

March 2018

Washington State Board of Massage

The mandate of the Board of Massage is to protect the public's health and safety and to promote the welfare of the state by regulating the competency and quality of professional healthcare providers under its jurisdiction.

Inside This Issue

- Rules Information
- What is Dual Authority?
- Licensing Fees
- Continuing Education
- Human Trafficking
- Board Composition
- 2018 Board Meeting Dates
- Board Member Spotlight

Board Members

Chair

Meghann Lawrence, LMT

Vice Chair

Anthony Sharpe,
Public Member

Teresea Carson, LMT

Stephanie Dickey, LMT

Reynaldo Guajardo, LMT

Welcome to the Washington State Board of Massage Newsletter

Message From the Chair—Meghann Lawrence, LMT

Welcome to the first edition of the Board of Massage's newsletter. Our newsletter's purpose is to help inform the public and massage therapy community of issues related to Washington State licensed massage therapists and the work of the Board of Massage.

Our hope is that with improved communication, we will shed some light on the reasons behind the important and difficult decisions we have to make.

It is our pleasure to serve you in the state of Washington and we look forward to upholding our mission to protect the public.

Rules Information

The Board of Massage and Department of Health recently enacted amendments and added new rules to [chapter 246-830 WAC – Massage Practitioners](#). These became effective July 30, 2017. Please [see the frequently asked questions](#) we have received. Significant updates include new rules about breast massage, draping, and recordkeeping.

On September 6, 2017, the Department of Health in conjunction with the Board of Massage filed a Preproposal Statement of Inquiry (CR-101) with the Office of the Code Reviser notifying the public of the department's intent to consider rule-making to consider revising sections of the massage practitioner rules.

The rules writing [process](#) is open to the public. The public is welcome to take part in helping us write rules. Rules workshops occur during open public board meetings.



What is Dual Authority?

The Washington State Board of Massage is unique among other health profession boards because it is the only board with dual, or split, authority. This means it is not a full authority board but rather shares authority with the secretary of health.

Powers and Duties of the Board

[RCW 18.108.025](#)

- ◆ Establish qualifications for minimal competency to grant or deny licensure of massage therapists.
- ◆ Define, evaluate, approve and designate schools, programs, and apprenticeship programs from which graduation will be accepted as proof of an applicant's eligibility to take the licensing examination.
- ◆ Review approved schools and programs periodically.
- ◆ Establish by rule the standards and procedures for approving courses of study.
- ◆ Establish the continuing education requirements which shall be a prerequisite for license renewal.

Powers and Duties of the Secretary

[RCW 18.108.085](#)

- ◆ Set all license, certification, examination, and renewal fees.
- ◆ Issue a massage therapist's license to any applicant who has met the education, training, and examination requirements and deny licensure to applicants who do not meet the requirements.
- ◆ Discipline massage therapists for violations of the laws and rules, as allowed.
- ◆ Issue a cease and desist order and impose a civil fine to any person found to be engaged in unlicensed practice.



**Access your
massage chapter rules**
[Chapter 246-830 WAC](#)
[Chapter 18.108 RCW](#)

Licensing Fees

[RCW 43.70.250](#) requires that the cost of each professional, occupational, or business licensing program be fully borne by the members of that profession, occupation, or business.

Most of the board's expenses involve investigating complaints and taking disciplinary action where appropriate. The fees cover the costs of investigation, legal staff, and costs associated with disciplinary hearings. Additionally, costs associated with unlicensed practice come out of the board's budget.

The secretary regulates the various health profession licensing fees. Massage therapist fees are in [WAC 246-830-990](#).

Continuing Education

Massage therapists need to earn a minimum of 24 hours of continuing education (CE) during each reporting period as a prerequisite for license renewal. A minimum of eight hours must be direct supervised massage skill training. A minimum of four hours must be in professional ethics, communication, or Washington state massage laws and regulations, two of which must include professional roles and boundaries. ([WAC 246-830-475](#))



The board audits a percentage of all licensed massage therapists to ensure compliance with the CE requirements. *If audited, you will be required to prove compliance.* Proper documentation to prove compliance may include course or program certificates of training or transcripts. Receipts of payment for a course are not acceptable. More information about CE can be found in [chapter 246-12 WAC—Part 7](#).

Failure to comply with CE requirements may result in disciplinary action. Sanctions can include a CE audit during the next reporting period, suspension of your license, and a monetary fine.

Massage Laws
[Chapter 18.108 RCW](#)
[Chapter 246-830 WAC](#)
[Chapter 18.130 RCW](#)
[Chapter 246-12 WAC](#)
[Chapter 246-16 WAC](#)

Human Trafficking Resources

Human trafficking is an illegal practice in which traffickers use force or persuasion to make victims engage in commercial sex acts or services of labor against their will. Below are links with information about the impact it has had on the massage profession along with resources for someone who may be in the situation.

- [National Human Trafficking Hotline](#)
- [Polaris Report on Massage Parlor Trafficking](#)
- [Federation of State Massage Therapy Board Task Force Report](#)

Renew Your Credential Online

Nearly all health professionals whose credentials are within 90 days of their expiration date may renew their **active status** license, registration, or certification online.

For more information about how to renew your credential online, please visit the [Renewals Online](#) webpage or contact our Customer Service Office at 360-236-4700 or hsqa.csc@doh.wa.gov.

Licensing Statistics



Massage Licenses issued in 2017.....	964
Active Licenses.....	13,832
Expired Licenses.....	21,817
Revoked Licenses.....	82
Suspended Licenses.....	117
Surrendered Licenses.....	25

Board Composition

The board is made up of four licensed massage therapists and one consumer member of the public, all appointed by the governor. ([RCW 18.108.020](#))

If you are interested in applying for a position on the board or learning more about board duties, you may find information on the massage therapy [webpage](#). Governor-appointed applications are available [online](#).



The state massage examining board was first created in 1975 and consisted of three members.

In 1987, the name was changed to the Washington State Board of Massage and the composition was changed to four licensed practitioners and one consumer member of the public. [RCW Archives](#)

2018 Board Meeting Dates

May 11
Red Lion—Yakima Center
607 E. Yakima Ave.—East Ballroom
Yakima, WA 98901

July 13
Double Tree
12712 S.E. 2nd Circle
Vancouver, WA 98684

September 14
Double Tree—Spokane City Center
322 N. Spokane Falls Ct
Spokane, WA 99201

November 2
Department of Health
310 Israel Rd S.E., Rooms 152/153
Tumwater, WA 98501

Do You Have an Idea for the Newsletter?

Please share any input on topics you'd like to see included in the newsletter with Megan Maxey at megan.maxey@doh.wa.gov.



Board Member Spotlight



Meghann Lawrence grew up in the Yakima Valley. She got her Washington State massage therapy license in 1999. In 2003 she joined Ummelina Day Spa with a strong background in the spa massage setting. In December 2006, Meghann become partner and is now Chief of Operations and Education.

Useful Resources

- ◆ [Massage Therapy Website](#)
- ◆ [Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards](#)
- ◆ [American Massage Therapy Association \(AMTA\)](#)
- ◆ [AMTA - Washington Chapter](#)
- ◆ [Washington State Massage Therapy Association](#)
- ◆ [National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork](#)

Board Staff

Executive Director
[Blake Maresh, MPA](#)

Program Managers
[Megan Maxey](#)
[Kris Waidely](#)

Program Manager Associate
[Brandon Williams](#)

Program Support
[Davis Hylkema](#)

