

**MINUTES OF THE MASSAGE THERAPY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, July 17, 2008
Room 336, Rhodes Office Tower 3rd Floor
30 East Broad Street, Columbus OH 43215**

Call to Order: Ms. Rieve called the meeting to order at 1:06 P.M. on Thursday, July 17, 2008.

Committee Members Present: Dennis Gibbons, Rick Greely, and Jeanne-Marie Hall

Guests Present: Ann Leighton Schleppe, AMTA; Ramona Chance, AMTA and Jolete Thomas of Tri-C

Medical Board Staff Present: Rick Whitehouse, Mike Miller, Kay Rieve and Cindi Dennison

Old Business

Mr. Greely moved and Mr. Gibbons seconded that the April 2008 minutes be approved. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

New Business

Staggered License Renewals

Ms. Rieve reminded the committee of the staggered renewal process discussed at the last meeting. She said they would like to begin this before the next renewal which is in May 2009. She said that one idea was to include this plan with the budget bill which would be next July, but we need it to be implemented sooner. Ms. Rieve introduced Rick Whitehouse, Executive Director. Mr. Whitehouse thanked the group for their service and reiterated the need for the staggered renewal. He stated that MT's are the next largest licensee group, and staggering their renewals would help the board tremendously. Ms. Rieve said that will look at the language to see if they could get this in the SB279 which passed the Senate and will go on to the House which is currently in recess. She stated that it could be introduced as an amendment.

Mr. Greely asked about the likelihood that this would go thru in this session. Mr. Miller answered that there is a good chance for it to go thru now if it is moved. Mr. Whitehouse said that if the members are in attendance, there should be no problem getting it thru.

Mr. Gibbons mentioned that physicians have to report their Continuing Education as part of their renewal. He asked if this would be a good time to introduce the CE requirement for MT's, making it a part of the renewal process. Mr. Greely said that some members of the profession would oppose this. Mr. Whitehouse added that even if not many opposed, it's too close of a timeframe to add this to the bill.

Ms. Rieve said there needs to be more discussion and planning regarding possible CE requirements. Mr. Miller said there will be numerous pieces of legislation over the next couple of years, and perhaps the CE requirement could be added to one of these bills. Ms. Chance said that AMTA monitors it for their members. Ms. Rieve stated that the association has to take a role and a led in this. She said that the Board doesn't oversee the CME programs for the physicians. The Board does take a role in CCTE

for the CT's and there are only 200 of them. However, it involves a great deal of time and work for the Medical Board. Ms. Rieve said that with 10,000 MT's, it would be impossible to manage CE's. Someone else would have to keep track and report to us. The Board would then audit a certain number of licensees to show their documentation. This is what is done for physicians.

Mr. Gibbons asked what MTAC could do to facilitate adding the continuing education requirement. Ms. Chance said that she would talk to AMTA about monitoring CE's. They already do it for members. Ms. Rieve said that the Board would probably keep the hours the same as they are for the AMTA which is 48 hours over 4 years. She said at renewal time, MT's would be asked if they did their CE's. The Board currently does a random audit of approximately 2% of practitioners. If the licensee can't produce documentation, then they have an issue with the Board. Ms. Rieve said that Ms. Thompson wants to make MT model the same as the physician model. MT's would have to keep track in case of audit. There was discussion about AMTA keeping track and what kind of CE is required. Ms. Rieve stated that the only problem with monitoring CE's would be the staggered renewal. Mr. Greely suggested that CE's are done by the MT's renewal date rather than calendar years. That way each licensee would know when they are due. There was discussion about how this would be implemented at the beginning of staggered renewals. Ms. Rieve said the CE requirement would have to be pro-rated like the renewals will be. It is going to be a little complicated at first. She stated that it is quite a process to get written. Once the proposed language is accepted, she will bring it to the committee.

Mr. Gibbons moved and Mr. Greely seconded that MTAC is in favor of implementing the staggered renewal for Massage Therapists.

National Exam Update

Ms. Rieve said her plan was to talk to Patty West for an update. Mr. Greely volunteered to call Ms. West at that moment. While he did that, Mr. Gibbons said that what we needed was information on how Ohio students fared in the testing. He volunteered to contact Deb Persinger for that information. Ms. Rieve agreed that what we need to know is Ohio results versus national results. There was discussion about the next group of Ohio students taking the national test. Mr. Greely offered that the Council of Schools requires their volunteer students to take the national test within 3 months of taking the Ohio boards. They have 2 doing it now and more from the December group which will make 20 approved by the Council of Schools.

