

NCBTMB's Committee, Panel & Task Force Reports for 2006

YEAR-END REPORTS REVEAL MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR NCBTMB GROUPS

The NCBTMB committees, panels, and task forces spent many hours in 2006 formulating new ideas and goals that will benefit NCBTMB. Below are the reports detailing the numerous accomplishments and goals of these groups and their hard-working volunteers.

Continuing Education/Recertification Committee: Bob Helfrich, Chair, Connecticut; Stephanie M, Vice-chair, Oregon; Wanda B, Wisconsin; John M, Minnesota; Judy S, Idaho; Bonnie M, Missouri; Joe M, Connecticut; Julia H, Alabama; Kathy H, Pennsylvania; Rich R, Virginia.

The CE/Recertification Committee had three face-to-face meetings: two with just CE/Recertification members and one as a collective group of all NCBTMB committees, in which we met as individual groups. We spent numerous hours preparing the new Approved Provider Application and reviewing the questions to make sure that they were clear. After completing the application, we initiated a pilot program. Pilot program participants were a combination of NCBTMB Approved Providers and new applicants to become Approved Providers. After receiving feedback from these people, we reviewed the application and incorporated the comments of the pilot program participants. We also incorporated a guide (a separate book that helps applicants fill out the application form) into the application to ensure that all questions that may arise are addressed. The revised application is now available.

We also had conference calls each month to review applications; each conference call lasted between 2.5 and 3 hours. By early November, we had reviewed over 350 applications.

Leadership Development Committee: E. Houston LeBrun, Chair, Washington; and Rich Reiger, Chair of the Volunteer Retention Subcommittee, Virginia; E. Houston LeBrun was also Chair of the Nominations Subcommittee.

The Leadership Development Committee was reactivated in May of 2006. The Leadership Retention Subcommittee is currently surveying past NCBTMB volunteers and will have surveyed current volunteers by the end of the year. I attended the AMTA national convention and gave a presentation on the LDC for NCBTMB. Both Rich and I solicited volunteers at the convention and spoke to many attendees about volunteer service positions available with NCBTMB. As LDC Chair, I am currently searching for volunteer leaders to serve on the LDC as well as on several other committees. For more information, please e-mail Houston LeBrun at Hands2000@aol.com.

Examination Committee: Sandy Anderson, Chair, Arizona; Jill Bielawski, Arizona; Beverley Giroud, Arizona; Alton Sanders, California; Georgia Martin, Colorado; Tama Hader, Montana; Terry Norman, Texas; Cindy Gillan, Massachusetts; Kristie Odom, Florida; and Joe Muscolino, Connecticut.

The Examination Committee met five times to conduct its ongoing charges and tasks that have been assigned to it. These include: reviewing test questions in the item pool to ensure accuracy, current information and proper construction; and reviewing test forms to ensure current and consistent information. Additionally, we held an Item-Writing Workshop in Albuquerque, New Mexico. It was facilitated by the Chair-Elect Bob Lehnberg, and representatives from NCBTMB's testing vendor. Item-writing workshops involve bringing subject matter experts from all over the country to write new test questions for the item pool. These subject matter experts

have a variety of experience in the bodywork field, strong writing skills, and the ability to pay attention to detail. They are comfortable being sequestered for three days doing nothing but writing test questions. Due to their remarkable diligence, a record number of items were written this year — 580! These volunteers who donated their time and expertise were: Leisha Anders (California); Paul Berry (Georgia); Dr. Megan Blount (Wisconsin); Tom Doray (Nebraska); David Ettelman (Massachusetts); Celia Florestal (Florida); Jean Patrick Florestal (Florida); Xerlan Geiser (Oklahoma); Julia Hayes (Alabama); Terry Hurd (Louisiana); Sue Kauffman (Arizona); Valerie Kelton (Arkansas); Lauren Kaplan (Florida); Matthew Kenny (New York); Killian Melloy (Massachusetts); Marybeth Nein (Pennsylvania); Suann Schuster (Pennsylvania); Joanna Welland (Arizona); Ruth Werner (Utah); and Rachel Whipple (Arizona). Congratulations to all of them for a job very well done!

One of the first tasks for the Examination Committee in 2007 will be to review all the items written in the Item-Writing Workshop before they are incorporated into the National Certification Exams.

If you are interested in participating in the 2007 Item Writing Workshop, please e-mail Paul Parker, Director of Certification, at pparker@ncbtmb.com for more information.

Standards Committee: The purpose of the Ethics & Standards Committee is to enforce NCBTMB's Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice. The committee is a peer group that evaluates ethical questions relating to applicants and certificants. The committee assists in protecting the public against unprofessional and unethical conduct by Nationally Certified Practitioners and applicants wishing to become nationally certified. The E&S Committee receives, reviews, and responds to complaints against certificants and applicants. If the committee feels a violation against the Code of Ethics and/or Standards of Practice may have occurred, the case is forwarded to the Investigative Panel (IP). The IP investigates the complaint by speaking by phone to the complainant, certificant, and any witnesses involved. The IP then reports back to the E&S the facts that they have discovered concerning the allegations. The E&S Committee makes the final decision as to whether a violation has occurred and if so, what type of sanction to impose. Examples of a sanction could be anything from a warning letter, requirement to attend a CE class, probation, or revocation of the National Certification. The National Certification Board does not monetarily fine a certificant. Fines are imposed by the regulatory agencies involved in the case. Complaints may be filed in writing to the NCBTMB office by members of the public, another certificant, or a regulatory agency. Details on how to file a complaint may be found on the NCBTMB website. Click on Ethics & Standards.

