stop.

Jane Megard expressed her concerns with the proposed **Continuing Education** rule changes. **Megard** noted that she is discontent with the proposed rules requiring providers to be approved by the board before teaching any Continuing Education courses. **Megard** furthermore disagrees with the new CE requirement of Ethics and Communication as she believes she is a better informed practitioner.

Gary Hall believes that, the current requirements for **Continuing Education** are adequate and there is no need to increase the hours. **Hall** does not think Continuing Education Providers should register with OBMT in order to be qualified to teach CE courses. **Hall** strongly disagrees with the Ethics and Communication requirements for CE, as this is a subject matter that is taught in the massage schools. **Hall** recommends perhaps having Ethics and Communication as a requirement for new LMTS.

Karen Versteeg expressed her displeasure with the upcoming proposed rule changes. **Versteeg** noted that, simply because the board has the power to make or change rules do not mean it's a good idea. **Versteeg** also noted that after reading the OBMT mission, vision and value statement, OBMT fails on all accounts. As a government agency, dictating Ethics to the rest of LMTs is ludicrous and the board should all be ashamed of itself.

Linda Erwin noted that she has been licensed for 29 years in Oregon and does not consider it necessary to require **Ethics and Communication** as it was an integral part of LMT courses in massage school. **Erwin** noted that, should questions in regards to **Ethics and Communication** arises, she will contact the board for clarification. **Erwin** disagrees with the possible need to require **CE providers** to register with the board in order for classes to be legitimate CE courses.

Beara Edmonds expressed her concerns in regards to the possibility of changes to the **Continuing Education requirements**, requiring **CE providers** to register before they can qualify to give CE courses. **Edmonds** does not consider it necessary to take **Ethics and Communication** and believes that her time and money would be more effectively utilized in studies that support her growing tool box of techniques for working with her clients. **Edmonds** recommended that instead of requiring **Ethics and Communication** as contact hours, perhaps it could effectively be obtain as noncontact hours and does not find it necessary to increase the contact hours from what it is now.

Andrea McCullough expressed that she does not consider it necessary to take **Ethics and Communications** course for **Continuing Education** as this course were and integral part of her required training. **McCullough** believes that only those who have been out of compliance should be required to take Ethics and Communication as well as new LMTs at their first year of renewal. **McCullough** also finds difficulty with the possible need to require **CE providers to be registered** with the board before their classes would be considered legitimate CE courses. **McCullough** believes this requirement would limit the choices of trainings. **McCullough** recommend that perhaps the board should have a list of requirements for a CE provider and training so that there is more clarity about what is and isn't legitimate.

Edward Philips is concerned with the up-coming changes to the **Continuing Education requirement** that will be voted on in March requiring more Ethics and Communication is not necessary as this was an integral part of LMT courses. **Philips** feels that this should still be considered a non-contact CE option. **Philips** noted that it is important for the board to ensure that all LMTs are on the same page when it comes to Ethics and Communication issues. The board should only require those who are found to have ventured out of compliance with legal regulations, should be required to take extra Ethics and Communication contact hours, rather than all of the LMT being subjected to retake them.

Vickie Pruitt noted that she has been a massage therapist in Oregon for 19 years and does not find it necessary to take **Ethics and Communications** courses as part of continuing education every two years. **Pruitt** noted that it would behoove the board to ensure that schools offers and require Ethics and Communication. Perhaps require new LMT as part of their first CE requirement to take Ethics and Communication. **Pruitt** is also concerned with the proposed **CE changes that require CE providers to register with the board** before offering CE courses. **Pruitt** believes that having this requirement is unrealistic, time consuming and ineffective.

Coffey adjourned the meeting at 9:22am