



## Washington State Board of Massage

Business Meeting Agenda  
September 6, 2024 | 9:00 a.m.

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### Physical location

Hilton Garden Inn  
8401 Paine Field Blvd  
Mukilteo, WA 98275

### Remote attendance

[Click here](#) to join the meeting.

**Or call in (audio only)** Phone number:  
+2532050468, 84717598710# OR +2532158782  
Webinar ID: 847 1759 8710

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### **Board Members**

Chimere Figaire-Correa, LMT, Chair  
Lynna Fuller, LMT, Vice Chair  
Heidi Williams, LMT  
Sherise Gueck, LMT, massage educator  
Whitney Smith, LMT

### **Program Contact**

[massage.therapy@doh.wa.gov](mailto:massage.therapy@doh.wa.gov)

### **Open Public Meetings Act**

This meeting is being held as a hybrid meeting in accordance with [RCW 42.30.030](#) in which the public has the option to observe and participate in the meetings of governing bodies through either real-time remote access or physical attendance at a set location.

### **Times and Order**

The meeting will begin at 9:00 AM on Friday September 6, 2024. The meeting will continue until all agenda items are complete. This agenda schedule may change, and items may not be taken in order of the agenda.

Comments from the public in attendance may be solicited after each agenda item.

### **Accessibility**

See the last page of the agenda for information on meeting accessibility for persons with disabilities.

## **Open Session – 9:00 A.M.**

The board may elect to have public comments after each section.

### **1. Call to Order – Chimere Figaire-Correa, chair**

- 1.1. Introductions and Meeting Ground Rules.
- 1.2. Approval of the Agenda.
- 1.3. Approval of the July 18, 2024, Training Meeting Minutes.
- 1.4. Approval of the July 19, 2024, Business Meeting Minutes.

### **2. Public Forum**

The purpose of the open forum is to provide the public an opportunity to address the board on issues of significance to or affecting massage and that are not related to topics for which a rules hearing was or will be scheduled.

Members of the public who indicate an interest in speaking may share comments at this time. The board may limit the speaker's time based on the number of people interested in speaking.

### **3. Public Petition**

The board will discuss and formulate a response to the public petition for WAC 246-830-420 (1)(d).

### **4. School Program Reviews – Chimere Figaire-Correa, LMT Chair**

Reviewing board members will present school program approval requests for full board consideration.

- 4.1. Alexandar School of Natural Therapeutics – Chimere Figaire-Correa, LMT and Whitney Smith, LMT.

### **5. Massage applicant**

The board will review WAC 246-830-201 (2) and determine next steps for an applicant.

### **6. Newsletter**

The board will review the drafted newsletter for approval.

### **7. Program Report- Devin Brooks, Program Manager**

- 7.1. Budget.
- 7.2. Credential Counts.
- 7.3. Disciplinary Counts.
- 7.4. Future agenda Items.

**8. License by Endorsement Committee- Heidi Williams, LMT and Sherise Gueck, LMT**  
Rule Discussion for WAC 246-830-035 Licensing by endorsement

8.1. Committee members will discuss new drafted language for clarification to WAC 246-830-035 (1)(a)(i) to ensure applicants understand that endorsement is tied to the state's licensure requirements; not the program that the applicant completed.

8.2. Public Comment – Members of the public will be given the opportunity to address the committee members on this agenda item.

8.3. Committee members will schedule the next committee meeting.

**9. Education and Training committee- Sherise Gueck, LMT, and Chimere Figaire-Correa, LMT**

9.1. Public Comment - Members of the public will be given the opportunity to address the committee members on this agenda item.

9.2. The committee will discuss new language and modifications to WAC 246-830-430 for hybrid learning.

9.3. The committee will review and discuss input from schools on hybrid learning and online education limitations.

9.4. The committee will schedule the next committee meeting

**10. JP Exam Committee - Lynna Fuller, LMT, and Sherise Gueck, LMT**

10.1. Public Comment - Members of the public were given the opportunity to address the committee members on this agenda item.

10.2. The committee will close the session to review test questions.

**11. Adjournment of Public Meeting – Chimere Figaire-Correa, LMT, Chair**

**Next Business Meeting**

Date: November 15, 2024

Time: 9:00

Location: Tumwater, WA

**Accessibility**

This meeting is accessible to persons with disabilities. Special aids and services can be made available upon request. Advance request for special aids and services must be made no later than one week prior to the meeting. If you need assistance with special

needs and services, you may leave a message with that request at 800-525-0127 or, if calling from outside Washington State, call 360-236-4052. TDD may also be accessed by calling the TDD relay service at 1-800-833-6388. If you need assistance due to a speech disability, Speech-to-Speech provides human voicers for people with difficulty being understood. The Washington Speech-to-Speech toll free access number is 877-833-6341.



