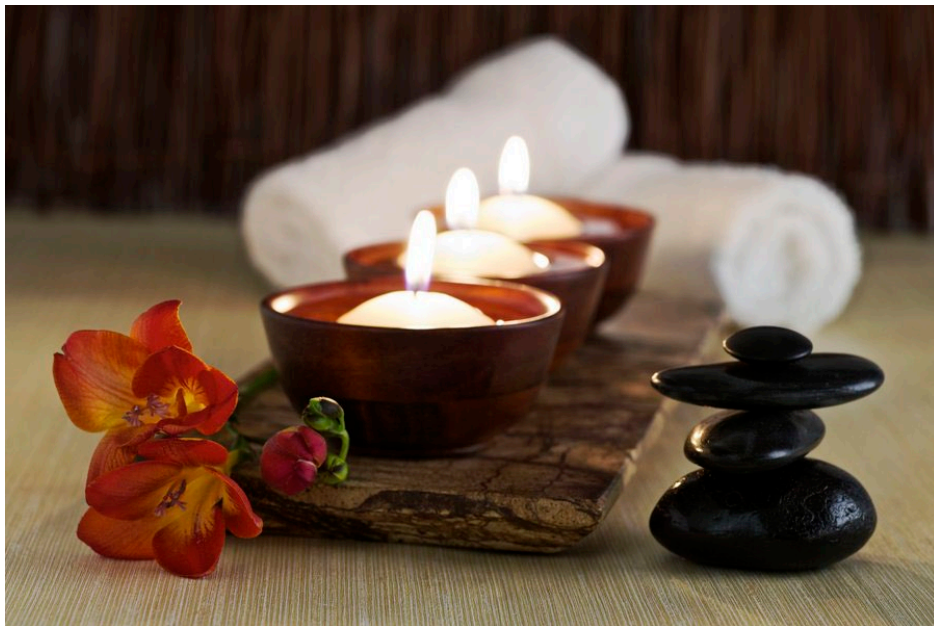


**MARYLAND STATE BOARD
OF
MASSAGE THERAPY EXAMINERS
FISCAL YEAR 2022 REPORT**

DECEMBER 30, 2022





Introduction

The Maryland State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners (the "Board") is the agency charged with the regulatory oversight of the practice of massage therapy in the State. The Board issues licenses to massage therapist (LMTs) and registrations to massage practitioners (RMPs). In Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, the Board regulated approximately three thousand, one hundred-twenty (3,862) active massage professionals.

Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 was a very rewarding and sometimes challenging year for the Maryland State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners (the "Board") and the Board staff. On June 30, 2021, the extended 2020 renewal cycle ended. We were happy to see so many LMTs and RMPs return to active practice.

As the nation and the Board slowly resumed life post the COVID-19 pandemic, the Maryland Department of Health experienced a security incident on or about December 4, 2021. This security incident significantly impacted the operations of the Board, as computers were encrypted and access to the internet and crucial databases and files was disrupted. Board staff was able to expeditiously identify and creatively implement work-arounds to restore operations in mid-December 2022. Some of those workarounds required both Board Members and Board Staff to adopt new procedures and to acquire new technology skills to better serve stakeholders.

Throughout calendar year 2022, the Staff, in collaboration with the Board's IT support staff and other entities, has worked tirelessly to identify options to reconnect our systems to a secured network and eliminate the use of Hotspots and WiFi for internet connection. 2023 looks very promising!

Board Operations

The Board's operations are separated into three distinct units:

1. **Licensing Unit** - processes applications for initial licensure/registration, reinstatements, reactivations and renewals; verification of licensure/registration status, and coordination of the administration of the Board's jurisprudence examination.
2. **Compliance Unit** - is responsible for the Board's disciplinary process and investigates complaints for possible violations of the Act. The Unit also monitors compliance of the terms and conditions of Board orders.
3. **Administrative Unit** - is responsible for the fiscal operations of the Board, processing all incoming mail, revenue deposits, incoming telephone inquiries, publication of the Board Meeting agendas and minutes on the Board's website, and other administrative functions.

Board Member Activities

The Board and/or Board Members maintain membership in national massage therapy and regulatory organizations including, Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB), American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA), the Federation of Association of Regulatory Boards (FARB), and Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulations (CLEAR). In FY 2022, the Board sent two representatives to the Annual FSMTB conference held in Charlotte, North Carolina. Additionally, Board Members and Board Staff participated in conferences offered by CLEAR, FARB and AMTA.

