

June 24, 2018

Maine AMTA Chapter Government Relations Committee Meeting Minutes

Present: Christine Boudreau, Tarnya Constantino, Heather Laliberte, Wendy Decker

Meeting was called to order.

At roll call we each wrote our goals for the committee on a card for Heather.

May 20th meeting minutes were approved as written.

Wendy reviewed meeting with the lobbyists

Review of letter and survey:

Discussion on health care provider wording. Added wording to survey about adding a second tier to licensing. Two weeks deadline date needs to be added to letter before printed and sent out.

Insurance discussion:

Heather will send us insurance coverage research article to committee members.

Two tier discussion: 1st tier will be current LMT requirements. 2nd tier would require additional education hours and hands-on experience. Our end goal is to have qualified LMTs be able to receive insurance reimbursement.

Christine will be attending AMTA national conference August 3-12. She would like us to think of questions to ask other state representatives at the conference that would be helpful for us to get input on regarding legislative issues. Christine needs this feedback by end of July.

Christine showed us the MTBOK The Massage Therapy Body of Knowledge book that was created but not implemented. It was made to help all the states find what worked for other states.

Christine will pick up envelopes for letter/survey tomorrow from Anita. She will finish the survey letter, send it to the committee members, members will approve or suggest changes.

Heather will get the letter surveys printed when approved. Committee members who are available this week can get together and stuff envelopes. Heather will make an email list from the state website of LMTs in preparation for sending out reminder of survey and look into possibly using the list for sending out survey monkey surveys in the future.

Further tier discussion is tabled until February, after current legislative work for this legislative session is done.

Calendar:

May 15 deadline or thereabouts for 2019 legislative grant.

Get survey letters out by end of June. Deadline hopefully July 14 for return of surveys.

Get questions to Christine by end of July.

February – Start writing grant.

Current – finish letter survey and send out this week. Deadline for surveys to be returned will be 2 weeks from when we send them out. A reminder email can go out that second week.

Bill will be prepared by November by lobbyists.

Wendy will contact lobbyists to get the ball rolling. It was agreed that we can get started on the lobbyist contract now for the massage wording, and adding health care provider wording into the law. When we know the results of survey, we can see about adding CE requirements, or wait until next round of legislation. Heather and I will be contact people for the lobbyist. We will need to be informed on how to mobilize LMTs and friends when we need to move fast.

Next meeting or two, Wendy will teach how to write a position paper and have a few to use as a template for writing to our legislators or speaking at public meetings. She will talk about the legislative process.

Discussion about how to inform the public of what is a legitimate massage practice. Christine will call state about how to flag illegitimate practitioners in our individual areas, so we can inform AMTA LMTs in our newsletter.

Next meeting: July 22, 2018 at Panera Breads at 759 Turner St in Auburn. 10-12.