

MINUTES TENNESSEE MASSAGE LICENSURE BOARD

APRIL 21, 2025

Board Meeting

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Time: 9:00 am cst

Location: Iris Room

665 Mainstream Drive

HRB- 1st Floor, Poplar Room

Nashville TN 37243

Board Members Present: William E Mullins, LMT Chairperson

Virginia Yarbrough, LMT

Alicia Azimipour, Citizen Member

Emily Newberry, LMT

Board Members Absent: Amy Jones, Citizen Member, Marvis Burke

Staff Present: Noranda French, Unit 2 Director

Tonya Wilkins, Board Director

Jessica Turner, Board Attorney- Office of General Counsel

Michael Varnell, Board Attorney- Office of General Counsel

Guests: Haley Grossman, Court Reporter

Carolyn Reed, Judge

This meeting was called into order by William Mullins at 9:00am. Carolyn Reed conducts a roll call to establish a quorum for the meeting. A quorum was present.

RAYMOND PIPKIN LMT 6219 (9:04 am)

Judge recognizes counsel for State (Attorney Jessica Turner) and Pipkin (Attorney Jerome Cochran). The respondent is present. Judge Reed verifies that no board member needs to recuse themselves from the case. All confirm they are fit to hear the case.

Respondent is alleged to have reached under a client's draping and massaged, groped, and rubbed both her breasts with his hands.

Office of General Counsel Jessica Turner presents her opening statement to the board. The case presented by Turner includes practicing at an unlicensed establishment and sexual misconduct. Jerome Cochran presents his opening statements about the case. Turner calls Amber Gross to testify. Judge Reed swears in Gross. Turner interviews Gross. Cochran interviews witness. Board members interviews witness. Cochran calls Agent Low as a witness. Judge Reed swears in witness. Cochran interviews witness. Turner interviews Agent Low. Board members interviews witness. Judge Reed swears in Raymond Pipkin. Cochran interviews Pipkin. Turner interviews Pipkin. Board members asked questions of Raymond Pipkins.

RECESS (1:33)

Turner presents closing statements. Cochran gives closing statements. Cochran presented his closing statement. The board deliberates after the closing remarks are presented (2:29:35). Emily Newberry motions to approve findings of fact. Alicia Azimipour seconded. Motion carried. Emily Newberry motions to accept conclusions of law as written with the exception of number 3 under section 8. Alicia Azimipour seconded. Motion passes. Virginia Yarbrough motions to open the session back up to ask Pipkin additional questions. Emily Newberry seconded. Motion passes. Virginia Yarbrough motions to reclose the evidence and go back to deliberations. Alicia Azimipour seconded. Motion carries. Virginia Yarbrough motions to move amended Section 10 of order, Emily Newberry seconded. Motion carries.

RECESS (4:25:17)

Virginia Yarbrough motions to accept and approve paragraphs 11, 12, 13, 14 as amended, Alicia Azimipour seconded, motion carries. Emily Newberry motions to accept the policy statement, Alicia Azimipour seconded, motion carries. Board suspends license for a period of no less than three months and will not exceed six months. Respondent must complete fifteen hours of continuing education regarding boundaries and communication from a licensed massage school. Respondent also must complete a five hours of draping course. Respondent will pay \$8,400 in penalties for practicing in an unlicensed massage establishment.

30 Minutes break (2:11)

YI SUN and ENERGY HEALING ME 5967:

Judge Reed establishes a quorum. Virginia Yarbrough motions to move in default.

Respondent is alleged to have engaged in unethical and unprofessional conduct, including engaging sexual and sexualizing behavior while massaging client.

Alicia Azimipour seconded. Motion carries. Jessica Turner presents opening remarks. Emily Newberry accepts to find the findings of fact, conclusions of law, the order, and the policy statement as stated. Virginia Yarbrough seconded. Motioned passed. Respondents' establishment license is revoked. Respondent must pay Assessment of Costs maximum costs of \$10,000.

STEVEN TAYLOR LMT 9943:

Respondent is alleged to of massaging M.H.' s arms while she was on her back, the Respondent grazed his crotch with each of her arms (from elbow to hand). M.H. reports that Respondent then began to massage her chest in downward stokes, each time getting closer to her breasts, eventually touching right above her nipples. M.H. reports that following the chest area, Respondent moved to her legs, first massaging her feet and then moving up towards her thighs. M.H. reports that Respondent massaged the inside of her thighs and began moving higher and higher until he was massaging the area where M.H. 's leg and genital area met. M.H. reports that Respondent grazed her labia and then began to rub his hand against her clitoris, doing so at least five (5) times.

Emily Newberry motions to proceed to default. Alicia Azimipour seconded. Motion passes. Jessica Turner presents opening statements. Jessica Turner makes closing statements. Virginia Yarbrough motions to approve final order. Alicia Azimipour seconded. Motion passes. Respondents license is revoked. Respondent must pay Assessment of Costs maximum costs of \$10,000.

KAREN SANTOS LMT 12833:

Respondent while as a student at Tennessee School of Therapeutic Massage is alleged and denies to have performed and receive payment for sexual massages.

Virginia Yarborough motions to approve agreed order. Emily Newberry seconded. Motion passes. Respondent voluntarily surrenders his massage license which act as a revocation. Respondent must pay Assessment of Costs maximum costs of \$3,000.

JONATHAN RIZZO LMT 13814:

Respondent is alleged to have had a one (1) hour massage at 100% Chiropractic scheduled with client E.G. During the massage, and while the drape was rested on E.G.'s lower back, Respondent massaged E.G.'s buttocks under the sheet. As Respondent massaged upwards, Respondent turned his fingers inward and he grazed her inner thigh, groin, and labia with his thumb. When Respondent switched sides, he massaged from E.G.'s head over her buttocks and down her leg. As Respondent massaged upwards, he again turned his hands inward and grazed E.G.'s inner thigh and labia. After rolling over to face upwards, Respondent tucked the sheet under E.G.'s hip and rubbed over her pubis bone and over her entire labia twice.

Emily Newberry motions to approve agreed order. Virginia Yarborough seconded. Motion passes. Respondent voluntarily surrenders his massage license which as a revocation. Respondent must pay Assessment of Costs maximum costs of \$3,000.

BLAKE BATES LMT #11737

Respondent provided massages at Bluestein from March 2019 until August 2022 during which Bluestein did not possess an establishment license.

Virginia Yarbrough motions to accept agreed order. Alicia Azimipour seconded. Motion carries. License is put on probation and will be on probation until he provides compliance with the 2024-2025 continuing education cycle. Must provide proof by January 31, 2026.

Adjourned

Meeting adjourns approximately 3:00PM