



Colorado Coalition of Massage Therapists

Meeting Agenda May 13, 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. Today is the last day of legislative session in Colorado.

b. HB26-1431: “Competency for Occupational Licensure Portability

- i. **Status:** Will be sent to Governor to sign.
- ii. The DORA bill was watered down - pretty much status quo. Amendment added to allow license issued from another state or country can apply for licensure in Colorado. Will be sent to Governor.
- iii. **Link:** <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/HB26-1431>

c. HB1257 - Cleanup Bill for 2024 Legislation (HB 1371)

- i. **Status:** Signed by Governor. Passed into law.
- 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. “Current law allows a local government to impose an administrative fee not to exceed \$150 for issuing or renewing a license. The act removes the \$150 cap on such fees. If a local government imposes an administrative fee, the amount of the fee must be reasonably related to the costs of the local government in administering the resolution or ordinance and the licensing of massage facilities. The fee must not exceed \$500 unless

necessary to cover the local government's costs of administering the resolution or ordinance and licensing the massage facilities in its jurisdiction. The fee may be adjusted yearly for inflation or deflation. Current law exempts businesses that held licenses before August 10, 2022, from the administrative fees. The act removes this exemption.”

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/bills/HB26-1257>

2. National legislation

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

- i. **Status:** ABMP is collaborating with seminary schools and other industries. ABMP has gathered over a thousand comments. AMTA is also tracking this topic and will have more updates in the coming months.
- 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.

b. Maryland - SB419 - Transition to full licensure

- i. Registered Massage Practitioners (RMPs) can still practice but will need to renew in 5 years to meet the new licensure requirements.
- ii. **Link:** <https://legiscan.com/MD/bill/SB419/2026>

3. **County and local establishment licensing ordinance update**
 - a. No Updates

4. **Division of Workers' Compensation (DOWC) - Rules 16 and 18**
 - a. No Updates

5. **MTLAD Update**
 - a. 14 massage therapists volunteered and provided over 100 massages
 - b. Lots of positive feedback from attendees.

Proposed agenda for next meeting

1. State legislation update
2. National legislation update
 - a. US Department of Education Gainful Employment Rule – Impact on MT Programs
3. County and local establishment ordinance update

Next meeting: June 10, 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

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

- Shelly Cox, AMTA-Colorado Chapter President
- Cobi Clark, AMTA-Colorado Chapter Government Relations Director
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- Christine Hooper, AMTA National Program Manager, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs
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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

Website – <http://www.CCMTonline.com>

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

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