

Coalition of Massage & Bodywork CE Instructors First Meeting: February 26, 2014, Raleigh, NC

In Attendance: Claire Marie Miller, Cynthia Loving, Marsha Presnell-Janette, Larry Koliha , Bethany Ward, Melissa Mosher, Mike Seufer, Kay Warren, Elizabeth Kirkland , Cathy Matlock , Dianne Willett, Sheila Alexander, Arlene Green, Larry Green, Julie Marciniak, Janice Marie Durand, Amber Keithley, Maryska Bigos, Carmen Lazenby, Christina Hagan, Tilly Little, Charles Little, Laura Landsiedel, Pat Donohue, Nancy Toner Weinberger.

Guests: Dr. Edward Preston, NC State Board Chair, Mr. Charles Wilkins, NC State Board Attorney, Kim Moore, AMTA Government Relations Representative, Cindy Rankin, AMTA-NC President, Donna Sarvello, NCBTMB CE Approved Provider Program Representative.

10 AM First Speaker- Nancy Toner Weinberger, Meeting Facilitator

Guest Introductions

Why are we meeting? To give a voice to the CE Instructors in North Carolina at a time when new decisions are being made that affect us.

Review of Timeline Events as listed on the Coalition website (www.CoalitionofMBCEInstructors.org) See the video (http://youtu.be/oUdI_NxhuDA) for details and explanations.

History and background of what is
Nationally cert therapist was original goal of NCBTMB and to require CE for renewal

NCBTMB responsible to their members
BMBT does not want an outside agency influencing their work
They were created to protect the public
Role of BMBT was in conflict with agenda of NCBTMB
NCBTMB had some rough patches of improper management...cleaning up act now
2005 Dale Atkinson memo said state boards should not be allowing 3rd parties to influence boards
FSMTB is state boards only....no outside influences

2011 NCBTMB test no longer accepted....FSMTB test is only test allowed for licensure in NC

Now CE professionals are being regulated by 3rd parties....state board is saying we should be controlling this... FSTMB should be doing this approval, task force created...MOCC was presented and went down

11/2012 had major outcry against FSTMB program
Registry suggestion then made- no real support

FSMTB has a task force that will be presenting a recommendation no details available at this time. Mr. Wilkins states 2 board members are on this task force and will be making recommendations for content and approving providers.

Need to be careful when opening law

May be adding an establishment license...which will be the time to open law and add CE changes.

Rules to changes Rules...rule making process in print on website...can't change something that is law but easier to change 90-120 days or 6 months with no controversy up to a year with issues

Guidelines/Policy can be set by board at meeting...board members vote and can be changed at that time....does go thru some committee discussion first

The value of what we teach is doesn't change
Does it protect public safety is a question the Board must ask....
Just because we can't prove it doesn't mean it does not protect public
...ongoing protection of the public...
self care and energy work...balance of these classes to what we need as CE

ensure quality....who should provide regulation

11:30AM NC State Board addresses the group

Comments by Dr. Ed Preston:

Very interested in what we have to say...

Would like access to info from this meeting to help with their discussion on this subject

Believes and committed to CE-personally enjoys his own CE to renew his medical license; Can't imagine having a professional license and not keeping it up with CE

Board has requested FSMTB; confused by response; sent second request; two of NC board members are on the task force; feels like we are represented well on this task force; Rick Rosen deeply committed to NC massage therapy-Board is paying attention to what he says.... Mentioned his proposals are "out of the box". Rick does have some good ideas.

Trying to keep best interest of public and MT's Board is hard at work in finding a solution for CE process requirements and content and approval process.

(participant comment)IACET another CE provider being held up as a possible alternative to issue certs? Medical, nursing , lots of online classes- Dr Preston-yes option is on the table

Glad NCB is adjusting to what is needed in our profession, board is watching it closely

Marsha Presnell Jennette asked about Structural Integration to be included in approved CE providers and courses.

Comments by Mr. Charles Wilkins:

Board supports CE,
Has not distinguished whether competency can be measured in the CE courses. Continuing Education is not the same as Continued competence.. MOCC focused on Continued Competence and was not accepted.