Washington State Board of Massage  
 Business Training Minutes  
 July 18, 2024 | 9:00 a.m.

The Board of Massage scheduled a board training meeting held in-person at Ramada by Wyndham, Washington Conference Room, 8909 West Airport Drive, Spokane, WA, 99224 and via Zoom on July 18, 2024.

**Board Members**

Chimere Figaire-Correa, LMT, Chair  
 Heidi Williams, LMT  
 Lynna Fuller, LMT  
 Sherise Gueck, LMT  
 Whitney Smith, LMT

**Staff Present**

James Chaney, Executive Director  
 Devin Brooks, Program Manager  
 Jonathan Chamrad, Program Support  
 Alyssa Brazil, Administrative Support  
 Kristi Knieps, Assistant Attorney General  
 Zehra Siddiqui, Policy Analyst  
 Catharine Roner-Rieter, Staff Attorney

**Guests**

Shari Aldrich	Debr Glover	Annika Samuelson
Kristie Almario	Devin Gombosky	Paulette Schraps
David Been	Annie LaCroix	Lisa Taylor
Lydia Benson	Dawn Lafferty	Amy Twig
Robbin Blake	Sylvia Liu	
Maryann Brathwaite	Sean Miller	
Theron Eirish	Chelsea Nenno	
Leslie Emerick	Heather Noonan	
Kaeleene Escalante	Laura Pettitt	
Patty Glenn	Laura Puryear	

## OPEN SESSION – 9:05 a.m.

### 1. Call To Order – Chimere Figaire-Correa, LMT, Chair

The board training meeting was called to order by Chimere Figaire-Correa, LMT, chair, at 9:05 a.m.

#### 1.1. Introductions and Meeting Ground Rules.

The board, staff and guest panelists were introduced. Ms. Figaire-Correa read the Meeting Ground Rules.

#### 1.2. Approval of the Agenda.

The board reviewed the proposed agenda,

**AMENDMENT:** An amendment was made to agenda item 7.3 by the board to remove the word 'recommended' for clarification reasons. The committee had not made a formal opinion.

**AMENDMENT:** An amendment was made to agenda item 6.4 to be moved to after 5.8. The board will need to meet quorum to elect a new standing committee chair and committee member.

**AMENDMENT:** An amendment to the agenda was made to move 3.1, the Jurisprudence (JP) Exam discussion, into a closed session.

**AMENDMENT:** An amendment to the agenda was made to add a public comment section before the executive closed session.

**MOTION:** A motion was made to approve the amended agenda. The motion was seconded and passed.

### 2. Review Board Participation

#### 2.1. Conducting board meetings

#### 2.2. Review bylaws

**MOTION:** A motion was made to increase the chair and vice-chair office position to two years, rather than one year. The motion was seconded and passed.

#### 2.3. Payroll presentation

#### 2.4. Public comment

Comment shared included:

- *Robbin Blake from WSMETA, shared a comment to the board regarding JP Exam on the ANTA Washington Memo, providing advice about individual questions and include answers.*

- *Patty Glenn from FSMTB, shared a comment to address the board that she was present for support and as a resource to the board.*

## 2.5. Executive Closed Session (optional)

### 3. Jurisprudence (JP) Exam

3.1. The board reviewed exam questions for possible updates.

**MOTION:** A motion was made to move the JP exam to a committee, which will consist of Lynna Fuller and Sherise Gueck. The motion was seconded and passed.

### 4. Newsletter

4.1. The board discussed the Newsletter.

The final draft will be presented for final approval on Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> Business meeting.

### 5. School Review Workshop

5.1. Reviewed and discussed a massage school application and checklist

5.2. Reviewed and discussed a transfer program application and checklist

5.3. Reviewed and discussed a somatic education program application and checklist

5.4. Reviewed and discussed apprenticeship program

5.5. Reviewed and discussed reflexology school application

5.6. Reviewed and discussed animal massage school application

5.7. Reviewed and discussed endorsement application and workflow process

5.8. Reviewed and discussed the school completion form

### 6. License by Endorsement Committee meeting- Heidi Williams, LMT, and Sherise Gueck, LMT.

6.1. Public Comment

Members of the public were given the opportunity to address the board on this agenda item. There are 15 minutes allotted for public comment

Comment shared included:

- *Theron Elrish shared a comment to the board regarding the email he sent to program staff for the board to review.*
- *Robbin Blake from WSMATA, shared a comment to the board regarding the memo sent to the board for review*

6.2. Committee members discussed and draft recommended language for clarification to WAC 246-830-035 (1)(a)(i) to ensure applicants understand that endorsement is tied to the state's licensure requirements; not the program that the applicant completed.