Mr. Greely put Patty West on speaker phone to talk about the Council of Schools involvement in the national test. Ms. West said that there will be either 8 or 10 taking the test now and around another 8 people signed up to take the test in December. Ms. Rieve asked if Ms. West had received any more results from anyone this month. Ms. West replied that she had not. The students signed up now are taking it next month and the results will be ready at the October meeting. Ms. Rieve stated that the Board is looking at this and needs data. She stated that Ms. Thompson wants to compare the date side by side – Ohio test vs. federation test. Ms. West offered to contact the schools who are sending MT's to the test asking them to contact her as soon as students get their results. Ms. Rieve said that she would contact Deborah Persinger at the federation to obtain their statistical report. She said that the federation could give them information on all Ohio MT's who have taken it, not just the ones that Council is paying for. She also said she likes that the Council gets the students together to talk about their experience. It gives more information than just the statistics. Ms. West said that she would have information ready by the October meeting. This ended the call with Patty West.

Mr. Gibbons stated that students can get their test results at the test site now and the verification results are sent to the sponsoring states. There was discussion about the make up of the federation test and about how to charge MT's for licensure if the Board adopts national licensure. Ms. Rieve said there would be some study done on that. There was also some discussion about how licensure would work with the federation test. Ms. Rieve explained that it would be the same as physicians. At time of application the MT would provide proof that he has passed the federation test. The background check would be at the time of licensure. She stated that there is a lot of work yet to be done with the statute to make this effective. Curriculum would have to be looked at again, and language written for statute change. She said there would be a transition time as well. So this may not become into effect for a few years yet.

Mr. Greely stated that in evaluating both curriculums, there is not a significant difference between what the federation is recommending and what our curriculum is. He stated that, in the opinion of those who participated, there would be minor changes needed. A few of those might be terminology, pathology, etc. He said that another thing in statute that would need changed is that it says MT's can not be tested on pathology. So that would need changed. He stated that the schools don't want to do big changes, but upon looking at both curriculums, he doesn't see any need for significant change.

Ms. Hall asked if MT's coming in know that they need to pass a background check before they get licensed. Mr. Greely said that depends on the school. Ms. Rieve stated that it is on the website. It wasn't effective for the June test but it will be for the December test.

There was discussion about differing curriculum and emphases among the schools as it relates to the federation exam. Mr. Greely stated that the next Council of Schools meeting is October 6. He asked if it would be helpful to have Deborah Persinger come in for a joint Council of Schools and MTAC meeting. Ms. Rieve stated that the Board isn't ready for that yet as they would like to have data first and present it to the Board. Mr. Greely said that the council is willing to work with the Board.

Mr. Greely was concerned about the fact that there were several perfect scores on the science side and only one on the limited branch side of the State test. He mentioned that this is a trend that has developed over time. In the past, the limited branch side scored higher than the science side, and now it's the opposite. His concern is about how the questions are being validated. He said that the limited branch questions can be about someone's opinion. It's not as clear cut as the science side. He did say that Jenny is doing a great job. He understands the goal of going toward more neutral terminology, but there can be two right answers based on the opinion of the testwriter. Mr. Greely also stated that the content of the questions was no easier on the federation exam but the structure and verbage is better. It was agreed that communication was important to get this fixed. It was agreed that given the different texts and questions, critical thinking is important. Sometimes students over-think questions.

It was noted that the federation test results have mirrored the state results so far. This first group was composed of high achievers. The next groups will have average and below average students in them so the data will be more complete.

Mr. Greely said that since the federation test is a few years out, the Board could provide data to schools to show where their students are consistently scoring low on the State exam. This would help them perhaps in the transition time.

The next curriculum task force meeting is set for September 25 at 10:00 am at the board office. Some of these issues can be discussed in that forum.

Background Checks

Ms. Rieve said that the criminal background check has gone into effect. Teach applicant does a BCI and FBI check and it is taking about three weeks to get the results.

Impairment

Mr. Whitehouse said that the Board is sensitive to the fact that MT's do not have the same earning potential as physicians. The board is checking into outpatient treatment versus 28-day treatment facilities which will be cheaper and more accessible to MT's.

Adjournment

Mr. Greely moved and Mr. Gibbons seconded to adjourn. A vote was taken and the motion was passed. The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

The next MTAC meeting will be held on October 16, 2008.

(Note: I edited these minutes. However, some portions of the tape were inaudible. In some portions I could hear who was speaking but couldn't make out what they were saying. These minutes reflect what I was accurately able to hear. I believe they reflect the heart of what was addressed in the meeting but may not reflect everything that was said or who said it. JMR 4/7/09)