Practice Act....hard to pass 1999; movement to look at licensing boards to justify their rules done 2 years ago, now asking them to be readopted. There is a possibility of an umbrella situation to oversee Massage therapists and do away with our state board. Opening up the practice act now would be possibly dangerous. Legislature could make changes we don't want and we could be ruled by a bureaucracy rather than a board of peers.VA has combined licensing boards which limits their ability to be specialized...danger of this happening here

Board is working on licensing establishments - trying to go at it with a rules change to protect board from opening up the Practice Act Law to legislation at this time (not a good political move at this time)

There is a big issue with human trafficking in certain establishments. CE providers should make the board aware of such illegal persons in their classes. Therapists need to be able to read, write and speak English. Board questions training and license, applicants do not get licensed who are not

proficient in the English language. As providers let the Board know if we have students who cannot speak English...checking for fraud in licensing. The board is trying to crack down on illegal/fraudulent licensing by requiring interview if there is questionable documentation.

The board will not make any effort to change the 24 hours requirement. Especially doesn't want to open up the practice act. The Board's interest in CE is to protect the public by making the practitioner more competent. Self care hours, no intention to limit or eliminate that at this time

In the beginning, the NC board relied on NCB to approve CE, courses, teachers

Then board lost confidence in NCB to oversee CE, then went to Federation, asked them to develop a national program. The board was disappointed in that as well. Now task force is working on it from the Fed. Waiting to see how that works out. NCB is doing the same at this time. NC board wants some agency to come up with something viable. Board is reluctant to take that on themselves.

Recommended to look at California's laws regarding human trafficking. They are ahead on this issue.

Our board is aware of that- Arms length transaction law has helped in CA.

Approval process for CE – board is hoping to come up with something. Not going to be a quick fix, or a quick action by the board. There will be plenty of discussion. Approval process....looking for our suggestions; Rick's suggestions; Nancy's etc. in discussion, Board doesn't have all the answers or resources and is looking for help.

Mr. little – what is an establishment? – any place where MT is being performed. The establishment license would be no charge to individual therapists. A business would have to pay for such a license.

Most MT's are operating legal businesses 5 % operating without license
A Few don't renew and continue practicing hoping they don't get caught
Those operating without a license- adult entertainment?
Back page, Craigs list, XXX listings – board can't protect the public from this.
Professional cuddlers – question? Not consistent with our profession.
Tantra or trantric – practice ? sexual activity, facilitating and teaching – not consistent with LMBT.

How many people are practicing illegally? There is more illegitimate activity than legit.

I has been said that there are more illegal places than coffee houses in this country!

In some states there are inspectors. In NC there could be random inspections and also inspections when there is a complaint.

Can't regulate Adult Ent and will not...if public goes there can't protect them...they should know better.

2:15PM Address by Donna Sarvello NCTMB

...listing certification requirements for Board Certification

No longer accept CPR as CE, raised level of acceptability to 750 hours, CE requirements are: every 2 years- 24 hours, 3 hours Ethics, 3 hours research. The maximum in the Self Care category is 4 hours. Distance learning maximum is 12 hours. The maximum hours in business is 3 hours. Research is the way of the future. Research literacy courses are on line , available from Massage Therapy Foundation

Could there be a class that is more than one category? No.

Board Certification: 500 hours plus 250 of CE to come to 750 for practitioners.

Approved provider process, has changed over the years. Gathering info so that in 3 or 4 years NCB can see where providers are. We don't have the baseline of education like other professions. Each state has different meaning of core curriculum. NCB is trying to come out with core curriculum for USA - right now 625 hours. It is broken down into sections, modalities.

Coalition of organizations are all starting to work together at this time. ABMP, etc.

Experience - so much in order to be a provider - cannot regulate it this way. Now every organization has to submit all of their teachers, courses etc. every 3 years all online with a user name and password.

(nancy)complaint form for students...require info to be given to them so they can register complaint...make more avail on website...

NCB Response: There is a complaint process for students on the website NCB is looking at implementing an anonymous evaluation for students via their website.

Eval forms avail on the website can be used if you need them

Question – What's to be done with an instructor with a revoked license who is continuing to teach – how to best find out this info. When NCB revokes somebody they send it out to the states. There was supposed to be a national data base for revoked licensees and the specifics of that. Not sure who is keeping that.

