

MASSAGE THERAPY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Quarterly meeting  
Monday, September 12, 2022  
5800 West Tenth Street  
Little Rock, AR 9:05 a.m.

MINUTES

Members present: Wendy Scott, presiding; Kristy Strother; Julie Eckert; Krista Moore; virtually - Lamar Anderson

Call to order Wendy Scott

Roll call Wendy Scott

Approval of minutes

motion by Moore, seconded by Strother

Update and recommendations from Exam Ad Hoc Committee

Lamar Anderson

[verbatim transcript under separate cover]

Update and recommendations from Licensure Level Ad Hoc Committee

Krista Moore

[verbatim transcript under separate cover]

Pre-Licensure Petitions

Applicant #1

Eckert and Scott requested a clarification on the content of the application regarding the actual criminal charges of the applicant, from the court and/or the applicant. Need more information on actual offenses. Strother requested clarification of time served.

Motion to table - Eckert, seconded by Anderson. Motion to table passed. MTTAC will request further information and ask for applicant to be present.

Continuing Education Applications

Approved:

(listed as old business)

1. Cupping and Tender Points -motion by Moore, second by Eckert

2. Lymphatic Face and Neck Massage - approved for 12 hours in person. The 3-hour online portion needs a separate approval. motion by Moore, second by Eckert

3. Stretches and Lymph Pumping for Sports - motion by Moore, second by Eckert.

4. Blending Aromatherapy and Massage Part 1 - motion by Moore, second by Eckert

5. Blending Aromatherapy and Massage Part 2 - motion by Strother, second by Moore

Continuing Education Applications  
Approved

(listed as new business) continued

1. Self Care for Massage Therapists - motion by Moore, second by Eckert
2. Pump the Abdomen - motion by Moore, second by Eckert
3. Orthopedic Techniques Plus - motion by Moore, second by Strother
4. Cupping For Lymphatics on the Head, Neck and Face - motion by Anderson, second by Moore
5. Cupping for Lymphatics - motion by Moore, second by Eckert

Tabled:

1. Understanding the Diagnosis - Golfer's Elbow  
motion to table by Moore, seconded by Eckert  
Course syllabus refers to tennis elbow, class information needs to refer to golfer's elbow.

2. Self Care: Yoga and Body Mechanics for Massage Therapists - motion to table by Strother, seconded by Anderson

No copy of massage license, no copy of diploma, need clarification of yoga license (hands-on or online?), yoga does not fall within the massage therapy scope of practice, need to remove 'yoga' from the title of the class

Removed:

1. Cupping- Integrating Effective Evidence Based Complimentary Alternative Medicine to Increase Positive Outcomes in Massage on the Trunk and Torso  
(included in error)

2. Cupping- Integrating Effective Evidence Based Complimentary Alternative Medicine to Increase Positive Outcomes in Massage on the Arms and Legs  
(included in error)

3. Blending Aromatherapy and Massage Part 1  
(included in old business in error) (approved in new business)

4. Blending Aromatherapy and Massage Part 2  
(included in old business in error) (approved in new business)

Program Update

Kelli Kersey

Launching CLIPS soon

working on connectivity issues. When launched, CLIPS will much improve productivity.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Eckert- CE applications are due 14 days before meeting. Applicants need to get applications to MTTAC on time. Several members re-emphasized the need to send application in one PDF file. Kersey stated that once CLIPS is launched, there will be process improvement.

Eckert suggested a sub-committee to review best practices to standardize massage therapy schools in Arkansas. Moore - don't have manpower to do this, and it would be difficult to regulate. It was requested this to be put on the agenda for next meeting.

Question about how monkey pox is related to massage therapy. Need to go to ADH website.

Discussion of training for cupping, rules and regulations and acceptance of online education for approval of CE classes.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.  
Next meeting - December 12, 2022



**MASSAGE THERAPY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting agenda item - Exam Ad Hoc Committee Report**

**September 12, 2022**

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Transcribed by Stephanie G. Branton, CCR  
Gibson-Branton Reporting Service, 501-960-6313

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PROCEEDINGS

MS. SCOTT: Chuck, do you have an update and recommendation?

