



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NCBTMB TO PILOT NATIONAL DISCIPLINARY DATABASE *Robbie Bell Hired As Director of State Database Resources*

OAKBROOK TERRACE, Illinois (June 20, 2007) – On Tuesday, June 12, the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork took a major step in the development of a national practitioner database. Speaking by conference call with state massage board executives from across the country, Chair Donna Feeley and CEO Christopher Laxton introduced Robbie Bell as NCBTMB's new Director of State Database Resources.

Bell had previously moderated NCBTMB's November 2006 meeting with state boards to discuss the development of a national disciplinary database. Nine months later, NCBTMB and Bell are ready to begin making that database a reality.

“With increasing consumer demand for massage therapy and bodywork, NCBTMB's mission continues to be fostering high standards of ethical and professional practice in the delivery of massage and bodywork services,” stated Feeley. “With some 86,000 practitioners maintaining NCBTMB certification, we believe it is critically important to provide state boards with the information they need to protect consumers and to enhance massage as a profession. We couldn't be more pleased having Robbie aboard, leading this initiative.”

Bell, an attorney and former state trooper for the State of Tennessee, has until recently worked for the Tennessee Department of Health as the Director of Health Related Boards. With overall responsibility for overseeing regulatory initiatives coming from some 26 health boards, she has also had specific responsibility for overseeing a CAM Task Force to evaluate the place of CAM therapies within the spectrum of health delivery in Tennessee.

Having worked “state side” with legislators and boards for years, Bell understands the challenges they face. “In today's society, everything and everyone is mobile as never before. State boards need an avenue for quickly identifying practitioners applying for certification who have been disciplined in another state,” said Bell, who went on to explain how the resource would operate.

All disciplinary data from the states would be housed in one, centralized database. When a board is going to license someone or has an application for licensure, they could query the database and find out if there are issues in another state. Then they

could contact that state to make a verification of those issues, and make a more informed decision.

“States want an effective tool with a minimum investment of dollars and time,” stated Bell. “We want to give them something they can use in their daily activities without creating extra work. This will be their database.”

NCBTMB plans on piloting the disciplinary database in five or six states that represent massage boards operating as umbrella agencies, independent boards and under other boards. This will allow NCBTMB to study how the database operates under each structure and make any necessary modifications before launching the program nationwide.

ABOUT NCBTMB

The National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (NCBTMB) was established in 1992 as an independent, private, nonprofit organization fostering the highest standards of ethical and professional practice in the delivery of therapeutic massage and bodywork through a recognized credentialing program. NCBTMB examinations are currently utilized or recognized in statute or rule by 31 states plus the District of Columbia. There are currently nearly 86,000 professionals with NCBTMB certification. NCBTMB has been accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) since 1993.