Question about copyright - Someone may steal your stuff. This is a legal issue. NCB is not a legal organization. NCB can act only when someone is convicted.

Requiring research hours for re-cert to help educate MT and raise standards (participant) where are research courses listed?

On the website...online and in class available...trying to go beyond research literacy and move to actual research.

(participant) individual research case studies are valid in that someone can come in later and combine them and show patterns

Max 4 hours in self care will be accepted now by NCB, but North Carolina accepts all Self-care hours.

(participant) Please clarify 750hours

NCB response: college classes from university/college count because they are valid growth oppourtunties; CE classes and trainings from approved providers

(nancy)North Carolina Board (bmbt.org)Public page on board website to help public get info about licensees and massage and bodywork in general

(participant)new course procedures- how to get them approved

NCB Response: login to system and submit qualifications....\$25 each new course

(participant)what is the chance of NCTMB keeping the AP process instead of some new group taking over

NCB Response: Hope we can....

3:30PM Group Discussion

Can we (CE providers) have a voice in the conversations happening between these orgs that are finally communicating?

We need to go to board and let them know we are stakeholders and insist on a voice!!

We need to stand in front of the board and say how what you are teaching protects the public for each modality- From Donna Sarvello

It is suggested we create a mission statement to clarify our purpose and organize so we will have a voice- discussion led by Larry Green and Bethany Ward.

Mission...

We are concerned with Quality of CE , mentoring educators, sharing best practices, keeping educators informed, protecting integrity, influencing decision making concerning CE in North Carolina, promoting high quality CE by supporting CE providers.

Our Purpose as a group....

...To keep massage and bodywork continuing education educators informed and influence standards of CE of our profession....

Amber Keithley Forum administrator (252-290-1352)....call if problems with signing into the forum and she will help you get on there. Forum is a private place for us to discuss our views. Website is public- all can see.

Next meeting...shoot for Monday and wait to choose date after meeting tomorrow

Nancy's questions:

What should be acceptable as CE

What are requirements for a CE provider

See her Board Rules Change Proposal for her views on the website

Claire – Where do we stand as a group? Do we want NCB to continue evaluating our status as CE providers. Do we put that forward to the board or wait to react when the cards are on the table.

Kim Moore will share notes from the board meeting.

Larry – how do we get represented as CE providers at the national meetings?

Our forum is for CE instructors. What is our mission here? Who should join?

Question- What about the schools? Proposal- to allow all instructors of CE regardless of whether they are under the umbrella of a school to be a

member of our organization, but not organizations themselves- only those who actually teach CEs can be a member. Will further discuss and decide this at next meeting.

How can we be in relationship with the board as CE providers?

Marsha PJ - board has been resistant to input from practitioners. Good sign that board members were present at this gathering.

Maybe we could petition board to form a committee to represent us.

We want to be part of the conversation with the board and the policy committee regarding CE

Can we have an ad hoc committee – an advisory capacity to the board? We can all be on this – not just a few people.

Nancy will ask this of the board and follow up by thanking the board members for coming to our meeting today.

Rick Rosen – we would like a complete copy of the rules change proposal you submitted to the board. Larry Green will request this from Rick.

Our name is...

Coalition of Massage and Bodywork CE Instructors

Our mission is:

To keep North Carolina Massage & Bodywork Continuing Education instructors informed and influence the standards of continuing education.

Will further discuss and possibly refine this at next meeting. Will keep it to North Carolina for now, as expansion to other states would require funding and we are not ready for that.

Our website is www.CoalitionofMBCEInstructors.org

Our private Forum (members only) is Coalition of Massage & Bodywork CE Instructors on the ABMP sponsored Forum site

<http://www.massageprofessionals.com> . To join, become a member of the general forum (You do not need to be a member of ABMP) and then try to join the group. You will need to be approved, and then you will be on there. Amber Keithley Forum administrator (252-290-1352) will help you if you need help.

Meeting concluded at 5:15PM

Minutes prepared by Amber Keithley, Pat Donohue, and Nancy Toner Weinberger. 3/3/2014