MR. THOMPSON: Yeah, I think we're going to ask the ad hoc committee -- the committee chairs to give the update to MTTAC.

I know Lamar is online, if she doesn't mind giving an update on where we're at with the Exam Ad Hoc Committee, and then afterward we'll move to the Licensure.

MS. ANDERSON: Okay, good morning, everyone. They reached out to me about Ad Hoc committee, with the focus of determining a functional examining system for students/interns finding difficulty passing the MBLEX.

We discussed developing a state exam with the assistance of volunteering or either contracted massage therapy instructors, spa owners, and/or master massage therapists.

We also discussed the student licensure, the earn and learn program, and a cost analysis.

In all, they asked for an itemized budget and costs for the expense of the project, and they are asking for additional time to come up with a basic plan and criteria by which to achieve these goals.

So they want to ask for additional time if they can.

1           MR. THOMPSON:        If I can -- and if I can -- thanks.  
2 Lamar. So the recommendation -- the most recent vote was that  
3 the Ad Hoc Committee did see that a student licensure, both  
4 for students and apprenticeship programs, a licensure level so  
5 that you're doing background checks and stuff -- was a  
6 worthwhile endeavor.

7        So that is they still want to pursue -- the recommendation  
8 is to pursue that as a potential change.

9        And then on the state licensing exam, whether to add that,  
10 they wanted additional time for more of the Ad Hoc Committee  
11 to further discuss that. That was not a recommendation.

12       They were not recommending anything; they were recommending  
13 additional time to review that, to continue discussions on  
14 that.

15       The department is more than willing to go with additional  
16 Ad Hoc Committee meetings, and to help achieve that, have that  
17 going, if y'all are good with it.

18       Y'all meet in December. So that gives another couple of  
19 months of discussion on some of these items to flesh out  
20 either a recommendation, votes up or down, and also to flesh  
21 out ideas on the recommendations that they've already made,  
22 including that student licensure level.

23       So that's kind of where that committee is at right now. So  
24 it's up to y'all. We're happy to continue to provide the

1 venue and even increase the frequency of meetings to every two  
2 weeks, or however that needs to happen to get it fully  
3 fleshed out.

4 MS. SCOTT: All right, MTTAC, what do you  
5 think?

6 MS. ECKERT: I think there's still a lot more  
7 discussion needs to be had.

8 MS. SCOTT: Uh-huh.

9 MS. ECKERT: There was still some research being  
10 done about where the money was going to come from. I think  
11 there's some other things that can be looked at, as far as --  
12 because one of the things that had come up was having to hire  
13 a new, completely full-time position for the Department of  
14 Health, to give the test.

15 I think there are other ways to go about this, that -- you  
16 know, you could contract with maybe even someone that's is on  
17 MTTAC to go down and proctor. And it doesn't have to be  
18 computerized. It could be a written test.

19 The Cooper Institute of Health gives a written test, still.  
20 I mean, that's a national certification program. So I think  
21 you're trying to make things a little too complicated. So I  
22 think we can -- with the more meetings, we can kind of look  
23 and see if there's an easier, less expensive way to do this.

24 And the state test is not going to replace the MBLEX.

1 That's not what these meetings are about. These are about  
2 people that are struggling to pass the MBLEX -- right?

3 MS. SCOTT: Uh-huh.

4 MS. ECKERT: This does not replace the MBLEX  
5 test. This is just for -- how many people would you --

6 UNIDENTIFIED: Right now in the state, I only have  
7 is -- [inaudible] --

8 MS. ECKERT: So the --

9 MR. THOMPSON: Yeah, so --

10 MS. ECKERT: Just a few people a year.

11 MR. THOMPSON: So there were -- you know, Ms.

12 Davis will have an opportunity -- and we always want to hear  
13 from Ms. Davis, but it really is y'all's discussion right now.

14 And I think still the recommendation is that it's not -- I  
15 think y'all are not to the point -- the Ad Hoc Committee has  
16 not voted for a state test.

17 I think there's still that discussion. I think right now  
18 it's licensure level, and more time to discuss state tests --  
19 that's what I understand the recommendation to be for y'all.

20 MS. MOORE: I make a motion that we allow them  
21 to have additional time until the December for them to develop  
22 a proposal. So that's my motion -- is to accept their  
23 recommendation of additional time, only.

