



Colorado Coalition of Massage Therapists

Meeting Agenda September 9, 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
- ☒ Bonnie Chan, CCMT Volunteer & AMTA-Colorado Chapter Secretary

1. Colorado State legislation

a. General Updates

- i. State Rep. Manny Rutinel resigned from the Colorado House of Representatives to focus on his campaign for Colorado's 8th Congressional District. The vacancy committee may wait to appoint a replacement, given that the November general election is approaching.

b. Rule 16 & Rule 18 Changes – Workers Compensation

- i. Still time to submit feedback. Bekka attended feedback session on 8/7. DOWC is still reviewing written testimony and the amendments are still under review.

2. 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. **Montana:** The task force has concluded its work, and there are no proposed changes to the Massage Therapy Board for 2027.
- c. **Arizona:** There are currently no plans for legislation. The focus is on rulemaking, including a proposal to increase fees.
- d. **Jada:** AMTA will continue with additional states for the Interstate Compact.
- e. **“Do no harm” Rule - US Department of Education Gainful Employment Rule – Impact on MT Programs**
 - i. **Status:** AMTA has filed a lawsuit challenging the rule. Implementation of certain provisions affecting massage therapy programs has been delayed for one year. The Department of Education has indicated that exemptions

will not be granted to individual schools. ABMP is therefore pursuing a broader, top-down approach focused on securing tax exemptions and other relief for affected programs.

- 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.

f. **VA Payment Policy Impacting Massage Therapy for Veterans**

- i. MTS are now being asked to pay back over payments as far back as 2022.
- ii. ABMP will research and help members who plan to be more active.
- iii. AMTA's previous response:
<https://www.amtamassage.org/about/news/va-payment-policy-letter/>

3. County and local establishment licensing ordinance update

- a. No Updates

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: October 14, 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/>
