

MINUTES
UTAH MASSAGE THERAPY AND ACUPUNCTURE
BOARD MEETING

February 10, 2026 9:00 A.M.

CONVENED: 9:01 A.M.

ADJOURNED: 9:48 AM

DOPL STAFF PRESENT:

Bureau Manager: Lisa Martin
Board Secretary: Brylee Miller
Investigations: Benjamin Baker
Investigations: Mark Baca

Compliance Specialist: Bernice Palama
Legal Analyst: Lauren Harvey
DOPL: Maryann Penman
DOPL: Lindsay Aagaard

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Miriam Flower, LMT
Maile Tau'A-Roberts, LMT

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Autumn Bear, ACU
Katherine Bell, LMT
Autumn Bear, ACU
Anita Egbert, LMT

GUESTS:

Jeremy Kellum
Randall Nikola, Massage Education Peer Review Committee
Tyffani Jackson
Mara McGhee, FSMTB
Kristi Burtenshaw

Note: Other guests may have been in attendance electronically but were not identified.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

Call Meeting to Order

Ms. Roberts called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Read and Approve November 04, 2025 Minutes (00:03:37)

The November 04, 2025 minutes will be tabled for the next Board meeting.

Read and Approve December 16, 2025 Minutes (00:03:37)

The December 16, 2025 minutes will be tabled for the next Board meeting.

Investigations Update: (00:03:56)

Mr. Baker gave a Massage Therapy and Acupuncture investigations update. Mr. Baker stated in 2025, Investigations closed 92 Massage Therapy cases. Mr. Baker currently has 38 open Massage Therapy cases between licensed and unlicensed individuals. Mr. Baker stated in 2025, Investigations closed 3 Acupuncture cases.

Compliance Update: (00:11:02)

Ms. Palama stated Ms. Deng has not been in contact with her for 2 years; Ms. Deng has had two years to pass the MBLEx exam, ending in March 2026. Ms. Palama stated Ms. Deng is requesting an extension to take the exam.

APPOINTMENTS:

Xiaoying Deng, Probationary Interview (00:27:35)

Ms. Deng stated she has not taken the MBLEx exam and is requesting an extension to take the exam.

Ms. Roberts has denied the extension due to Ms. Deng not being in contact with DOPL, has not attempted the exam, and has not asked for assistance with the exam.

Ms. Martin stated Ms. Dengs Utah Massage Therapy License will be revoked if DOPL does not receive a passing MBLEx score. Ms. Martin stated if DOPL does not receive a passing MBLEx score, Ms. Deng will need to submit a new application with new education and a passing MBLEx exam score.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Committee Update (00:13:50)

Mr. Nikola stated the Massage Education Peer Review Committee is continuing their curriculum reviews.

Establishment Registration Update (00:34:11)

Ms. Martin gave an update on the Massage Establishment registration. Ms. Martin stated the application requirements are posted on the DOPL Massage Therapy licensing page. Ms. Martin stated disciplinary action will be taken for the unregistered Establishments by fall of 2026.

Legislation Update (00:42:03)

Ms. Martin stated SB 31 OPLR amendment adds items to the Acupuncture injection therapy definition and it adds an Acupuncture Aid. Ms. Martin stated SB 117 changed the Acupuncture national association name. Ms. Martin stated HB 202 creates an alternate pathway for Acupuncture licensure. Ms. Martin stated HB 202 may create an education committee that will review curriculums and courses.

Board Update (00:45:02)

Ms. Martin stated The Massage Therapy and Acupuncture Board has an opening spot for a Public Member and an Acupuncturist. Ms. Martin stated there may be a spot opening for a

Massage Therapist. Ms. Martin stated there is an opening for a Massage Therapist on the Massage Education Peer Review Committee.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:

MAY 12, 2026 - AUGUST 11, 2026 - NOVEMBER 10, 2026


Meeting adjourned at 9:48 A.M.

Note: These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcript but are intended to record the significant features of the business conducted in this meeting. Discussed items are not necessarily shown in the chronological order they occurred.

Privacy Notice:

This meeting may be recorded. If you attend, join or participate in this meeting, the personal data that you provide, or that is collected from you, is generally classified as a public record pursuant to Utah Code 63G-2-301 of the Government Records Access and Management Act (GRAMA), and may be made available to the public as provided by Utah Code 63G-2-201, except where the meeting is closed under Utah Code 52-4-205.

5/12/26 (ss) 
Date Approved Chairperson, Utah Massage Therapy and
Acupuncture Board

5/12/26 (ss) 
Date Approved Bureau Manager, DOPL