24 MS. SCOTT: Do we have a second?

1 MS. STROTHER: I second.

2 MS. SCOTT: All in favor?

3 BODY: Aye.

4 MS. SCOTT: And opposed.

5 BODY: [no response]

6 MS. SCOTT: All right. So Lamar, your  
7 committee will have until the December meeting for MTTAC to  
8 come to a conclusion, and have it all together on how you want  
9 to propose this, and what we can vote on.

10 MS. ANDERSON: Okay, thank you.

11 MS. SCOTT: Yes ma'am. Lamar, do you need help  
12 on this committee? I'd be glad to step in and at least be  
13 there, maybe another brain or another mouth to throw out ideas  
14 or to do some research? If you'd like help, I'd be willing.

15 MS. ANDERSON: Well, yes ma'am, I do need help.

16 MS. SCOTT: Okay.

17 MS. ANDERSON: We're coming up with so many ideas  
18 and they're all good, but we want to condense them and narrow  
19 them down as to stay within the lines of focus. That's kind  
20 of hard.

21 MS. SCOTT: All right, Lamar. I'll get with  
22 Kelly and get joined in with that somehow. And we'll go from  
23 there -- okay?

24 MS. ANDERSON: Okay, appreciate you.

1 MS. SCOTT: Thank you so much. So that's the  
2 exam Ad Hoc Committee.

3 [Later during the public comment section of the meeting, the  
4 following discussion was held]

5 MS. SCOTT: Next we have public comments. Do we  
6 have anybody that would like to make some public comments?  
7 Come on up.

8 MS. FINLEY: Hi.

9 MS. SCOTT: Hi.

10 MS. FINLEY: I just have a question on --

11 MR. SMITH (?): Would you please state your name?

12 MS. FINLEY: Oh -- Audra Finley. I just have a  
13 -- I just need clarification on when y'all took the vote to  
14 table -- or, not to table -- the vote to allow more time for  
15 the first Ad Hoc Committee.

16 In the Ad Hoc Committee -- I was on that -- and it's --  
17 they -- the recommendation was that we do a student license.

18 And Chuck had mentioned it. I was hoping to get with him  
19 before he left. But y'all skipped over that. All y'all  
20 talked about was the student test -- the state test -- sorry.

21 MS. ECKERT: Yeah, that's all they reported on.

22 MS. FINLEY: Yes. So I just need a  
23 clarification on that. Because the recommendation was to -- to  
24 y'all, was that it was passed that we do some kind of permit,

1 license -- whatever you're going to call it.

2 [inaudible simultaneous conversation]

3 Wendy, you shook your head. I just didn't know.

4 MS. MOORE: Did we actually vote on that?

5 MS. FINLEY: Lamar -- is Lamar still on there?

6 MS. ANDERSON: Yes, I am. Actually, we didn't  
7 declare what kind of criteria or standards that we wanted to  
8 put in place to give the licensure to do that. So no --

9 MS. ECKERT: But we did say that we would  
10 present that as a recommendation today.

11 MS. FINLEY: As a recommendation -- today.

12 MS. ECKERT: Right.

13 MS. FINLEY: And it got completely skipped over  
14 this morning when y'all were talking about it.

15 [inaudible simultaneous conversation]

16 MS. FINLEY: I heard Chuck say something about  
17 it. But then it just went off course big time. Only about  
18 the exam and the extension of the exam, toward the end of the  
19 year, which is fine.

20 But that got completely skipped over. So I just need to  
21 know what the vote was.

22 MS. ANDERSON: Okay, it wasn't skipped over --

23 MS. FINLEY: No, ma'am, you didn't skip it  
24 over. The MTTAC --

1 MS. STROTHER: So the vote that we voted on today  
2 was mostly for the increase to time.

3 MS. FINLEY: Time. Yes ma'am.

4 MS. STROTHER: But as far as specific, separate  
5 motion --

6 MS. MOORE: Did we make a motion on that?

7 MS. STROTHER: -- allowing recommendation of a  
8 student permit.

9 MS. FINLEY: You did, but I want clarification.  
10 Because what it sounded like that y'all did was approve it.

11 MS. MOORE: Approve what?

12 MS. FINLEY: The student permit. Because you  
13 approved the whole recommendation.

14 MS. ECKERT: Yeah, for the time -- further time  
15 for that.

16 MS. FINLEY: Further time for that. But that  
17 was also when Chuck mentioned this morning -- when he said  
18 something about it, it kind of got skipped through.

