

Greetings,

I'd like to introduce myself as the 2007 Chair of the Board of Directors of NCBTMB. There have been many changes since the last edition of InfoLine and I'd like to share some of them with you.

The first and most important change is that we've hired on a new CEO, Christopher Laxton, CAE. Chris is a career professional with more than 25 years of experience in nonprofit leadership, management and communications, with 21 of those years in healthcare. He most recently served as the CEO for the American Association of Diabetes Educators. Chris brings a powerful combination of vision, leadership and healthcare experience that NCBTMB will embrace.

CANDIDATE APPLICATION HANDBOOK

Our School Outreach Advisory Panel (SOAP) has been busy reviewing and editing the candidate application handbook. The panel is made up of NCBTMB Director of Education Mark Lausch, as well as Elaine Calenda (Chair), Lisa Schad, Paul Pozorski, Jerry Wexler, Timothy P. Zembek and Bernadette Bella Bitta. SOAP's goal is to simplify the procedure for applying for national certification and make it more clear and concise. The anticipated publication date for the revised handbook is August of 2007.

In addition, we have developed some documents to make the national certification process faster and smoother for schools of massage and bodywork. One such document is the checklist for information highlighted on page four.

ADVANCING THE PROFESSION

In closing, as a university educator, I can appreciate the challenges teachers and administrators face and I am committed to working with schools to make NCBTMB a more valued resource and partner. The NCBTMB's Board of Directors, staff and volunteers welcome and value your comments and suggestions so that we may better serve you. We look forward to working with you in the future and, together, helping to advance the profession of massage and bodywork.



Looking forward to staying in touch,

Donna M. Feeley
MPH, BSN, RN, NCTMB
NCBTMB Chair

To view Donna's bio, please visit www.ncbtmb.com for the winter issue of In Touch newsletter.

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SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT: THE MESSAGE THERAPY RESEARCH CONSORTIUM

(A multi-school organization)

Our first school spotlight highlights the Massage Therapy Research Consortium (MTRC), made of up eleven massage therapy schools throughout the United States and Canada. Brought together by Ben Benjamin (founder and former president of the Muscular Therapy Institute) and Janet Kahn (research assistant professor in the College of Medicine at the University of Vermont and former president of the AMTA Foundation), the consortium is a voluntary collaboration of massage schools.

The MTRC is committed to promoting and supporting research for the enhancement of healthcare and the profession. The consortium includes free-standing massage schools, both for profit and non-profit, one community college, one university of health sciences, and two schools that are part of the Cortiva Institute.

These schools are interested in enhancing their own understanding of and participation in research on therapeutic massage. They have banded together to provide mutual support and to pool resources for joint educational and research activities.

ACTIVITIES OF THE MTRC

Some of the MTRC's current activities include:

- **A Clinic Client Study**

Conducted in the student clinics of eight consortium schools, this qualitative study gathered information on how clients describe the physical, emotional and cognitive effects they receive from their massages. Data analysis is underway and yielding very interesting results.

- **Development of Taxonomy of Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork**

The consortium designed this taxonomy of therapeutic massage and bodywork especially to facilitate a range of research-related functions. The taxonomy will be made available on the MTRC website after publication.

- **Development of Treatment Protocols for a Low Back Study**

A committee from the consortium is working with researchers on a study comparing two forms of massages as treatment for low back pain—one more relaxation-oriented and one more structurally-oriented. The Group Health Care for Health Studies in Seattle is conducting this study. The principal investigator is Dr. Dan Cherkin. Drs. Karen Sherman and Janet Kahn are co-investigators.

For more information on the Massage Therapy Research Consortium, including a list of participating schools, visit their website at www.massagetherapyresearchconsortium.com.

SCHOOL OUTREACH RECENT EFFORTS

Candidate Application Handbook Revision Project

The School Outreach Advisory Panel (SOAP) has spent the last several weeks gathering volunteers from a number of massage therapy schools around the country to participate in the Candidate Application Handbook Revision Project.

So far, schools from a wide geographic representation are on board. These include: Colorado, Utah, Arizona, Oregon, Florida, Maryland, California, Idaho, Washington, DC, and Georgia. More states will be represented as many of these schools are multi-campus institutes.