There are currently five Nationally Certified Practitioners and one public member serving on the E&S Committee. The Investigative Panel is comprised of 11 Nationally Certified Practitioners. The IP continually works on investigating cases, usually with two members on each call. The E&S meets once a month by telephone conference call to review the cases and take any action deemed necessary. Both groups meet once a year in a face-to-face meeting for training.

Portfolio Review Panel: Randi Mears, Chair, Utah; Kay Settles, Nebraska; Whitney Herring, Florida; Charlotte Versagi, Michigan; and Suzanne Schwing, Louisiana.

I was appointed Chair of the Panel; two new committee members were added (Charlotte Versagi and Suzanne Schwing); and a new handbook was released in June, 2006. The new handbook has the same name as the old one: Portfolio Review Handbook for the National Certification Examinations. The old handbook will not be valid in 2007. The Portfolio Review Panel also reviewed numerous applications for the nontraditional approval from applicants wishing to take the examination.

School Outreach Advisory Panel (SOAP): Elaine Calenda, Chair, Colorado; Paul Pozorski, California; Nancy Levitt, Michigan; Lisa Schad, Maryland.

Along with Monica Reno and the NCBTMB staff, the School Outreach Advisory Panel initiated the following projects: Revising the candidate handbook and working with staff, schools and applicants to streamline the entire application process. We also reactivated InfoLine, for which we will create a new look and format. In 2007, we will create a DVD containing information about the NCBTMB program.

Conflict Of Interest Task Force: Leonard Gaffga, Chair, Georgia; Dave Leflets, Florida; and Barbara Benson, New Jersey.

The conflict-of-interest policy was updated because so much has changed in this area of governance over the last several years. New terms and definitions were created to act as the foundation of the new policy.

There were two major changes: First was a shift toward disclosure as the primary vehicle that puts the responsibility for reporting a conflict of interest squarely on the shoulders of the interested party. The second major change was the creation of a far more detailed process for dealing with an incident. People and procedures are now in place to deal with a conflict of interest when it arises.

We completed the work of the task force and presented the new conflict of interest policy to the Board of Directors, who approved it in the spring of 2006.

Distance Education Task Force (DETF): Bob Lehnberg, Chair, Massachusetts; Rick Rosen, North Carolina; Steve Kitts, Connecticut; Kathleen Kavanagh, Wisconsin; Barry Antoniow, Canada; Jan Schwartz, New York; Whitney Lowe, Oregon; Tom Doray, Nebraska; Nan Bayster, Washington, DC; Ann Rohr, Colorado; Trish Bowen, Colorado; Elaine Calenda, Colorado. Support staff includes Mark Lausch, NCBTMB Director of Education and Paul Parker, NCBTMB Director of Certification.

The Distance Education Task Force (DETF) was created in June, 2006, with the task of assessing the pros and cons of distance education as fulfilling part of the eligibility requirements for national certification. We had a successful conference call in mid-October that brought forth many of the aspects of distance education as it may pertain to national certification for massage therapy and bodywork. The topics of discussion included: didactic vs. hands-on aspects of education, distance education parameters, distance education formats, and the quality of distance education. Another call took place in early November to continue our work in fulfilling the charge by the Board.

Spanish Language Examination Task Force: Monica Reno, Chair, Florida; Kirsten Palacios, Florida; Susan Pomfret, Arizona; Iris Burman, Florida; and Paul Parker, NCBTMB Director of Certification.

The task force was charged with investigating the feasibility of developing a Spanish language version of NCBTMB's national examinations. Task force members were assigned to: find out about other boards offering multilanguage options (Iris Burman); obtain statistics on massage therapists currently practicing with English as their second language (Kirsten Palacios); find out about the cost of

providing a second language option and look into defensibility regarding individuals with other languages (Paul Parker); and explore employment opportunities for therapists not available now due to a language barrier (Susan Pomfret).

The task force found that there is a slightly higher demographic of self-identified Asian candidates than Hispanic candidates, there are few schools currently teaching a curriculum entirely in Spanish, and those schools teaching the curriculum in Spanish do not have good pass statistics.

The task force interviewed licensing and certification groups regarding examinations that are offered in languages other than English and contacted organizations offering certification, as well as boards providing licenses for other allied professions including cosmetology, aesthetics, acupuncture, athletic training, chiropractic, medicine, mental health, midwifery, occupational therapy, physical therapy, physician's assistance, and naturopathy. We obtained this information from Florida Medical Quality Assurance, Arizona Professional Boards, Thomson Prometrics, and PearsonVue.

We investigated other licensing boards and examination agencies regarding their policies on Spanish language examination availability, including medical examinations offered in English only, the Comprehensive Osteopathic Licensing Examination offered in English only, the Naturopathic Physician Examination offered in English only, and the National Physical Therapy Examination offered in English only. The task force recommends that a Spanish language examination is not warranted at this time, but the issue could be reconsidered in the future if circumstances change.

Job Task Analysis Task Force: Carole Ostendorf, Chair. In 2007, the NCBTMB is embarking on a year-long Job Task Analysis, a process that is conducted every five years to examine the types of skills and knowledge that are needed to practice massage therapy successfully.

This information will then be used to update the certification examinations. Currently there are no task force members, and I am seeking volunteers who would be willing to help. Volunteers need to be practitioners or educators in massage therapy with three to five years of experience. Be sure to take advantage of this opportunity to help ensure that the certification exams accurately reflect the skill and knowledge sets needed to practice successfully. If you are interested in volunteering, please e-mail Chair Carole Ostendorf at JTASurvey@ncbtmb.com and attach a resume to your e-mail.