19 And as it stands, to me, as interpreting what happened was  
20 that y'all approved it. So I just wanted to --

21 MS. STROTHER: Was there a --

22 MS. FINLEY: So I just wanted clarification.

23 [inaudible simultaneous conversation]

24 MS. KERSEY: Be careful. She's trying to -- one

1 at a time, please.

2 MS. FINLEY: So do I need to repeat anything?

3 MS. STROTHER: In that meeting, we had a few  
4 things we voted on. Was there not an official vote  
5 specifically for that we do want to pursue the student permit,  
6 but as far as what those details were, we would further go on  
7 to describe those in further meetings.

8 Is that --

9 UNIDENTIFIED: No.

10 MS. STROTHER: Maybe that was a separate  
11 recommendation, a separate vote?

12 MS. FINLEY: There were two items that we made a  
13 decision on.

14 [inaudible conversation]

15 MR. SMITH(?): Audra, to answer your question, the  
16 way I understood the motion earlier was to allow more time for  
17 exploring the exam issue.

18 There was at the last Ad Hoc Committee a vote on  
19 recommending discussing the student permit. And that can be  
20 something that is continued on in MTTAC's next meeting, and on  
21 the agenda for further discussion.

22 MS. ANDERSON: Thank you.

23 UNIDENTIFIED: That issue is not gone, but it was  
24 not specifically voted on by MTTAC this morning.

1 UNIDENTIFIED: But at the ad hoc meeting was there  
2 not a vote or something for --

3 MS. ANDERSON: No.

4 UNIDENTIFIED: [inaudible] -- to put on the  
5 requirements for the student or internship -- because it's  
6 already going on. We already doing it.  
7 [inaudible]

8 UNIDENTIFIED: And we moved the health department  
9 in on it. And so it was to me that we were going to debate out  
10 with the health department -- yes, yes --

11 MS. ECKERT: So they did make a motion and voted  
12 to propose to the MTTAC board if we wanted to discuss a  
13 student license.

14 MS. MOORE: Permit, not license.  
15 [inaudible simultaneous conversation]

16 MS. ECKERT: So one of the things that that  
17 would do was that would change it to where they could go ahead  
18 and have a background check before they laid hands on the  
19 public.

20 And it would also make it to where -- because right now, as  
21 a student, you're not allowed to make money. Correct. And so  
22 the student permit would do that.

23 And so also the concern was this is only while you're in  
24 school, or the apprentice program. This doesn't go with you

1 to some fly-by-night place down on JFK that are doing crazy  
2 stuff, and you say oh I've got this student permit. It  
3 doesn't do that.

4 MS. STROTHER: But there's a time period --

5 MS. ECKERT: It's just for school. No, it's  
6 just for -- you're in school.

7 MS. STROTHER: Before they pass the test.

8 MS. ECKERT: No, this -- but this is just in  
9 school.

10 MS. MOORE: But the whole thing was just so  
11 that we could -- are you asking that the MTTAC vote on giving  
12 them more time to propose that? Is that --

13 MS. ECKERT: They voted to propose --

14 MS. MOORE: Or was that the proposal?

15 MS. ECKERT: They voted to propose the student  
16 license to the MTTAC board today, for a vote, to see if they  
17 need to research that further, to line it out or not -- if  
18 this was a direction that they did want to go in or not. So  
19 we discussed that.

20 MS. FINLEY: Yeah, it was supposed to be today  
21 we were supposed to be getting some kind of answer on that  
22 permit, and how -- yeah.

23 And then you can hash out later how you want it to look  
24 like, or what you want it to look like. But today was just to

1 say yes or no, whether we were going to -- if you're going to  
2 honor that or not -- honor the recommendations of the Ad Hoc  
3 Committee or not.

