



Colorado Coalition of Massage Therapists

Meeting Agenda August 12, 2026 at 8:00am MT

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/won-jxuf-odb>

Or dial: (US) +1 317-602-1223 PIN: 432 010 066#

Roll Call - CCMT Representatives in Attendance

- ☒ Bekka Lambert, AMTA-Colorado Chapter Government Relations Chair
- ☒ 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. **Announcements:** Introducing Bekka Lambert as the new AMTA-Colorado Chapter Government Relations Chair. Cobi Clark has stepped down.

2. Colorado State legislation

a. General Updates

- i. The legislature is not currently in session.
- ii. Primary election results were announced on June 30.
- iii. Governor: Phil Weiser defeated Michael Bennet in the Democratic primary for Governor. Weiser has indicated that he does not want his administration to mirror the Polis administration and plans to emphasize greater collaboration and a more moderate approach.
- iv. The Democratic field includes several very progressive candidates.
- v. Ballot initiatives are expected to be certified this week.

b. Rule 16 & Rule 18 Changes – Workers Compensation

- i. Bekka attended the first informal listening session held by DOWC. The majority of attendees were from the Colorado Medical Association which does not endorse the proposed changes.
- ii. There are 542 proposed changes to Rule 18 alone.
- iii. The next meeting for Rule 16 and 18 changes is scheduled for August 27.

3. National legislation

- a. **Laura:** “Christmas Tree” rule-making is expected in the next couple of months. Upcoming rulemaking sessions may include accreditation, DEI, and other miscellaneous updates.

- b. **Jada:** AMTA is already beginning preparations for the 2027 legislative session.
- c. **US Department of Education Gainful Employment Rule – Impact on MT Programs**
 - i. **Status:** Secured a one year delay of implementation.
 - 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.

4. County and local establishment licensing ordinance update

- a. No Updates

5. AMTA Colorado Chapter - Social Hour at Tap Fourteen

- a. AMTA National Convention is August 27-29 at the Denver Convention Center
- b. We're hosting a Colorado social hour on the rooftop patio at Tap Fourteen, **Wednesday, August 26th from 6:00-8:00pm** — the night before Convention kicks off. The CO-AMTA will provide food for the group, with dairy-free and gluten-free options available. Drinks are not provided for by the CO-AMTA but can be purchased at TAP Fourteen on your own.
- c. If you plan on attending, please email Troy directly at membership@amtacolorado.com — ideally RSVP before August 20th.

Proposed agenda for next meeting

- 1. State legislation update
 - a. Rule 16 & Rule 18 Changes – Workers Compensation
- 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: September 9, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. MT

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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
- Bekka Lambert, 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
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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/>