- *The assistant attorney general will review WSMTA's recommendations and the current proposed language for a new draft of proposed language.*

**6.3.** Committee members will schedule the next 2 committee meetings.

- *The committee will meet August 1, 2024, and September 6, 2024 during the board meeting.*

**6.4.** The board will elect a new standing committee chair and member of the board to participate in the committee.

**MOTION:** A motion was made to elect Whitney Smith as the new member of the board to participate in the License by Endorsement Committee and to elect Sherise Gueck, as chair of the committee. The motion was seconded and passed.

## **7. Education and Training Committee – Sherise Gueck, LMT and Chimere Figaire-Correa, LMT**

### **7.1. Public Comment**

Members of the public were given the opportunity to address the board on this agenda item. There are 15 minutes allotted for public comment.

Comment shared included:

- *Robbin Blake from WSMTA, shared a comment regarding their memo that was presented for review from the board.*
- *Patty Glen from FSMTB, shared a comment to the board addressing issues like standard terminology or nomenclature, as well as to revisit the elap and look at whether that needs to be revised for minimum standards met and a few other changes.*

**7.2.** Committee members discussed increasing education and training hours

- *The committee has requested feedback from the current approved programs on what subjects could benefit from the increased hours.*

**7.3.** Committee members discussed bringing back to the board for initial licensure on limitations for online and hybrid education.

The committee discussed the consideration of the following structure for hybrid programs at massage schools. The example hours are based on a 625-hour program.

- *Anatomy and physiology: no more than 20% (18 hours) of non-lab instruction online or hybrid. (Example of non-lab is vocabulary,*



terminology)

- Kinesiology: no more than 20% (12 hours) of non-lab instruction online or hybrid
- Pathology: no more than 20% (14 hours) of non-lab instruction online or hybrid
- Massage theory and practice: all hours must be in person classroom setting
- Student clinic: no change to the current requirement
- Clinical/business practices: all hours must be in person classroom Setting
- Professional ethics: all hours must be in person classroom setting

**Additionally:**

- All testing must be in person with the exception of quizzes within the subjects above which can be hybrid/online.
  - The hybrid portion can be live online led lectures, prerecorded lectures and lessons, videos and presentations led by an expert in the field of study and vetted by the school.
  - Need to take into consideration programs that are greater than 625 hours.
- *Two concerns committee members have been attendance tracking and qualified instructors.*
  - *The committee discussed removing the 20% of certain subjects and implementing the WSMTA's aspects of recommendations.*
  - *The committee discussed new language and modifications on WAC 246-830-430 for hybrid learning.*

**7.4.** The committee members will schedule the next 2 committee meetings

- *September 6, 2024*
- *November 15, 2024*

**8. Adjournment of Public Meeting – Chimere Figaire-Correa, chair**

**MOTION:** A motion was made to adjourn the training meeting at 5:37P.M. The motion was seconded and passed.

**Next Business Meeting**

Date: July 19, 2024

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: Ramada by Wyndham,  
8909 W Airport Dr  
Spokane, WA 99224

Submitted:

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Devin Brooks, Program Manager

Approved:

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Chimere Figaire-Correa, LMT,  
Chair



Washington State Board of Massage  
 Business Meeting Minutes  
 July 19, 2024 | 9:00 a.m.

The Board of Massage scheduled a board training meeting held in-person at Ramada by Wyndham, Washington Conference Room, 8909 West Airport Drive, Spokane, WA, 99224 and via Zoom on July 19, 2024.

