



Colorado Coalition of Massage Therapists

Meeting Agenda April 8, 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. The Colorado Joint Budget Committee (JBC) closed the budget with a \$1.5 billion deficit for 2026-2027. There were major cuts to Medicaid.

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

- i. **Status:** Active; Passed Senate with no amendments after 2 readings.
- 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 bill allows fees and regulatory costs to exceed \$500 when justified, removing the previous cap. CLS will propose a cap on local licensing fees at \$500, but it may be too late to add this amendment.
 2. 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.
 3. The bill also requires background checks to be completed at least 30 days prior to license issuance.
- iv. **Link:** https://leg.colorado.gov/bill_files/112186/download

c. DORA Bill – International License Reciprocity

- i. **Status:** Inactive; DORA is not presenting this bill this year.
- ii. **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.
- iii. **Link:** No link available

2. National legislation

- a. 40% of state legislatures have adjourned for the year.
- b. **Maryland - HB 1527**
 - i. No updates
- c. **Oklahoma HB 2233 - Massage Therapy Act**
 - i. No updates
- d. **Minnesota - Massage Therapy Licensure**
 - i. Minnesota moving to voluntary registration instead of licensure.
- e. **Licensing Efforts – Vermont and Kansas**
 - i. No updates
- f. **US Department of Education Gainful Employment Rule – Impact on MT Programs**
 - i. **Status:** Laura from ABMP is going to DC and will have more updates next meeting.
 - ii. **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. City of Westminster proposed a revision for establishment licensing but the wording was outdated and still referenced “massage parlours”. Trevor from Aurora helped Westminster reverse course referencing Aurora’s language for establishment licensing. Laura will send over details of this failed proposal.

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 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. **Schedule 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
 - d. Cobi & Bonnie will propose some dates for the CCMT End of Session gathering.

Proposed agenda for next meeting

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

Next meeting: May 13, 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: cmonline@gmail.com

Previous minutes archived online at <http://ccmtonline.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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School Representation

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- 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/>