Board Members and Staff Development and Training

Board members and Board Staff continue to enhance their regulatory knowledge and leadership skills to ensure the Board functions efficiently. Training completed include Incident Command System Prep; FEMA Security Incident Management Modules; Implicit Bias; the MDH Leadership Development Program; Presentation Skills for Leaders and FARB seminars and workshops.



Fiscal Position

The Board's operations are funded by revenue generated primarily from licensure and registration fees. A significant portion on the revenues is collected during each renewal cycle which occurs in the even numbered years. Statutorily, the Board of Massage Therapy Examiners and the Board of Chiropractic Examiners share the same staff. In so doing, the Board is able to reduce operating costs.

The fund balance at the start of FY 2022 was \$687,583.11, a carryover from FY 2021. Revenue collected in FY 2022 was approximately \$160,505.00. Appropriations (budgeted expenses) for FY 2022 were \$641,996.00. Expenditures through June 30, 2022 totaled \$527,697.99, resulting in a Fund Balance of approximately \$320,391.12.

LICENSING UNIT REPORT

The Licensing Unit processes initial license/registrations, renewal, restatement and reactivation applications, and responds to inquiries from potential licensees and registrants who are considering practicing in Maryland. A major accomplishment of the Board in FY 2022 has been the implementation of the online jurisprudence examination. In so doing, applicants are able to remotely take the examination upon notification by the staff of the approval of their completed application package.

The Licensing Unit Team

The team is comprised of the Licensing Unit Manager, the Massage Licensing Specialist, and the Chiropractic Licensing Specialist. As with many of the State's agencies, the Licensing Unit experienced turnover in its licensing staff in April 2022. The Unit continued to accept and process applications efficiently and maintain the highest level of customer service.

Licensing Statistical Information

In FY 2022, one hundred, seventy-two (172) new licenses and registrations were issued to qualified applicants. Thirty (30) individuals reactivated their license/registration and twenty-nine (29) chose to reinstate their license/registration.

License and Registration Statistics as of June 30, 2022

Licensee Category	Status	Numbers
Licensed Massage Therapist	Active	2,292
Licensed Massage Therapist	Inactive	251
Registered Massage Practitioners	Active	1,570
Registered Massage Practitioners	Inactive	87

Despite the lack of direct connection to a network, Board staff continued to seamlessly process applications,

issue licenses and registrations and prepared for the 2022 renewal process.

COMPLIANCE UNIT REPORT



The Compliance or Disciplinary Unit (the “Unit”) assists the Board to fulfill its mission of ensuring that quality massage therapy care is provided to the public. The Unit accomplishes this objective by investigating complaints, presenting investigative findings to the Board, implementing the Board's recommendations, transmitting cases to the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) for prosecution, and monitoring case management compliance. The staff of the Unit regularly interacts with the public, licensees and registrants, and responds to informational requests. The Unit works collaboratively

with other branches of the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), Board Counsel and prosecutors in the Office of the Attorney General and with other government agencies.

The Compliance Unit experienced a complete staff turnover, losing both investigators at the end of May 2022. Recruitment of new staff was initiated immediately. As with many organizations, the workforce shortage has impacted recruitment efforts. Nevertheless, investigations of complaints received were not impacted as tasks were re-distributed amongst the existing staff to ensure appropriate coverage of those responsibilities.

Disciplinary Statistical Information

In FY 2022, there were a total of twenty-eight (28) cases under investigation. Two (2) of those cases were unresolved in FY 2021. Of the total number of cases investigated, eighteen (18) were closed after initial review by the Discipline Committee. Five (5) were referred to the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) for prosecution. Five (5) cases resulted in formal disciplinary action and are published on the Board’s website. The remaining three (3) complaint cases requires further action by the Compliance Unit and Discipline Committee.

