

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION
DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION
ILLINOIS MASSAGE THERAPY LICENSING BOARD

Open Minutes

Illinois Massage Therapy Licensing Board

Date: November 6, 2023
Convened: 11:01 am
Adjourned: 12:19 pm
Location: Springfield/Chicago/WEBEX

Members Present: Michael Hovi, Chair
Lurana Bain, Member
Elizabeth Gonzalez, Member
Sandy Saldano, Member

Member(s) Absent: Kendall Alexander, Public Member
Patricia O'Shaughnessy, Member

Staff Present: Amy Fisher, DPR Board Liaison
James Koehl, DPR Board Liaison
Tafari Mahou, DPR General Counsel

Guests Present: Emmanuel Bistas, public citizen

Open Session: The Meeting was called to order at 11:01 am.
Roll Call: The Board Members present constituted a quorum of the Board.

I. Board Member Announcements/Comment Mr. Hovi welcomed everyone and asked if anyone had announcements or comments.

II. Guest Announcements/Comments Mr. Bistas introduced himself as a former Massage Licensing Board Member and Massage Therapy School owner and active massage therapist in the State of IL. Mr. Bistas presented 4 items for discussion. 1. No IDFPR or Board representation at FSMTB. What are the plans for future attendance? 2. Impact – The Interstate Massage Compact – will IL participate? 3. Regulations related to Massage Therapy Financial Aid. How will new Federal Financial Aid requirements impact the industry? 4. Licensing turn times. Discussion was held on these topics but more information is required for each before action can be taken.

III. Review of Open Minutes

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION
DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION
ILLINOIS MASSAGE THERAPY LICENSING BOARD

The Board reviewed the open minutes of the February 27, 2023, meeting. Motion was made, seconded (Saldano/ Gonzalez) to accept the open minutes. Motion passed.

IV. Old Business

V. New Business

No Old Business

Moved into Closed Session:

Motion was made, seconded (Bain/Gonzalez) to move to closed session. Motion passed. Moved to closed session at 11:22am

A. Review of Closed Minutes

Motion was made, seconded to accept closed minutes of The Board reviewed the closed minutes of the February 27, 2023, meeting.

B. The Board reviewed 2 deliberations and made recommendations.

Moved back into Open Session:

Motion made, seconded (Bain/Saldano) session and move to Open Session. Motion passed. The Board Chair adjourned the Closed Session and moved the meeting back into Open Session at 11:59 am.

Motion was made, seconded (Saldano/Gonzalez) to approve the closed minutes of the February 27, 2023, meeting as presented. Motion passed.

Motion was made, seconded (Hovi/Gonzalez) to accept the recommendations made on the 1st deliberation in closed session. Motion passed.

VI. Board Chairperson Time

Motion was made, seconded (Bain/Saldano) to accept the recommendations made on the 2nd deliberation in closed session. Motion passed.

Discussion regarding new Federal Regulation and Financial Aid. Per the US Department of Education, for schools to remain financial aid eligible, the school must either be an associate degree program or must match state licensing hour requirements exactly. If this is not met, the schools/students will not be eligible for financial aid. This will have a significant impact on Massage Therapy schools in the State. The required hours (600) are set forth in the Massage Licensing Act and the Statute sunset date is January 1, 2027. Can a proposal be

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION
DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION
ILLINOIS MASSAGE THERAPY LICENSING BOARD

VII. Board Liaison Time

made to change hours requirements be made prior to the sunset date? Per Tafari Mahou (GC), no. Sandy Saldano will review the 2024 National Meeting (FSMTB) information and provide it at the next meeting so the Board can decide attendance.

Ms. Fisher reminded the Board the next scheduled meeting is Monday, February 5, 2024.

Motion was made, seconded (Hovi/Gonzalez) to keep closed meeting minutes closed. Motion passed.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion was made, seconded (Hovi/Bain) to authorize the Board Chair to sign on behalf of the Board for the deliberations and/or applications discussed during closed session. Motion passed

Motion/Seconded (Hovi/Bain) to adjourn meeting.
The Board Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:19 pm.

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION
DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION
ILLINOIS MASSAGE THERAPY LICENSING BOARD