

COALITION MEETING RSVP NEEDED – PLEASE RESPOND.

Dear colleagues,

It is a shame that we had to reschedule our January first meeting due the weather. But good news- Spring has begun, now, as my crocuses are in bloom and the hyacinths are green shoots above ground. I hope you will all be able to make it on the new date- please be sure to let me know if you have not done so already. I've placed the names of those who have confirmed that they can be there on the new date below.

The meeting date is **Wednesday February 26th**. Please let me know if you are coming to the meeting so I can plan accordingly.

Date: **Wednesday February 26th**

Time: 10AM – 6PM at the latest.

Location: Courtyard Raleigh Midtown, 1041 Wake Towne Drive, Raleigh, NC 27609

Meet and Greet: 9:30-10AM in the hotel lobby- buy your own coffee/tea at the hotel coffee bar.

10:00-10:30am	Reasons for gathering and plan for the day
10:00-11:00	Background (Summary of recent events and pertinent information)
11:00-11:10	Q&A
	Break
11:30-12:00PM	Address by the NC Board
12:00-12:30	Q&A for the Board
Lunch 12:30-2:00PM	On your own
2:00-2:50	Address by NCB; Q&A
2:50- 5PM	General discussion, break-out groups, and group reports. Address the 3 critical questions that have not yet been answered, or other pertinent issues identified by our group as a whole. Includes an afternoon break.
5:00-5:30	Purpose & Structure of this organization Communication between ourselves and with other organizations
5:30	Conclusion

The 3 critical questions (for small and large group discussions):

- 1. Why CE is essential to the ongoing protection of the public? If it is, how can we prove it?**
- 2. What is appropriate CE for massage therapists in terms of ensuring ongoing protection of the public?**
- 3. Is it possible for an approval process to provide quality assurance in CE and what would that approval process consist of- who should provide the regulation?**

Questions from Rick Rosen

1. Should continuing education be mandatory for renewal of state licensure – and is it essential for the ongoing protection of the public?
2. Given the reported inconsistencies in the instructional design and delivery of CE courses, is it even possible for an approval process to provide quality assurance?
3. Does the cost of compliance for CE providers (both in terms of time and money) bring an equal or greater benefit to the massage therapy field, and to the public at large?
4. What kind of regulatory process – if any – is needed; and which organizational entity is best suited to perform this function?

Notes from Nancy Toner Weinberger

Problem: CE Provider oversight/approval (National Approval is better for CE Providers, but is an issue for state regulatory Boards in terms of reliance on a third-party organization.)

Problem: Evaluating and Maintaining quality in CE. Consider:

1. Course content
 - a. Sub-Problem: Ethics (the deteriorating worth of courses offered.)
2. Instructor

Problem: What is appropriate continuing education for LMBTs and why?

1. Sub-Problem- Self-Care category.
2. Sub-Problem- Distance learning vs. in class learning

Problem: When does CE become non-productive for 1) protecting the public 2) professional development? (See suggested solution in Proposed Rules changes to the Board)

Problem: Non-practicing LMBTs taking CE to renew their license. Thus looking for cheap credits, could care less- do we want these folks in our classes? Illness/injury, taking care of aging parents or family members, raising children, back to school full time for a degree or other. (See suggested solution in Proposed Rules changes to the Board)

Questions for the Board

Are there any plans for re-opening the Practice Act?

If so when and for what purpose?

How would we be able to know if this is going to happen, and how can we make recommendations for law changes in synch with this action?

Is the Board considering changes to CE requirements and if so, why?

Have there been problems with CE from the Board's perspective and if so, what are they?

Have there been complaints? If so, what have been the nature of those complaints and from whom? Has any action already been taken in regard to the complaints?

Are committee meetings private or is the public allowed to attend?

Notes from Linda McCrea

What would NC state approval of CE providers address a/o add to the already rigorous process that has been maintained and updated for our required completion for nearly 20 years through our existing national approval through NCBTMB? What function and purpose would additional NC state approval serve, since we as nationally approved CE providers already conduct our approved CE classes in NC, as well as in other states?

What other states currently require additional individual state approval, and what are their documented outcomes of improved quality of instruction over that already achieved by nationally approved CE providers?

Questions for NCB

Could the NCB administer the Approved Provider Program while being responsible to the State Board, perhaps similar to the way they are doing it for NY?

How is the NY program set up? How is it funded?

Questions regarding our function as a group

Is there value in identifying ourselves as a group?

Who would comprise our group and why?

Does it serve us to meet in person like this?

Communication issues- Email; Forum; Website.

What level of organization is right for us? Could we align with another established organization, such as the Alliance?

Do we need agreement and if so, how can we know if we have it? How much agreement do we need?

Do we need funds?

What actions can we take that will make a difference?

We want a Continuing Education standard that *produces consistent results that are recognized by both the public and health professionals.* (Rick Rosen)

So far, confirmed attending:

Anita Shannon

Cat Matlock

Robert Wooton

Claire Marie Miller

Cynthia Loving

Kay Warren

Dianna Lee

Marsha Presnell-Janette

Bethany Ward

Larry Koliha

Confirmed Guests:

Charles Wilkins from the NC Board of Massage & Bodywork Therapy

Donna Sarvello from the National Certification Board for therapeutic Massage & Bodywork

Logistics notes: Amber Keithley and Pat Donohue will take minutes for us and my husband, Mike Weinberger, will video the proceedings (this will be an amateur video recording, but it will be recorded). Elizabeth Kirkland is bringing a laptop projector for presentations as needed. The room comes with wifi, so we can look things up online if we need to- feel free to bring your devices. I will have a table out front with name tags- Please take a nametag, so that I can know who attended after the meeting. There will be a box for contributions towards the cost of the room on that table also.

We have 16 people signed up for the Coalition Forum I set up on www.massagetherapists.com ; Some who have tried to sign up have met with technical problems, and tech support has not been all that helpful. All I can say is I am working on it!

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