



Colorado Coalition of Massage Therapists

Meeting Agenda February 11, 2026 at 8:00am MT

Dial in using your phone 1-646-749-3122, access code 210-308-653#

<https://meet.goto.com/210308653>

Roll Call - CCMT Representatives in Attendance

- Cobi Clark, AMTA-Colorado Chapter Government Relations Director
- Shelly Cox, AMTA-Colorado Chapter President
- Christine Hooper, AMTA National Program Manager, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs
- Jada Thompson, AMTA National - Government Relations
- Erin Haden, ABMP Government Relations Coordinator
- Laura Puryear, ABMP Government Relations Director
- Garin Vorthmann, Colorado Legislative Services - state lobbyist
- Caroline Woodhouse, Colorado Legislative Services
- Kris Will, Education Director - Colorado School of Healing Arts
- Chris Smith, School Director – Colorado School of Healing Arts
- Bonnie Chan, CCMT Volunteer & AMTA-Colorado Chapter Secretary

1. Colorado State legislation

- JBC (Joint Budget Committee) is writing the budget from March to early April.
- Colorado State Senator Dafna Michaelson Jenet (D-Commerce City) is resigning from her position in February 2026 to take a new job.
- **Regarding taxes on tips:**
 - a. Up to \$25,000 of tip income can be deducted from federal taxable income (per the federal provision in effect for 2025-2028). That means qualifying tips are exempt from federal income tax (up to the cap). Tips are still subject to Social Security and Medicare (FICA) unless separately excluded.
 - b. Colorado does NOT follow the federal tip deduction (for tax years 2025-2028). Governor Polis signed HB 1296, which requires an add-back of the federal tip deduction when calculating Colorado taxable income. Even if tips are deducted federally, they must be added back for Colorado. Tips remain subject to Colorado's 4.4% state income tax.
- **HB 1108 – Federal Fingerprint Search & FBI Rap Back Service**
 - a. HB 1108 authorizes participation in the Federal Fingerprint Search Service and the FBI Rap Back Service.
 - b. Under current law, the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is not notified if the employment of an individual as a person of trust is arrested in another state after a fingerprint-based background check is completed. As a result, there is no mechanism for ongoing interstate arrest notifications.
 - c. This bill would allow CBI to receive ongoing criminal history notifications, including arrests from other states, through the FBI Rap Back system.

Participation would enhance continuous monitoring and improve the completeness of criminal history information available to the state.

- CLS recommends that we continue to monitor this bill.
- **DORA Bill – International License Reciprocity**
 - a. DORA is drafting legislation regarding licensure reciprocity for individuals coming from outside the United States. The bill is intended to ease statutory roadblocks that may currently limit the ability of qualified internationally trained professionals to obtain licensure in Colorado.
 - b. The proposal would provide permissive authority for individual boards and programs within DORA to determine how best to implement reciprocity within their respective professions, consistent with public protection standards.
 - c. Bill has not been introduced yet.
 - d. If you have any feedback, contact Caroline Woodhouse at CLS: caroline@lobby4co.com
 - e. Cobil will forward Caroline’s email to the CCMT group.

2. National legislation

- Nothing urgent to report.
- ABMP continues work with Vermont and Kansas on licensing.
- Establishment licensing updates:
 - New Mexico work continues
 - Iowa work continues
 - New Hampshire work continues
 - Vermont establishment licensing clashes with Vermont licensing and is tied to the interstate compact.
 - Minnesota is probably stalled for this year.

3. County and local establishment licensing ordinance update

- No updates

4. Division of Workers' Compensation (DOWC) Listening Sessions for Rules 16 and 18 - *The updates below come directly from a DOWC email on 2/9/2026:*

- a. **Session 1: Rule 16:** This listening session is scheduled for March 5, at 4:00 p.m., MT. It will focus on potential changes to Rule 16. Suggested discussion topics include:
 - i. Progress and recommendations regarding electronic billing.
 - ii. Clarification of prior authorization denial language, particularly concerning a payer’s election to retain an IME in lieu of a medical review, to ensure consistency with the DOWC’s objective that administrative violations result in a “deemed authorized” status.
- b. **Session 2: Rule 18:** This listening session is scheduled for April 9, at 4:00 p.m., MT. It will focus on potential changes to Rule 18. To ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Rule 18 is undergoing a complete revision this

year. This will encompass substantive language and formatting changes, as well as minor policy adjustments. Suggested discussion topics include:

- i. Passive therapy billing limitations.
 - ii. Modernization of home care services language.
- c. Link to register:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe5-ZEbaJH1LdUSKuJWjdqI040CM5vr6KNELM_wwOHb57XRfQ/viewform

5. Schedule MTLAD date & CCMT End of Session gathering.

- a. MTLAD will be held on April 27th 8:30am-1:00pm. Contact Cobi Clark to volunteer.
- b. CCMT End of Session gathering between June 10-17. Ideally on June 17th and usually in the evening.

6. US Department of Education Gainful Employment Rule – Impact on MT Programs

- a. The U.S. Department of Education has proposed rules that would measure program performance based on graduates' income as reported on federal tax returns. Under the proposed framework, graduates of massage therapy (MT) programs are generally earning more than individuals with only a high school diploma. However, if a program's graduates fall below the federal income benchmarks, the program risks losing access to federal financial aid.
- b. This rule would affect massage therapy schools, cosmetology schools, private occupational schools, and four-year colleges alike. Any institution that continues to fall below the benchmark by July 2027 would face financial aid restrictions, and by July 2028 federal financial aid could be fully cut off. Loss of eligibility would last for 10 years.
- c. The rule is scheduled to officially begin in July 2026. Public comment remains open through March 3. Stakeholders are being encouraged to weigh in, as the current formula does not account for part-time employment, rural workforce conditions, age, or gender factors. While the Department estimates that approximately 2% of programs nationwide would be impacted, private occupational schools could be disproportionately affected.
- d. ABMP is working to get an exemption for massage therapy.
- e. Cobi will follow up with Christine (AMTA) on this topic.

Proposed agenda for next meeting

1. State legislation update
2. National legislation update
3. County and local establishment ordinance update
4. Schedule MTLAD date & CCMT End of Session gathering.

Next meeting: March 11, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. MT

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To propose an agenda item for the next meeting, please contact: cmonline@gmail.com
Previous minutes archived online at <http://ccmonline.com/ccmt-minutes-archive/>

ABOUT CCMT

Colorado Coalition of Massage Therapists (CCMT) is a collaboration of representatives of the American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA), Associated Bodywork and Massage Professionals (ABMP), and Colorado massage schools.

American Massage Therapy Association - AMTA - National and Colorado Chapter

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Associated Bodywork and Massage Professionals - ABMP – National

- Erin Haden, ABMP Government Relations Coordinator
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School Representation

- Kris Will, Education Director - Colorado School of Healing Arts
- Chris Smith, School Director – Colorado School of Healing Arts

Volunteer Opportunities

Massage Therapy Legislative Awareness Day is open to all LMT volunteers for coordination, recruitment, and participation

CONTACT INFO

Email – CCMTonline@gmail.com

Website – <http://www.CCMTonline.com>

Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/ccmtonline>

LAN – Legislative Alert Network – Subscribe here: <http://ccmtonline.com/ccmt-lan/>