4 MS. SCOTT: Okay --

5 MR. SMITH (?): Again, this was a -- this was the  
6 Ad Hoc Committee voted on making that recommendation to MTTAC.  
7 That does not necessarily mean that MTTAC needed to vote on it  
8 today, and that further discussion by MTTAC can be made, as  
9 well as further investigation by ADH to determine what is the  
10 best way to do that, and the legislative and/or rules changes  
11 that would be required to put that into effect.

12 That is not something that could be turned on immediately.  
13 It's going to be a process. And we would encourage discussion  
14 for MTTAC, and maybe put that on the agenda for December's

15 MS. MOORE: Okay. I make a motion that as  
16 MTTAC, that we will put this on the December meeting, as MTTAC  
17 members we will look into all of this. And we also request  
18 that ADH legal will look at what that will require as far as  
19 legislative or rules and regulation change, and what our  
20 processes would be going forward, so that we can address this  
21 issue.

22 Because I do think it would help with background checks  
23 from the beginning.

24 MS. ECKERT: I'll second the motion.

1 MS. SCOTT: All in favor of the motion?

2 BODY: Aye --

3 MS. STROTHER: I have a question on that. Does  
4 that mean that the Ad Hoc Committee can continue to discuss  
5 that, or they can't continue to discuss that until we approve  
6 something on that in December?

7 MS. ECKERT: No. That's -- that's what we voted  
8 on. We already voted on that, to extend the meetings --  
9 yeah.

10 MS. STROTHER: But we didn't discuss the exam  
11 part.

12 MS. ECKERT: Discussed the --

13 MS. FINLEY: The exam -- the state -- the exam.  
14 She said 'the exam part'.

15 MS. ECKERT: No, that ad hoc meeting Chuck has  
16 brought -- he actually brought the student licensure to that.  
17 That's part of it.

18 MS. FINLEY: Okay.

19 MS. SCOTT: So let me get clear on this. We  
20 have different levels as part of the first ad hoc meeting.  
21 And --

22 MS. MOORE: This was the exam one.

23 MS. SCOTT: And this goes in with the exam.

24 MS. MOORE: Yes, not the licensure level.

1 MS. SCOTT: Which doesn't make any sense --

2 MS. MOORE: That's where it was at.

3 MS. SCOTT: Two different ad hoc committees.

4 MS. MOORE: Because it's not a license; it's a  
5 permit. It's a student permit. And I'm not sure -- but yeah.

6 MR. SMITH: The proposal that was shared with  
7 the Exam Ad Hoc Committee was because it addressed, or it  
8 could address some of the issues related to the examination  
9 concerns, and students being able to work while preparing for  
10 and passing the exam.

11 The licensure level is focused on the reviewing the  
12 licensure level as it relates to higher level or separate  
13 level medical massage. And so that's why it was placed with  
14 the Exam Ad Hoc Committee.

15 MS. FINLEY: I feel like you're looking at two  
16 different things. You're looking at a permit while they're in  
17 school, or whatever you're calling it, to allow them to make  
18 money while they're working on the public, which again, this  
19 has already been determined by, you know, different  
20 departments.

21 So the -- the Department of Labor has already passed that.  
22 That is a rule we have to abide by, right? We have to just go  
23 with that.

24 We're wanting the Department of Health to get on board with

1 what the Department of Labor has already put in place, so they  
2 can make money anyway. But the permit gives us the ability to  
3 background check. It gives us the ability to let them make  
4 money with the Department of Health saying that it's okay,  
5 even though the Department of Labor already said it's okay.

6 But the other is -- the other -- I think what's happened is  
7 that they don't -- there's two different things that should be  
8 going on here.

9 So we have this permit, but then we also -- there's this  
10 where people are wanting to have a license, or something  
11 that's allowing the students -- because Chuck wrote this up --  
12 allowing the students to be able to do massage for like six  
13 months or a year -- that was something that was said -- while  
14 -- after they get out of school, until they take their exams.

15 I think that's the confusion.

16 MR. SMITH (?): So there's --

17 MS. FINLEY: I think that's the confusion that's  
18 happening today.

19 MR. SMITH (?): There's a lot of circular logic  
20 going on right now. This is what usually happens in these.  
21 The ad hoc committee has recommended to MTTAC that the  
22 Department of Health review the rules and regulations and the  
23 laws to see if it permits or requires a law change, and what  
24 have you.