Discipline Cases Disposition

Complaints Pending from Previous Year	2
New Complaints Received	26
Total Cases Under Investigation	28
Cases Referred to the Office of the Attorney General	5
Cases Closed Without Action after Initial Review	18
Cases with Formal Action Taken (Public Action)	5
Cases with Informal Action Taken (Letters of Education)	0
Unresolved Complaints as of June 30, 2022	3

Public Disciplinary Actions Against Licensees/Registrants/Applicants



Public Disciplinary Actions¹ included Revocations, Summary Suspensions, Suspensions, Probation, Reprimand, Denial of Application, Denial of Renewal Application, Denial of Reinstatement Application and/or Termination of Probation. Non-public actions are not disclosable by law

¹ Disciplinary Actions are based on investigations initiated in previous years as well as in Fiscal Year 2022.



and includes Letters of Education or Letters of Admonishment sent to the licensee/registrant by the Board.

In Fiscal Year 2022, the Board revoked the license of one (1) LMT and the registration of two (2) RMPs; summarily suspended the licenses of one (1) LMT and the registration of one (1) RMP; accepted the surrender of the registration of one (1) RMP; suspended the registration of one (1) RMP; terminated the consent order of one (1) LMT; placed the license of one (1) LMT and the registration of one (1) RMP on probation. The Board also placed the license of one (1) LMT under an Interim Consent Order.

Public Actions

NAME	LICENSE/ REGISTRATION NUMBER	BOARD ACTIONS
Georgiana N. Campos, RMP	R03410	Effective 10/04/2021, Consent Order. Two-year probation, \$2,500 fine, Board-approved courses.
Yuriy Gorodiskiy, RMP	R00238	Effective 12/22/2021, Revoked, Sexual Assault.
Teymuraz Tsaguriya, LMT	M00641	Effective 12/22/2021, Revoked. Sexual Misconduct.
Lubin Hernandez Palomino, LMT	M04050	Effective 12/22/2021, Consent Order. Two-year probation, Board-approved courses. Inappropriate Touching.
Habibollah Jadidi, RMP	R02346	Effective 12/22/2021, Revoked, Sexual Assault.
Hasani Lori Adams, LMT	M05761	Effective 01/24/2022, Summarily Suspended, Sexual Misconduct.
Ahmed Abdallah, LMT	M04293	Effective 01/27/2022, Termination of Interim Consent Order, Sexual Misconduct.
Andrey Gayevskiy, RMP	R00470	Effective 03/03/2022, Summarily Suspended, Sexual Misconduct, Inappropriate Touching.
Chaun Rogers, RMP	R02880	Effective 03/24/2022, Final Decision and Order of Suspension; Two-Years. Sexual Misconduct.
Hasani Lori Adams, LMT	M05761	Effective 03/08/2022, Interim Consent Order, Sexual Assault.
Parrish Lee, RMP	R03404	Effective 04/28/2022, Letter of Surrender in Lieu of Disciplinary Actions. Sexual Misconduct.

All disciplinary actions are reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank and a copy of the order is published on the Board’s website.

The Disciplinary Unit remains committed to the Board’s mission of protecting the citizens of Maryland.

ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT REPORT

The Administrative Unit continues to play an integral role in the operations of the Board. The Unit processes all CEU approval requests, Board Member and Board staff travel arrangements, payment of Board bills, provides information to the public on continuing education requirements, fees, license/registration verifications, requested forms, applications, Board statute and regulations and various Board matters.

2022 LEGISLATIONS IMPACTING THE BOARD



HB220/SB37 State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners – Registered Massage Practitioner – Licensure – Revisions

After many years of hard work and collaboration with stakeholders, the Board introduced legislation in the 2022 Legislation Session to eliminate the two-tiered licensure status for massage professionals in Maryland. The law passed and as of October 1, 2022, to qualify for LMT status, all applicants must complete and graduate from a 750-contact hour massage therapy educational program offered by an accredited massage school. The Board is working on regulations that will provide specific guidelines on how qualified registered massage practitioners may convert to LMT status by October 2026.

There were several bills that were introduced during the 2022 legislative session. One of particular interest to the Board was HB 1455/SB 899 Health Occupations Boards - Authority Over Infrastructure - Staffing and Operations which did not pass and not supported by the Board. A Board member provided testimony in Annapolis in opposition of this bill.

Conclusion

The pandemic and security incident have highlighted the need for regulatory boards to remain on the cutting edge of technology. Consequently, we are continuously evaluating and enhancing our processes with a goal of delivering excellent customer service while protecting the public.

We are here to serve!