SURVEY PROCESS

In the next few weeks the SOAP members will be working with the schools to collect data on the current application process. In each school, students and staff will give input on each aspect of the application process and how we can improve it. We will collect this feedback through a survey process.

Once we collect all of the data, the School Outreach Advisory Panel and the NCBTMB staff will evaluate it before the first draft of the revised Candidate Application Handbook is printed and distributed for wide review and use.

If you would like any information about this project, please feel free to contact:

Elaine Calenda
ecalenda@bcmt.org

“In addition to the research activities conducted within schools participating in the Massage Therapy Research Consortium (MTRC), the MTRC as a whole also partners with other institutions, providing massage expertise to researchers and to those engaged in integrated healthcare settings.”

— FROM THE MTRC WEBSITE

DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

In future issues of the InfoLine we would like to highlight outstanding faculty, staff, and students. If you would like us to consider featuring someone from your school in an upcoming issue, please contact Elaine Calenda at (800) 442-5131.

HAVE YOUR SCHOOL SPOTLIGHTED

The SOAP will be highlighting schools in future issues of the InfoLine. If you would like your school to be featured in an upcoming School Spotlight, please contact Elaine Calenda at (800) 442-5131.



STATUS OF STUDENT APPLICATIONS

NCBTMB's new Application Status Lookup Tool makes it quick and easy for students to get updates on their application status.

Have you ever had students contact you multiple times a month (or week) to ask you to find out the status of their NCBTMB exam application? Do you find yourself calling the NCBTMB for the status to relay back to your students?

THAT WAS THEN, THIS IS NOW!

We've created a new tool that allows applicants to view the current status of their application online 24/7. Looking up an application status is quick and easy:

1. Direct students to www.ncbtmb.com. Here, they can click the button on the right side of the home page titled: Look Up Your Certification Application Status.
2. A new screen will appear that asks applicants to enter their birth date and the last four digits of their Social Security number.
3. The next screen gives applicants their NCBTMB account number. (Once certified, this will become their certificate number.) The applicant also will be asked to enter the last four digits of their Social Security number again.
4. Once completed, the following information will appear:
 - Certification number
 - Certification status (status of their application)
 - Date in which their testing eligibility begins/ends
 - List of any missing documentation that is preventing the applicant from becoming eligible
 - Thomson Exam ATT (Authorization to Test) number (appears only if their application is complete)
5. Students can update their mailing address and contact information on the lower part of the screen.

We encourage you to share this information with your students to help ensure that their experience prior to the exam is a positive one.

NCBTMB EXAM SCHEDULING 101

Did you know that NCBTMB candidates can schedule exam appointments online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week? Simply visit the Prometric website:

www.prometric.com/ncbtmb

Would you like to increase your comfort level with online scheduling? Join NCBTMB and Prometric for NCBTMB Exam Scheduling 101, a live, webex session where Prometric will demonstrate how easy and efficient scheduling your exam appointment online can be. Prometric will offer this sixty-minute, interactive session once a month for the next three months.

Simply select the date most convenient for you from these three choices:

Date	Time	Meeting #
April 18, 2007	1-2 p.m. EST	565 384 802
May 16, 2007	1-2 p.m. EST	566 471 154
June 13, 2007	1-2 p.m. EST	565 908 122

In this easy to understand session, Prometric will walk you through the entire scheduling process in a step-by-step manner, with no pressure to schedule. Once you choose the date that works best for you, simply follow these steps to enter the session:

1. 15 minutes before the session begins, go to <https://btconferencing.webex.com/btconferencing>
2. You will be prompted to enter the appropriate meeting number on the first screen. This will allow you to view the visual portion of the presentation on your computer screen.
3. Next, dial toll-free (877) 384-0533 to gain audio access to the session. When you hear the automated operator answer, listen to the instructions and enter the following participant code: 75457113.
4. You are now ready to participate in this informative session.

NCBTMB and Prometric look forward to your attendance and assisting you in scheduling your exam appointment online!

THREE GOOD REASONS TO RECERTIFY

Trying to decide whether to pursue recertification? Wondering whether recertification will have an impact on your longevity and success in the field?

