

**COLLEGE OF MASSAGE THERAPISTS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
BOARD MEETING – PUBLIC PORTION
SUITE 304 – 1212 WEST BROADWAY, VANCOUVER, BC
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2013 AT 9:00 AM MINUTES**

In Attendance:

Robin Perry (in the Chair)
Nicholas Aubin
Lynne Harris Rich
Ingram Carolyn
Krawczyk

Lorna Pawluk
Voula Soursos
Lizette Tucker
Perminder Tung
Marilynne Waithman

Regrets:

David Crawford

Also Attending:

Susan Addario (Registrar/CEO)
Mimi Damian (Legal Assistant & Investigator)

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 am by Robin Perry.

2. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS PRESENT AND ATTENDING VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

No members attended via videoconference.

3. APPROVAL OF THIS AGENDA

Motion: To approve the agenda as circulated before the meeting. *Carried.*

4. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Motion: To approve the minutes from the September 6, 2013 Board meeting – public portion. *Carried.*

5. BOARD MEMBER DECLARATIONS OF BIAS/CONFLICTS OF INTEREST RE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no bias/conflicts of interest regarding agenda items.

6. REGISTRAR'S REPORT

The Registrar provided an update regarding the tech project and website launch. The website was launched in mid-October and the College expects to be able to open the registration renewal period in early November. Registrants will be able to renew registration online for the first time.

7. BUSINESS ARISING

7.1. Langara College Bridging Program

The Registrar described various ways candidates currently enter the profession. For applicants from non-regulated provinces and internationally-educated applicants, a practice consultant is presently used to evaluate the applicant's educational credentials and prior learning. For those whose education is not *substantially equivalent* to the education in BC, it is difficult to pick up required courses, as most massage therapy programs in BC run on a cohort model.

The College needs clear pathways and defensible examinations to assist internationally-trained health professionals seeking registration in BC, but has no mandate to deliver training. The College is currently losing money in this area, by paying a practice consultant an hourly rate to determine what applicants' credentials represent. The College spends approximately \$18,000 - \$20,000 per year for a practice consultant to oversee this process.

Funding is available through the Canada Action Plan to devise bridging programs for internationally-educated health care professionals. Langara College in Vancouver has many health professions training programs and a variety of tools used for bridging people in a health profession. Langara College asked for a letter of support for their massage therapy bridging program to use for their application for approval from the government. Because the College is looking to reduce costs, this is an elegant solution to reduce costs and to refer internationally-educated candidates to a cost-effective program.

The Registrar confirmed that the bridging program does not require recognition from CMTBC. There is no formal agreement between CMTBC and Langara College for this program. Langara College asked CMTBC for background information and support. A member asked how is CMTBC going to oversee what Langara is doing? Because Langara College is a publicly-funded post-secondary institution, oversight is provided by the Ministry of Advanced Education, and the College's Education Council.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1. Committee Reports

8.1.1. Finance & Audit Committee

Due to the absence of the Committee Chair, the Director of Corporate Services provided an update on the tech project status. In terms of project costs, the College is on target to meet its budget for this project. The Director of Corporate Services also provided an update on the year-to-date financial statements. In terms of the year-end forecast, the College is on target to meet its budget. The Board was informed that the firm of Grant Thornton was selected to be the next auditor for the College.

8.1.2. Governance Committee

The Governance Committee met twice since the last Board meeting. The Governance Committee was tasked with scheduling proposed Board meetings in 2014. Ms. Harris provided an update on the proposed schedule of meeting dates for 2014. The Governance Committee compromised on dates that it felt were most appropriate and acknowledged that not everyone will be able to attend every meeting.

Motion: To approve the scheduled dates for the Board meetings and Annual General Meeting in 2014. *Carried.*

8.1.3. Inquiry Committee

Ms. Pawluk provided an update on the active Inquiry Committee matters and Extraordinary Actions. The Board had a discussion relating to contract investigators and the recommendation of the Inquiry Committee that the Board consider the issue of funding for contract investigators in their discussion of the budget for 2014.

The Board also discussed an issue that has arisen with respect to massage therapists who advertise that they provide massage therapy to induce labour in pregnant clients. The College received three expert opinions from senior health care practitioners, including a Registered Nurse, a Registered Midwife and a Registered Massage Therapist. On the basis on these opinions, the Inquiry Committee recommends that a notice be sent to all registrants, informing them that the use of massage therapy to induce labour is outside the scope of practice for massage therapists.

A member noted that a course that teaches how to use massage therapy to induce labour has in the past received credit from the College for continuing education. It was noted that the provider of this course will be contacted prior to the notice being sent, and given an explanation for the Committee's decision.

Motion: To accept the Inquiry Committee Report concerning the Scope of Practice Issue (Induction of Labour) and support item #4 of the Report, to direct the issuance of a "Notice to Profession" or "Advisory Statement" informing registrants that the induction of labour does not fall within the scope of massage therapy practice, so that any who are currently practicing out of the scope can take appropriate actions. *Carried.*

Action: Director of Compliance to draft the Notice to Profession.

8.1.4. Patient Relations Committee

Mr. Ingram provided an update on the Committee's collaboration with MTA regarding the handbook on professional boundary issues. The Committee also discussed an online module developed by the health profession regulators in Ontario which deals with social media issues. A proposal was made to revisit the boundaries issue and social media issue at the next AGM as an education day / workshop.

Action: College staff will work with the Inquiry Committee on what are the major issues arising with respect to boundaries and social media.

8.1.5. Quality Assurance Committee

Dr. Waithman provided an update on the Committee's focus areas, noting that the Committee is creating more clarity with respect to CEC requirements and criteria, especially for instructor credentials and curriculum content. The Committee has been reviewing and considering the quality assurance programs of other Colleges, with the goal of devising and recommending major changes to CMTBC's quality assurance program, starting in the next cycle. The Committee has focused especially on the core mandate of the College and the scope of practice for massage therapy in BC. In recommending a new approach to quality assurance for CMTBC, the Committee will pay particular attention to the best practices from other regulated health professions, and to a communication strategy to accompany the proposed changes.

A member asked about the status of first aid and CPR courses. These are not yet required courses for registrants; that proposal is in the Bylaws which will be forwarded to the Ministry. Registrants will continue to receive continuing education credit for completing first aid and CPR courses until the end of the current cycle. A member asked why the course that teaches induction of labour has been given credit in the past, if this is not in RMTs' scope of practice. This needs to be reviewed, and a clear message sent.

Motion: To refer the induction of labour course to the Quality Assurance Committee for review. *Carried.*

8.1.6. Registration Committee

Motion: To acknowledge and move the second part of the Report *in Camera*. *Carried.*

Ms. Tucker provided an update on the fall 2013 exam results. There was a 65% overall pass rate (70% pass rate for first time exam takers). The registration process constitutes four examinations. Many candidates who fail an exam the first time also fail the second time. In future, the Jurisprudence exam will be taken out of the high-stakes exam environment and taught online by the College.

Motion: To accept all Committee Reports. *Carried.*

8.2. Draft Report of the National Accreditation Planning Committee

Motion: To table this matter for discussion at a future Board meeting. *Carried.*

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 11:05 am. *Carried.*



Robin Perry, Chair

Susan L. Addario

Susan Addario, Registrar & CEO