1       That is where you're at. And that particular issue cannot  
2 move forward until the department reviews that. So that  
3 should be the proposal that someone here at MTTAC makes, is  
4 for the Department of Health to review that.

5           MS. MOORE:           Is that not what my motion was?

6           MR. SMITH(?):       That's what you were getting to and  
7 then your proposal was interrupted.

8           MS. MOORE:           That was my intent. That was my  
9 motion.

10          MS. ECKERT:          And I seconded it.

11          MS. SCOTT:          And we have that motion on record.  
12 So that is what we will do.

13          MR. SMITH (?):       You have to put it to a vote first.

14          MS. SCOTT:          Oh, excuse me. All in favor?

15          BODY:                Aye.

16          MS. SCOTT:          I apologize. This was very  
17 confusing. What I want to make -- I do want to make a comment  
18 here real quick, is basically like in cosmo -- in Cosmetology  
19 -- they have a permit to be on the floor.

20        Is that what you are proposing? Is that what this is all  
21 kind of following suit with?

22           MS. FINLEY:         I'm not proposing. The ad hoc --  
23 and I mean, Lamar is the one that's over that, the chair of  
24 it. But the ad hoc is -- I think it's a little -- there was a

1 little bit of confusion on that. Because Sybil, do you know  
2 what they were saying?

3 UNIDENTIFIED: Yes.

4 MS. FINLEY: For sure? And I -- because I --  
5 there are two different things.

6 MR. SMITH (?): You need to yield the floor so she  
7 may come up and speak.

8 MS. FINLEY: Okay.

9 MR. SMITH (?): And then if there's some confusion  
10 about what the ad hoc is saying, then the ad hoc needs to send  
11 the information to MTTAC, in a document, so they know what's  
12 going on.

13 MS. FINLEY: Okay, well, to try to clarify what  
14 was said, you're asking if -- that -- it's my understanding  
15 that the permit is allowed to let them start making money and  
16 do the background check.

17 MS. ANDERSON: No.

18 MS. FINLEY: No?

19 MR. SMITH (?): So Lamar, could you please later  
20 send a document to MTTAC, outlining what was discussed?

21 MS. KERSEY: But with federal law, you don't  
22 need the student permit.

23 UNIDENTIFIED: They're -- can I clarify?

24 MR. SMITH (?): Please state your name, ma'am, for

1 the record?

2 MS. DAVIS: I'm Sybil Davis. And all we're  
3 getting at here is as these people are -- they're just --  
4 we're joined at the hip with these people, okay? So that  
5 clarifies for all of you that they're being sponsored.

6 All we're asking for is so that as -- as that -- after  
7 they've had their basics and there's a -- just like in the  
8 schools -- when they can start doing massage, and everything.

9 But we are bringing companies in on this. And the  
10 companies have got to know that the health department is also  
11 who are our governing people, are on board with the U.S.  
12 Department of Labor, and with the workings in Arkansas that's  
13 going on to try to get training.

14 Just like the colleges. When they have the people, the  
15 people are working paying their way through. It's a school  
16 effect. And so far there's five schools that's got on board  
17 with all this. And we hope all the rest of them get on board  
18 as we go here.

19 But we got to have the health department to get on board  
20 with this. And we need to be able to say yes, we're going  
21 forward and yes, we're going to get it all worked out and get  
22 it lined out as to what this apprenticeship or these  
23 internships they're all about.

24 Every every other occupational thing has this going on,

1 except massage. Massage is just -- we've just been strangled,  
2 and it's time to un-strangle us. I'm sorry, but this has been  
3 a long, long, long process to try to get rules and regulations  
4 and laws and everything where it's not so strangled, and that  
5 it gets right for massage in Arkansas.

6 MR. SMITH (?): Thank you, ma'am. Ms. Donna, do  
7 you have a comment online?

8 DONNA: Yes, one is for what you have just  
9 been discussing, the ad hoc committee never talked about so  
10 these people could make money. This was a -- simply a student  
11 permit that allowed a background check on those people to be  
12 done. It was never discussed that these people would make  
13 money. That's my only comment on this.

14 \*\*\*\*\*

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