



## Colorado Coalition of Massage Therapists

### Meeting Agenda March 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

##### a. General updates:

- i. Dafna Michaelson Jenet (D–Commerce City) resigned from the Colorado Senate in February 2026 to accept a new position. She has been replaced by Adrian Benevides, who will serve the remainder of the legislative session.
- ii. The Colorado Joint Budget Committee (JBC) is still drafting the state budget and remains on schedule. However, more difficult conversations and decisions are being postponed until later in the process. Major decisions are expected in late March or early April.

##### b. HB 1108 – Federal Fingerprint Search & FBI Rap Back Service

- i. **Status:** Postponed indefinitely by sponsors 2 weeks ago.
- ii. **Summary:** HB 1108 authorizes participation in the Federal Fingerprint Search Service and the FBI Rap Back Service. 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. 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.
- iii. **Link:** <https://fastdemocracy.com/bill/co/2026A/bills/COB00008285/>

**c. SB26-097 - Decriminalize Adult Commercial Sexual Activity**

- i. **Status:** Postponed indefinitely by the sponsor and the Senate Judiciary Committee. The bill did not have sufficient support to advance out of the Senate Judiciary Committee and was postponed indefinitely.
- ii. **Summary:** SB 97 proposed to decriminalize prostitution, which raised concerns about how past criminal convictions related to prostitution could affect eligibility for massage therapy licensure.
- iii. **Link:** <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/SB26-097>

**d. HB 1257 - Cleanup Bill for 2024 Legislation (HB 1371)**

- i. **Status:** Active; amendment expected.
- ii. **Summary:** HB 1257 is intended as a cleanup measure to HB 1371 (2024) and would restore the ability for local governments to address illicit activity occurring through massage businesses.
- iii. **Key points under discussion:**
  - 1. The Governor's Office has expressed concern about the potential for overregulation by local governments.
  - 2. Proposed guardrails would cap local licensing fees at \$500.
  - 3. The intent is not to regulate legitimate massage therapy businesses, but rather to provide tools to address non-legitimate businesses and illicit operations posing as massage establishments.
- iv. **Link:** [https://leg.colorado.gov/bill\\_files/112186/download](https://leg.colorado.gov/bill_files/112186/download)

**e. DORA Bill – International License Reciprocity**

- a. **Status:** Bill has not been introduced (no update as of 3/11/26)
- b. **Summary:** 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. 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. **Link:** No link available

## 2. National legislation

**a. Maryland - HB 1527**

- i. This bill would allow certain complimentary or alternative health practices to be provided without requiring a state-issued license. Practices listed in the bill include: accupressure, aromatherapy, energy work, including certain forms of bodywork.
- ii. Associated Bodywork & Massage Professionals (ABMP) opposes the bill in its current form. The organization is advocating for an amendment,

arguing that bodywork should still require some level of professional regulation.

- iii. American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA) is monitoring the bill but is not actively opposing it.

**b. Oklahoma HB 2233 - Massage Therapy Act**

- i. The Oklahoma Massage Therapy Board was temporarily placed under the state Cosmetology Board, but that arrangement was intended to last only one year. The legislature is now determining a permanent administrative home for the board.
- ii. ABMP is advocating for the board to be placed under the Medical Licensure and Supervision Board.

**c. Minnesota - Massage Therapy Licensure**

- i. A massage therapy licensure bill is currently active and moving through the legislative process. licensure bill is actively in progress.

**d. Licensing Efforts – Vermont and Kansas**

- i. ABMP continues to work with stakeholders in Vermont and Kansas on efforts to establish statewide massage therapy licensing frameworks.

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

- i. **Status:** ABMP is working with cosmetology and esthetics to hopefully change the rule. Stakeholders have expressed concerns that the current formula does not account for factors such as part-time employment and other considerations.
- ii. **Follow up:** A second public comment period is expected, and ABMP plans to distribute an email with a link for stakeholders to submit comments. Jada will check with the American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA) to obtain an update on AMTA's current position regarding the rule.
- iii. **Summary:** 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. 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. 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.

3. **County and local establishment licensing ordinance update**
  - a. 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.
  
5. **MTLAD date & CCMT End of Session gathering.**
  - a. AMTA is sponsoring and leading the event this year.
  - b. Link: <http://ccmtonline.com/2026-mtlad/>
  - c. DATE: Morning of Monday, April 27, 2026  
TIME: Setup at 8:30  
Massage 9:00-12:30  
Tear down 12:30-1:00

#### **Proposed agenda for next meeting**

1. **Colorado State legislation**
  - a. HB 1257 - Cleanup Bill for 2024 Legislation (HB 1371)
  - b. DORA Bill – International License Reciprocity
2. **National legislation**
  - a. US Department of Education Gainful Employment Rule – Impact on MT Programs
3. **County and local establishment licensing ordinance update**
4. **Division of Workers' Compensation (DOWC) Rule 16 & 18**
5. **MTLAD date & CCMT End of Session gathering.**

**Next meeting: April 8, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. MT**

Phone number 1 (646) 749-3122, access code 210-308-653#

To propose an agenda item for the next meeting, please contact: [cmtonline@gmail.com](mailto:cmtonline@gmail.com)

Previous minutes archived online at <http://ccmtonline.com/ccmt-minutes-archive/>

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## **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**

- Shelly Cox, AMTA-Colorado Chapter President
- Cobi Clark, AMTA-Colorado Chapter Government Relations Director
- Bonnie Chan, CCMT Volunteer & AMTA-Colorado Chapter Secretary
- Christine Hooper, AMTA National Program Manager, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs
- Jada Thompson, AMTA National - Government Relations
- Caroline Woodhouse, Colorado Legislative Services
- Garin Vorthmann, Colorado Legislative Services - state lobbyist

### **Associated Bodywork and Massage Professionals - ABMP – National**

- Erin Haden, ABMP Government Relations Coordinator
- Laura Puryear, ABMP Government Relations Director

### **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](mailto:CCMTonline@gmail.com)

**Website** – <http://www.CCMTonline.com>

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

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