**Board Members**

Chimere Figaire-Correa, LMT, Chair  
 Heidi Williams, LMT  
 Lynna Fuller, LMT  
 Sherise Gueck, LMT  
 Whitney Smith, LMT

**Staff Present**

James Chaney, Executive Director  
 Devin Brooks, Program Manager  
 Jonathan Chamrad, Program Support  
 Kristi Knieps, Assistant Attorney General  
 Zehra Siddiqui, Policy Analyst  
 Catharine Roner-Rieter, Staff Attorney

**Guest Presenters:**

Kyle Farmer – FSMTB  
 Dale Atkinson – FSMTB

**Guests:**

Kristie Almario	Devin Gombosky	Laura Pettitt
Lydia Benson	Karen James	Laura Puryear
Robbin Blake	Sue Kat	Annika Samuelsen
Maryann Brathwaite	Patrick Kendrick	Rachel Sun
Kimberly Chen	Angela King	Lisa Taylor
Ching-In Che	Dawn Lafferty	Julia Wang
Katherine Chen	Jason Liu	Rebecca West
Amy D	Chelsea Nenno	JM Wong
Rachtha Danh	Heather Noonan	Linda Xiang
Patty Glenn	Debra Persinger	

## OPEN SESSION – 9:10 a.m.

### 1. Call To Order – Chimere Figaire-Correa, LMT, Chair

The board meeting was called to order by Chimere Figaire-Correa, LMT, chair, at 9:02 a.m.

#### 1.1. Introductions and Meeting Ground Rules.

The board, staff and guest panelists were introduced. Ms. Figaire-Correa read the Meeting Ground Rules.

#### 1.2. Approval of the Agenda.

The board reviewed the proposed agenda,

**MOTION:** A motion was made to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and passed.

#### 1.3. Approval of the May 3, 2024, Business Meeting Minutes.

**MOTION:** A motion was made to approve the May 3, 2024, business meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and passed.

#### 1.4. Approval of the June 13, 2024, Special Meeting Minutes.

**MOTION:** A motion was made to approve the June 13, 2024, special meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and passed.

### 2. Public Forum

Members of the public who indicated an interest in speaking provided comments to the board.

Comment shared included:

- Devin Gombosky discussed the importance of the compact.
- Robbin Blake, from WSMETA shared a comment to the board stating their memo has been updated from previous meeting.

### 3. School Program Reviews – Chimere Figaire – Correa, LMT, Chair

The Reviewing Board Members (RBM) presented school program approval requests for full board consideration.

**MOTION:** A motion was made to approve Bodymechanics School of Myotherapy & Massage weekend program. The motion was seconded and passed.

#### **4. Federation of States Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB) Presentation on the importance of the MBLEx- Kyle Farmer and Dale Atkinson**

##### **4.1. Public Comment:**

Members of the public were given the opportunity to address the board on this agenda item. There are 15 minutes allotted for public comment.

Comment shared included:

- No public comment was shared at this time.

##### **4.2. Executive Closed Session (optional)**

#### **5. CPR Requirements for Licensure – Danielle Dooley, Credentialing Supervisor**

##### **5.1. The credentialing team gave a report to the board on findings.**

##### **5.2. The Board discussed the requirements for CPR**

- The board discussed leaving the requirements as they are and possibly revisiting in the future.

##### **5.3. Public Comment**

Members of the public were given the opportunity to address the board on this agenda item. There are 15 minutes allotted for public comment.

Comment shared included:

- Robbin Blake, from WSMTA shared a comment to the board asking them to keep the requirements the same.

#### **6. Program Report – Devin Brooks, Program Manager**

##### **6.1. Budget.**

- Ms. Brooks, Program Manager, gave an update to the board on the current budget.

##### **6.2. Credential Counts.**

- Ms. Brooks, Program Manager, gave an update to the board regarding the credentialing counts.

##### **6.3. Disciplinary Counts.**

- Ms. Brooks, Program Manager, gave an update to the board regarding the status of the disciplinary counts.

##### **6.4. September 6, 2024 business meeting location**

- The meeting will be held in Everett, Washington.

##### **6.5. Future Agenda Items**

- Becoming a provider
- Heal-WA Benefits

- Newsletter
- Updates on JP Exam
- FSMTB – topic of compact

**7. Adjournment of Public Meeting – Chimere Figaire-Correa, chair**

**MOTION:** A motion was made to adjourn the business meeting at 12:07AM. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**Next Business Meeting**

Date: September 6, 2024

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: Hilton Garden Inn,  
8401 Paine Field Blvd,  
Mukilteo, WA 98275

Submitted:

Approved:

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Devin Brooks, Program Manager

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Chimere Figaire-Correa, LMT,  
Chair

**HTML has links - PDF has Authentication**

PDF

**WAC 246-830-201****Examination.**

(1) An applicant for a massage therapist license must successfully pass one of the following examinations:

- (a) The Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards' massage and bodywork licensing examination (MBLEx);
- (b) The national certification examination for therapeutic massage and bodywork; or
- (c) A board-approved examination.

(2) An applicant who does not pass an examination after three attempts must provide proof to the board of having successfully completed additional clinical training or course work as determined by the board before being permitted three additional attempts to pass an exam.

