

**Oregon Board of Massage Therapists  
Multi-Discipline Task Force  
February 4, 2011**

**Meeting Location**

East West College of the Healing Arts  
Portland, OR

**Attendance**

**Task Force Members**

Jon Grossart  
Shelly Stephenson  
Gary Vigeant  
Andrea Wiener  
Nick Chrones – Task Force Chair  
Sande Mullany  
Tina Rea  
Laura Magpali  
Todd Pennington

**OBMT:**

Kate Coffey (Executive Director)  
Melanie Morin – OBMT Board Liaison

**Guests**

Pam Pennington

Meeting called to order at 2:58

Introduction of Task Force Members and guests

The minutes were posted to Google Docs; however, there were no hard copies passed around. The task force requested that when the minutes are posted on Google Docs to send an email to the members telling them the minutes are posted. During the March meeting both the January and February 2011 minutes will be reviewed and approved.

Discussion on public records and what constitutes a public record. Kate indicated that if you are acting in the capacity of your position then it is a matter of public record.

Public Input – None

SB 454 was read and discussed. It was discussed how SB 454 revised ORS 687.031 and walked through the statute to determine the impact of SB 454. There was a question of how the fiscal impact of \$21,150 was calculated as 141 licensees seeking exemption appeared to be a larger number than was expected. Kate stated that the fiscal impact was based on an internet search of the number of people with Oregon addresses that are currently registered with those organizations that are seeking exemption. There was

discussion that LMT's can practice many modalities and that they may not seek exemption because they may also practice Swedish massage. It was discussed that it is unknown how many would continue to practice massage or choose to become exempt. In SB 454, Section (C) (i) Requires a minimum level of training, demonstration of competence and adherence to an approved scope of practice and ethical standards. It was discussed that minimum needs to be defined as it is extremely vague.

There was a concern raised regarding the Asian Organization BTA if they wanted to be included in the exemption proposed by SB 454 as this organization started as a membership group and grew to a certifying body.

There was a discussion regarding changes to SB 454. It was discussed that Section C of the bill needed additional clarification and the minimum level of training could use some additional clarity. The task force further discussed that the OBMT should have the ability to approve which professional organizations would qualify for exemption in Section C of the SB 454.

There was discussion that the State of Oregon benefits by having a delineated process for complaints and investigation of those complaints. It was discussed that SB 454 should identify what will need to occur if a complaint arises as the complaint will most likely be received by the OBMT.

There was a discussion that there needs to be distinct licensure and that current licensure allows a practitioner to perform many different modalities and this could result in serious harm to the public. An example was provided regarding Epidemiologists as they need additional training and someone not appropriately training could seriously harm someone.

There was discussion of SB 454, (j) (A) - Do not claim expressly or implicitly to be massage therapists – does it need to be there? The discussion ensued and it was pointed out that an organization would need to meet the criteria listed in (A) (B) and (C) of SB 454 in order to become exempt.

A recommendation from a task force member requested additional clarification on SB 454 because it is vague on which practices are exempt.

Discussion of how current exemptions are managed. Discussion of athletic trainers.

Discussion on the language of 687.031 (H) – No education standard of what is performed in their scope of practice. What kinds of problems and how many are exempt under ORS 687.031 H, E, and D? What is the impact to the public on those exemptions? A task force member pointed out that there is insufficient data on those exemptions and it would take a large amount of resources to gather that data.

It was stated by a task force member that professional organizations usually do not have disciplinary procedures and SB 454 does not clearly define what a disciplinary procedure for an organization should include.

A task force member asked if an LMT can change their modalities when they renew their license. Melanie Morin indicated that you can and many do not and this leads to inaccuracy in the licensee database extremely inaccurate.

**Directive 5 – Explain why or why not the current statutory framework found in ORS 687 may be unreasonably burdensome for some professions.**

Most task force members commented on Google docs regarding ORS 687.

**Directive 6 – Offer a statutory framework for the regulation or exemption of non-massage professionals who use touch, while assuring public safety.**

There was a discussion that many member organizations object to being labeled as massage therapists. A proposal of the name Oregon Board of Sematic, Body Movement, and Massage Therapists was made and discussed. Some task force members stated the board needs to change so they are not so focused on massage.

Nick proposed License Distinction – Nick recommended that there would be a distinction between certified Rolfer, Feldenkrais, Polarity, etc. Nick stated that this is needed as currently if you have a massage license and you can do anything that requires touch with the current license. There was a discussion of how many hours are required for specific practices. It was discussed that there needs to be levels and utilize the professional organizations that are currently established to set up the levels/tiers. Nick indicated that there would no longer be this “Super License” that allows you to practice all different modalities.

Nick proposed a Temporary License - Nick recommended that a six month temporary license be issued to allow therapists to work while they are meeting the Oregon education requirements. This would allow the SI and Rolfer to immediately get up to working and not taking several months to get licensed.

Nick proposed that OBMT recognize Professional Organizations and indicate on the License that they are registered with a professional organization. Nick thought that it would still require a Law and Ethics classes for licensure.

Nick proposed that the Board would work with a professional organization regarding discipline issue. Nick explained how he thought the complaint process should work. The

board would receive a complaint and notify the professional organization of the complaint, investigate the complaint and notify the professional organization of the outcome of the investigation. Nick thought that for organizations that don't have a discipline section it would still have discipline via the board office.

There was a discussion that some task force members are happy to be a LMT and are fine with the current way licensing works in Oregon.

Nick discussed the need for a portfolio review. Nick stated that the OBMT Education task force has prepared this portfolio review for submission to the board. The portfolio review contains the structure for the board office to review your portfolio in lieu of a school. i.e., you would be allowed to utilize the portfolio review for your classes and experience to allow review and possible licensure. Nick stated that the portfolio review would be for those who have practiced outside of the state and have documentation.

It was discussed that Licensed Massage Therapists can bill insurance. There was a discussion of the use of different tiers. One recommendation was a Licensed Therapeutic touch and those without professional organizations. It was discussed by some task force members that it would be better for the public if there were different tiers that are aligned with a practitioner's level of training and competence.

Motion to look at the three points of the three disciplines and Nick will write these concepts up and post it on Google Docs. and all task force members comment. It was seconded. (there was not a vote)

Assignment - Bring back to the group what your professional organization requires for education requirements.

Closed at 4:50.