

Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation
Division of Professional Regulation
Illinois Massage Licensing Board

Open Session: February 3, 2026

Call to order *at* 10:03 a.m. by Lurana Bain.

Roll call:

Michael Hovi, Chair
Lurana Bain, Vice-Chair
Elizabeth Gonzalez, Member
Sandra Saldano, Member
Sharon Kay Wong, Member

Absent:

Michael Hovi, Chair

Staff:

Greg Largent
Ann Erickson
Jackson Ashley

Guests:

Zarifa Muhammad-El
Sidney Brame
Seth Dinkel
Maureen Mulhall
Emmanuel Bistas
Collen Grabow

Public Announcements & Comments

Colleen Grabow introduces the Illinois Massage Therapy Professional Association, IMTPA. She provided a handout to the Board and gave a brief overview of the new organization. The organization wants to be recognized as a stakeholder.

Emmanuel Bistas wanted clarification on training requirements including the new abnormal skin growth training as it pertains to renewal of licensure. He has joined IMTPA and appreciates Colleen's work. He noted there is no progress on Illinois joining the compact.

Sidney Brame was seeking guidance on applying for licensure with foreign training.

Board Announcements & Comments

None

Approval of Open Minutes

MOTION by Elizabeth Gonzalez and a SECOND by Lurana Bain to approve the Open Minutes from the November 4, 2025 Massage Licensing Board meeting.

All in Favor? 4 Opposed? 0 Abstained? 0 The motion is approved.

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Old Business

Sandy Saldano requests another effort be made to have a Department investigator attend a future meeting.

New Business

The Board elects Mike Hovi as Chair and Lurana Bain as Vice-Chair.

Chairman Notes

None

Liaison Notes

- My email is in the chat. Email me if you wish to return to hear the announcements of the Closed Session.
- 2026 State of Illinois Mandatory Trainings - Due by 03/31/26
- Remaining FY26 meeting schedule - 5/5/26
- The FY27 meeting schedule will be provided at the May meeting.
- Travel Vouchers need submitted within 30 days.
- Board vacancies/recruitment

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for May 5, 2026.

MOTION by Elizabeth Gonzalez and a SECOND by Sharon Wong to enter into CLOSED SESSION, pursuant to Section 2(c)(4), 2(c)(15) and 2(c)(21) of the Open Meetings Act.

The MOTION is approved and the session is closed at 10:48 a.m.

Vice-Chair Lurana Bain adjourns the Closed Meeting at 12:15 p.m. The meeting returns to Open Session at 12:18 p.m.

Items Reviewed

- 5 License Application(s)
- 0 CE Waiver Request(s)
- 0 Deliberation(s)

Greg Largent announces the recommendations made in Closed Session:

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- Applications of Adyan Ochirov, Heorhii Akopian and Iuliia Zaburdaeva to sit for the MBLEx have been deferred pending submission of new translated education documents and submission of education documents to Educational Records Evaluation Service (ERES).
- Applicant Joliet Area Community Hospice Corp. application for licensure as a CE Sponsor has been deferred.
- Applicant Myroslav Starunchak will be granted a license as a Massage Therapist after completing 200 hours of hands-on supervised training at an approved program.

Approve Recommendations

MOTION by Lurana Bain and a SECOND by Sandy Saldano to approve the recommendations made in Closed Session.

All in Favor? 4 Opposed? _____ Abstained? _____ The MOTION is approved.

MOTION by Elizabeth Gonzalez and a SECOND by Lurana Bain to approve the Closed Minutes from the November 4, 2025 Closed Session and keep the Closed Minutes closed pursuant to Section 2.06(d) of the Open Meetings Act.

All in Favor? 4 Opposed? _____ Abstained? _____ The MOTION is approved.

ADJOURN MEETING

MOTION by Lurana Bain and a SECOND by Elizabeth Gonzalez to adjourn the meeting.

All in Favor. The motion is approved and the meeting is adjourned at 12:21 p.m.