

Colorado Coalition of Massage Therapists  
Teleconference 2/7/18

In attendance:

Christen Corvington, AMTA member  
Joyce Dalbey, massage therapist at large  
David Gray, AMTA member  
Charlotte Grill, AMTA National Government Relations  
Roger Patrizio, Colorado Massage Institute  
Tsy Schupack, ABMP member and CCMT volunteer  
Chris Smith, Colorado School of Healing  
Kathryn Stewart, AMTA member and CCMT volunteer  
Garin Vorthman, Colorado Legislative Services state lobbyist  
Alfred Westlake, AMTA and ABMP member  
Kris Wills, Colorado School of Healing Arts

- 1) City of Aurora proposed massage facility/establishment license ordinance update
  - On February 1, 2018 a stakeholder meeting took place with City of Aurora Tax and Licensing Manager, Trevor Vaughn. Tami Schumacher, Colorado AMTA President; Laura Embleton, ABMP National Government Relations; and Tsy Schupack, CCMT volunteer attended in person. Charlotte Grill and Alfred Westlake attended by teleconference.
  - Trevor explained that although state statutes may exist and overlap—prosecution of state level offenses are most often tried in the county courts. In order for the City of Aurora to prosecute at the municipal level there must be a corresponding city ordinance.
  - The introduction of a massage facility/establishment license ordinance will allow the City to better establish ownership, monitor management and business activities of suspected illicit massage establishments. Such ordinance will also allow the City to set priorities regarding enforcement.
  - The original ordinance draft relied heavily upon the Federation of State Massage Therapy Board (FSMTB) document on Human Trafficking as the guiding source of information and direction. Trevor envisions the Aurora ordinance becoming model legislation for other home rule cities in Colorado and is willing to work with the legitimate massage industry to provide a better-balanced ordinance.
  - The FSMTB report mirrors other issues with which Trevor is familiar from first-hand experience. Arrests for illicit activities have been made where a duly state licensed massage therapist has been found to have graduated from schools which have since been discovered to be diploma mills that assisted their students in cheating on the MBlex examination.
  - Trevor also expressed frustration when interacting with DORA regarding cease and desist notices. He further believes that DORA should investigate each license that was obtained with education from a school that was determined to be a ‘diploma mill’.
  - Tsy reported that the good news is that Trevor really wants to create a model ordinance with our input, that we are invited to the table and that proposed changes will be provided for review.
  - Garin will check with DORA about the veracity of his statements about the need for a local ordinance and to see if DORA has any idea how many licensed therapists graduated from these questionable schools.

- 2) Massage Therapy Legislative Awareness Day at State Capitol (MTLAD).
  - Christen Corvington has agreed to mentor this year's organizer of the event.
  - Joyce Dalbey expressed interest and has agreed to coordinate this year's event with Christen's help.
  - Dates were discussed and Garin will check to see if 3/29 or 4/5, both Thursdays, are available for the event.
  - Joyce lives in Highlands Ranch and has previous experience with public speaking and running political campaigns.
  
- 3) CCMT Moving forward--roles were covered again.
  - Chris Smith has someone in mind for the school liaison role.
  - David Abbott has a background in writing, also a retired police officer who has a medical massage practice. He is interested in the wordsmithing and writing for the website and Legislative Awareness Network emails.
  - So we are starting to fill out some roles. 200% increase in volunteering.
  - Tsy has experience as a volunteer coordinator and discussed the importance of clear job descriptions and support for volunteers as they move into their roles.
  
- 4) AGENDA for next meeting 2/21/18, same call in number and access code  
Phone number 1 (571) 317-3112, access code 643 934 973
  - A) Update on state legislation
  - B) Update on national legislation
  - C) Update on Aurora ordinance and feedback from DORA
  - D) MTLAD at the State Capitol
  - E) Review organizational chart, fill roles, identify steering committee for immediate responses

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## thoughts from today's call

1 message

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Roger Patrizio <RogerP@cimt.edu>  
To: "ccmtonline@gmail.com" <ccmtonline@gmail.com>

Thu, Feb 8, 2018 at 1:50 PM

Hi, I was encouraged by the tone of this meeting. Especially in regards to an open minded approach towards discussion over the proposed establishment license in Aurora. Much different than 2 years ago when Rep. Carver attempted a similar ordinance that would not supersede the existing DORA massage license in place but create opportunities for law enforcement access to investigate parlors.

I am not sure of the appropriate steps towards combatting these illicit parlors, but this discussion is a good starting place. I do know that law enforcement feels their hands are tied. They need cause to enter and investigate, an establishment license may give them a stronger tool to do so.

I do know that there are more cases and parlors than DORA has the time and manpower to prosecute. And that many of these are not facing criminal charges only actions to revoke licenses or penalize one for not having a state approved massage therapy license. The penalties are minor in comparison to the potential profitability of these illicit massage businesses. DORA is doing what they can with the resources available and the great extent and scope of this problem.

And also the group must realize that many people and businesses simply work without a massage license. So the issue goes beyond just monitoring licensed massage therapists.

So that was great moderation and feedback from the group. Thank you.

One final thing is if one wants to know more about human trafficking, there are countless organizations doing great work up and down the front range. Our task force is sponsoring our 6<sup>th</sup> annual Legislative Day at the state capital on Thursday, Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>. I will attach the event flyer for all who may want to attend. Is it possible to consider that in the future we bring our massage day to the state capital on the same day as this legislative day? Would it enhance our presence? I am not sure, just a thought.

I have included the information about our upcoming Legislative Day at the state capital. And an invite to our monthly task force meeting where we are taking an inside look at massage parlors in El Paso County. These meetings are open to the public and the Legislative day is a human trafficking event with promotion of proposed legislation.

I would appreciate it if this could be distributed to our CCMT data base.

Thanks,

*Roger*



Roger Patrizio

Director

Colorado Institute of Massage Therapy

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2 attachments

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