These are exciting times for the field of massage therapy and bodywork. As an integral part of the Complementary Alternative Medicine (CAM) market, massage therapy and bodywork is becoming more accepted than ever. It is up to each of us to continue to protect, uphold and enhance that reputation.

By recertifying, you take the next step towards upholding the credibility and reputation of your beloved profession. Why recertify?

1. **Public Trust** – By recertifying, you assure the public that you are:
 - Competent in ethics and legal practice
 - Continually enhancing your knowledge, skills and abilities
2. **Credibility and Skill** – Recertification protects your credibility and professionalism as you:
 - Adhere to the NCBTMB Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice.
 - Remain up-to-date in your areas of work
 - Maintain your hands-on experience and your skills
3. **Professional Growth** – Recertification allows you to:
 - Commit to your own ongoing professional growth
 - Choose from easy and flexible options to accumulate required Continuing Education (CE) hours

Certification/recertification helps to recognize practitioners as legitimate healthcare providers on par with other professionals in health fields requiring certification and recertification. And that's a wise investment in your industry and in your own career.



EXPEDITING THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Checklist of Requirements for a Transcript from an Assigned School

Reviewing transcripts is a straightforward process. However, from time to time we receive transcripts that are unclear. These transcripts require additional attention and oftentimes delay processing the application by several days. In some cases, we need to contact the school for clarity, adding even more time to the task of processing transcripts (and more potential delay for the applicant).

In order to give your students' transcripts the best opportunity to be processed quickly, we strongly recommend the following:

1. Be sure that the core curriculum criteria listed below is clearly identified along with:

- The total number of classroom hours completed, and the grade received or that the student has passed the class

2. Check that the following core curriculum is clearly identified:

- Anatomy, Physiology, Kinesiology (minimum of 125 hours is required)
- Ethics (minimum of 6 hours is required)
- Business (minimum of 4 hours is required)
- Massage and Bodywork Assessment, Theory and Application Instruction (minimum of 200 hours is required)
- Pathology (minimum of 40 hours is required)
- Instruction—Fields Related to Massage Study (minimum of 125 hours is required)

NOTE: Make sure you identify the full name of each course as it appears in your school catalog.

3. Ensure that the following additional required information appears:

- The school's name, address and phone number
- Student's legal name
- Student's Social Security number
- School seal
- Name of person issuing the transcript

4. Extremely important: The student's name as it appears on the transcript must be identical to the way in which the student entered his/her name on their application to NCBTMB. Any discrepancies will result in significant delays.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Types of State Regulation

The generally utilized methods by which a state regulates professions are registration, certification and licensure. We should note that states do not necessarily interpret such definitions uniformly. Notice that as qualifications become more stringent, the level of protection to practitioners and consumers also increases proportionately.

REGISTRATION—The least “onerous” form of regulation.

• **Qualifications**—It simply involves an official keeping a register (an official record) of all practitioners in the state who have met the state's requirements and have applied for registration. The state's list of registered practitioners is normally available to the public upon request. Qualifications for registration vary with different professions from state to state and may be as simple as requiring that another practitioner verifies the applicant's good character and professional activity.

• **Protection**—Registration provides only a minimal degree of protection for consumers and services.

CERTIFICATION—The next step on the regulatory ladder.

• **Qualifications**—Certification is granted only to practitioners who have attained certain levels of education and/or experience, or have demonstrated competence in some other way, and have applied for certification. The state then certifies to the public that the specified requirements have been met.

• **Protection**—When a state stipulates that only state-certified practitioners may use designated titles (such as “certified massage therapist/practitioner”) then certification has the effect of creating “title protection” for qualified practitioners. Certification provides a medium level of protection for consumers of services.

LICENSURE—The most stringent form of state regulation.

• **Qualifications**—When strict licensure is adopted by a state, no one may practice or advertise that they practice a given profession in that state without first obtaining a license. Qualifying for a state license usually requires the attainment of specified levels of education and experience, as well as the successful completion of an examination. A state board, sometimes called a “board of examiners,” usually regulates licensees. This board has the authority to investigate complaints against practitioners, issue subpoenas and conduct formal hearings.

• **Protection**—Licensure provides the greatest degree of protection for consumers of services.

NCBTMB INFOLINE

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[HTTP://WWW.NCBTMB.COM](http://www.ncbtmb.com)

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