

**KENTUCKY BOARD OF LICENSURE FOR MASSAGE THERAPY
BOARD MEETING**

September 14, 2026

A meeting for the Kentucky Board of Licensure for Massage Therapy was held at the Department of Professional Licensing, located in Frankfort, KY, and via TEAMS, on September 14, 2026

<u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u> Valerie Smothers, Board Chair Karen Frazier, Vice Chair Jacob Walbourn Jason Washburn	<u>DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSING STAFF</u> Kristen Lawson, Commissioner Jessica Brown, Administrative Specialist Senior Jenna Wells, Fiscal Jeff Bardroff, Admin. Sect. I Supervisor
<u>MEMBERS ABSENT</u> James Carpenter Michelle Lasley Nathan Thacker, Secretary	<u>PUBLIC PROTECTION CABINET STAFF</u> Matthew Ellison, Legal Advisor
	<u>PUBLIC</u> Elise Baine (FSMTB)

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Valerie Smothers called the board meeting to order at 1:00 PM. Karen Frazier motioned to begin the board meeting. Jacob Walbourn seconded. The motion carried.

MINUTES

Jason Washburn made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 3rd, 2026, meeting. Karen Frazier seconded. The motion carried.

DPL REPORT

Commissioner Kristen Lawson stated she had nothing to present to the board at this time.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT

The financial report for August 2026 was reviewed. No discussion or questions presented.

LICENSURE STATUS REPORT

The Licensure Status Report for September 2026 was reviewed.

NEW BUSINESS

FSMTB 2026 annual meeting voting delegate is Jason Washburn. Michelle Lasley cannot attend as the alternate voting delegate due to health issues. It was brought to the floor for any interest from other board members or the board administrator. Board chair Valerie Smothers will check to see if it can fit into her schedule to attend as the alternate delegate. Proposed bylaw amendments and 2026 candidates were presented to the board for review.

Jacob Walbourn made a motion to send Valerie Smothers as the alternate voting delegate if schedule permits, Karen Frazier seconded. The motion carried.

BUSINESS REQUIRED TO BE CONDUCTED IN CLOSED SESSION

Jacob Walbourn moved to enter closed session at 1:10 PM, pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(j), for deliberations of quasi-judicial bodies regarding complaints, at which information protected by KRS 61.810(k) may be discussed. Karen Frazier seconded. The motion carried.

Karen Frazier moved to return from closed session at 1:23 PM. Jacob Walbourn seconded. The motion carried.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Chair Valerie Smothers announced the board was returning from closed session at 1:23 PM.

VOTE ON ITEMS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION

Jacob Walbourn made a motion to delegate the board members to use their conscious in the discretion of choosing the nominating committee for FSMTB and board of directors and to accept the proposed bylaw amendments as suggested by the FSMTB committee. Karen Frazier seconded the motion and the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

It was discussed that an ORI is needed due to statutory requirements by the board in obtaining a Kentucky State Police supported background check through the FBI. An estimated time cannot be given as to when the board will be able to obtain an ORI due to having to wait on other agencies. Board Attorney Matthew Ellison presented verbiage to the board to place on the website under latest news. Commissioner Kristen Lawson will review with DPL's communication department before releasing it for placement on the website and to distribute to applicants. Once an ORI number is given, KSP sets up a number with IdentoGo that will be board specific. There will have to be a training for board members and staff in order to obtain this background information.

Karen Frazier made a motion to suspend initial application approval until the board can obtain fingerprinted backgrounds directly from the FBI and to approve communication once reviewed by Commissioner Lawson to place on the website and for board administrator to send via email notification. Jason Washburn seconded and the motion carried.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Karen Frazier reported that there has not been any new action on the Veterinary Medicine Act with the Kentucky Board of Veterinary Examiners.

ATTORNEY REPORT

Matthew Ellison reported no new business. Items will be discussed during committee reports.

APPLICATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Applications for September 2026 were reviewed. On behalf of the Applications Committee, Karen Frazier made the following recommendations:

September Initial and Endorsement Applications Total: (27)

Approved: (0):

Probation: (0)

Deferred: (27):

Denied: (0)

September Reinstatement Applications Total: (0)

Approved: (0):

Probation: (0)

Deferred: (0):

Denied: (0)

September Certificate of Good Standing Initial Applications Total: (1)

Approved (0):

Probation: (0)

Deferred: (1):

Denied: (0)

September Certificate of Good Standing Renewal Applications Total: (2)

Approved: (2)

Probation: (0)

Deferred: (0):

Denied: (0)

September CEU Applications Total: (0)

Approved: (0)

Deferred: (0)

Denied: (0)

Jacob Walbourn made a motion to accept the applications committee report, Karen Frazier seconded. The motion carried.

COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Jacob Walbourn presented the Complaints Committee Report and discussed the request for a closed session discussion. The report is as follows:

- 2023BMT00010- Closed as requirements of agreement have been met
- 2025BMT00001- Remains open/pending former licensee's submission of what is needed for reinstatement/reissuance of license
- 2026BMT00006 & 2026BMT00007- Remains open pending further activity in criminal case
- 2026BMT00013- remains open, awaiting investigator's report, staff to follow up on status
- 2026BMT00014- Close without further activity; website in question has been disabled, verified by staff.
- 2026BMT00015 & 2026BMT00016- Remains open pending further activity in criminal case
- 2026BMT00017- remains open pending confirmation of receiving payment of fine.
- Re Y.Z.- Recommendation to initiate board complaint against licensee and report concerns to law enforcement investigative agencies.

Jason Washburn made a motion to accept the complaints committee report, Karen Frazier seconded. The motion carried

BUSINESS REQUIRED TO BE CONDUCTED IN CLOSED SESSION

Jacob Walbourn moved to enter closed session at 1:53 PM, pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(j), for deliberations of quasi-judicial bodies regarding complaints, at which information protected by KRS 61.810(k) may be discussed. Jason Washburn seconded. The motion carried.

Jacob Walbourn moved to return from closed session at 2:05 PM. Jason Washburn seconded. The motion carried.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Chair Valerie Smothers announced the board was returning from closed session at 2:05 PM.

VOTE ON ITEMS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION

Jacob Walbourn made a motion to initiate a board complaint and report the allegations and concerns to law enforcement investigative agencies in Re C.M. Karen Frazier seconded the motion and the motion carried.

REGULATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Karen Frazier reported that the Regulations Committee met on August 25th. It was formulated that the committee would tackle a few regulations at a time, prioritizing to work on the first two

now. Suggestions will then be presented to the board. Regulations meeting is scheduled for September 23rd at 10 a.m.

TRAVEL AND PER DIEM

Jacob Walbourn made a motion to approve travel and per diem for all Board members that attended the Board meeting and committee meetings. Jason Washburn seconded and the motion carried.

NEXT MEETING

The next board meeting will be October 5th, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business brought before the Board, Karen Frazier made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:06 PM. Jacob Walbourn seconded the motion, carried.

VS/JLB