
Please print this announcement out and bring it with you to the meeting as there will not be any handouts.

Meet-and-Greet 9:30-10AM in the hotel lobby. There is a coffee and breakfast bar there. Name Tags will be printed out.

Date: Wednesday February 26th

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

AGENDA

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
11:10-12:00	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

10AM Nancy's Talk to bring everyone up to speed as best as is possible in just an hour!

Introductions

Rules of discussion- no cursing, ranting or whining. Disagree respectfully. Listen. Someone may have a better idea than you do- so be open minded.

Plan for the day (contributions for room rental)- Name tags

Thank you for coming- acknowledgement of CE contribution to our field

Putting the issue s in perspective: The issue is not an end to CE or an end to education

Review of pertinent events since licensure-
Role of the NCBTMB; Role of the Federation

What is in the Practice Act vs what is in the rules and what is policy.

The big issue in regard to regulation right now-

In short, legislative reliance on the private sector through the enactment of statutes which specifically name examinations and/or accrediting entities over which there is no governmental oversight or public accountability undermines the foundation of the regulatory process. In addition, such delegation of authority for determinations of mandatory criteria in a licensure process is fraught with legal and practical implications.

Where the Board stands ?

Licensure is mandatory by law. You don't get to "join" or "choose". Part of state law involves CE requirements- Practice Act says 24 CE per renewal. Board must define CE and set standards for CE and for CE Providers.

Where the NCB stands (questions for Donna Sarvello) (They only have the power invested in them by their members- CE Providers were originally approved not for state boards, but for NCB membership, which was a standard used by Boards before the Federation and the MBLEs came along.)

Where the Federation stands (they only have the power invested in them by the state Boards.)

Other organizations: Alliance, AMTA, ABMP (Like the NCB- they only have power from their members.)

Major Questions that need to be answered, and that we can work on in groups this afternoon:

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?

I can give an overview of the rules change proposal I submitted to the NC Board if there is time or I can do so in the afternoon, or everyone can just read it on their own after or before the meeting:

The following section is optional:

Problems identified by 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?

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.

Proposal Submitted to the NC State Board by Nancy Toner Weinberger

Highlights:

- Allow voluntary suspension of licensure
- Set stricter course content guidelines
- Set stricter CE teacher requirements
- Hire the NCB to administer the Board's standards for course content and for CE Provider approval
- Restrict Distance Learning classes to lecture only and state such on all certificates.
- Restrict self-care classes to those directly relating to the actual content of a hands-on modality. For example: body mechanics; meditation/centering technique as part of a specific modality such as Thai massage, Cranial Sacral, and energy work; movement practices that are an integral part of a hands-on technique such as Trager Mentastics, etc. Stand-alone classes in personal development, while of great value, should not be considered continuing education in massage and bodywork. They are too general.
- Business classes should not be restricted to 3 hours, but should be restricted to those that support a private practice. Classes for running massage establishments would not be accepted.
- CE Provider Approval would require more experience, teacher training, teaching experience, and some supervision over the first 4 years as a Provider. 10 years in active practice would be required to teach Ethics.

- Should the practice act be opened, add to it: after 500 hours of approved coursework directly relating to massage and bodywork, a LMBT can apply to be released permanently from the CE renewal requirement.

11:30AM 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?

If State approval of CE is being considered, 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?

12:30 Lunch

2PM 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?

3PM Divide into 3 small groups for discussion- pick your group.

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?

5PM Discussion Summaries followed by decisions about where to go from here.

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?

Attending this meeting:

Claire Marie Miller	Chapel Hill	clairemariemiller1979@gmail.com
Cynthia J. Loving	Greensboro	cynthia@lovingscents.com
Kim with Cindy Loving	Greensboro	kim@lovingscents.com
Marsha Presnell-Janette	Raleigh	marshapj@earthlink.net
Larry Koliha	Durham	larry@rolfworld.com
Bethany Ward	Durham	bethany.ward@gmail.com
Melissa Mosher	Wilmington	whitefeatherwellness@gmail.com
Mike Seufer (with Elizabeth Kirkland)		
Kay Warren	Greensboro	kayncmmt@gmail.com

Elizabeth Kirkland	Kill Devil Hills	dermalexpert@yahoo.com
Anita Shannon	Asheville	anita@massagecupping.com
Cathy Matlock	Asheville	catmatlock@gmail.com
Dianne M. Willett	Raleigh	diannemwillett@gmail.com
Robert Wootton	Weaverville	info@thaibodywork.info
Sheila Alexander	Davidson (near Charlotte)	sheilaalex@bellsouth.net
Kimberly A Perry	Raleigh	kimperrync@gmail.com
Arlene & Larry Green	Chapel Hill	greentfh@mindspring.com
Julie Marciniak	Durham	npbt2rolf@gmail.com
Janice Marie Durand	Hillsborough	jmdchi@mindspring.com
Amber Keithley	Wilson	zoamber@gmail.com
Maryska Bigos	Durham	maryska@nc.rr.com
Carmen Lazenby	Charlotte	lazenbys@usa.net
Christina Hagan	Raleigh	Christina@HealthyStepsNC.com
Tily J Little	Washington (near Greenville)	littlekneads@suddenlink.net
Charles Little	Washington (near Greenville)	
Laura Landsiedel	Raleigh	laura@handsonhealthnc.com
Pat Donohue	Raleigh	patdonohue@nc.rr.com

Confirmed Guests:

Charles Wilkins and Dr. Ed Preston from the NC Board of Massage & Bodywork Therapy

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

Cindy Rankin and Kim Moore from the AMTA.

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. The room costs \$256.20 including tax and service charge, so \$10- \$15 should be plenty for a contribution towards that cost. If there is anything left over, I will reimburse members for their hotel room, and pay for the website domain names (\$15.34 for both .com and .org).

Forum Group: Coalition of Massage & Bodywork CE Educators

We have 18 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. Can we work this out so that I can send emails for the Forum, and we can have discussions on line there?

NC State Board meeting Thursday at 10AM downtown Raleigh.

Wells Fargo Building
150 Fayetteville Street, Suite 1900
Raleigh, NC 27601

I have been told that the CE issue is still in the Policy Committee and there will not be any substantive discussion at the Board meeting. If you would like to make a statement to the Board, you can do so formally by requesting to do so ahead of time. Usually such statements are accompanied by a written statement which you would give out to the Board members and staff when you present. There is also a public comment period at the end of the morning open session. This may be impromptu, or you may read a prepared statement. You do not have to request time before the meeting. There is a signup sheet to put your name on at the meeting.