[Statutory Authority: RCW **18.108.085** and **18.108.025**. WSR 23-07-065, § 246-830-201, filed 3/10/23, effective 4/10/23. Statutory Authority: RCW **18.108.025** (1)(a), **18.108.085** (1)(a), **43.70.041** and chapter **18.108** RCW. WSR 17-14-062, § 246-830-201, filed 6/29/17, effective 7/30/17. Statutory Authority: RCW **18.108.025**. WSR 91-01-077 (Order 102B), recodified as § 246-830-201, filed 12/17/90, effective 1/31/91; WSR 88-11-011 (Order PM 725), § 308-51-100, filed 5/10/88. Statutory Authority: RCW **18.108.020** and **18.108.070**. WSR 85-01-043 (Order PL 501), § 308-51-100, filed 12/13/84. Statutory Authority: RCW **18.108.020**. WSR 80-01-018 (Order PL 329, Resolution No. 12/79), § 308-51-100, filed 12/13/79; Order PL 248, § 308-51-100, filed 5/25/76.]

**From:** WA DOH Board of Massage <waDOH@public.govdelivery.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 14, 2024 10:48 AM  
**To:** jonathan.chamrad@doh.wa.gov; devin.brooks@doh.wa.gov  
**Subject:** Fall 2024 Newsletter: TEST

### Board of Massage – 2024 Fall Newsletter



### Get to Know Your Board

Meet Chimere Figaire-Correa, LMT, 2024-2026 board chair. Read the Q&A [here](#).

## Don't forget to renew your license!

It is against the law to practice on an expired license. It is the practitioner's responsibility to ensure their license is active if they want to continue to practice. In accordance with [WAC 246-12-030](#), courtesy renewal notices are mailed to the address on file. *Failure to receive a courtesy renewal notice **does not** relieve or exempt the credential renewal requirement.*

Courtesy renewal notices are mailed to the address on file at least six to eight weeks in advance of the expiration date. However, a practitioner can renew their license as early as 90 days before the expiration date either online, by mail, or by phone. To avoid a late fee and the risk of practicing with an expired license, you must renew on time.

Once a massage therapy license goes into expired status, it cannot be renewed online, and a late fee will be assessed. A credential status will automatically go into an expired status if the practitioner does not renew on or before the expiration date.

Find more information on the Department of Health's [License Renewal webpage](#).

### Stay informed

To stay up-to-date and receive email notifications about rulemaking and other board activities, subscribe and encourage others to subscribe to the Health Systems Quality Assurance, Health Professions, Massage List at [GovDelivery](#)

### Check out HEAL-WA

HEAL-WA is a portal to online resources related to the medical professions in Washington state. It is funded by a portion of your license fees and is free to access anytime. HEAL-WA provides online access to journal articles, databases, and other tools needed for evidence-based practice and research. [Link to HEAL-WA](#)

### We'd love to hear from you

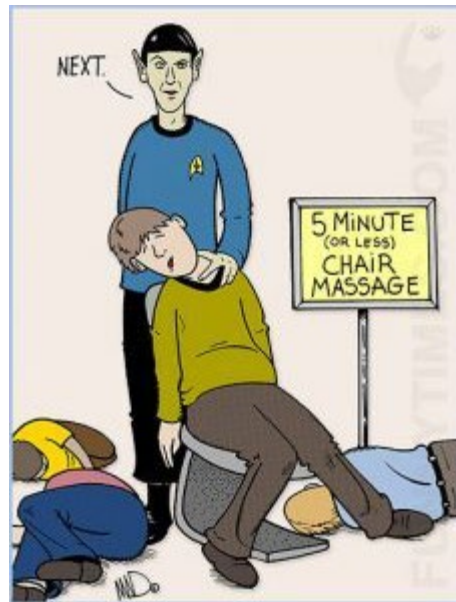
Please share any input on topics you'd like to see included in the newsletter at [massage.therapy@doh.wa.gov](mailto:massage.therapy@doh.wa.gov)

### Board Members

**Chair**  
Chimere Figaire-Correa, LMT

**Vice Chair**





## Massage by the Numbers:

Learn more about decision makers and stakeholders and how they impact you and your profession. Read here.

## Health Enforcement and Licensing Modernization Solution (HELMS) Update

With the successful launch of HELMS Lite, we excitedly announce the next phase of the HELMS project: HELMS Credentialing. This release is set for December 9, 2024, and will include all professional and facility credentials that exist in ILRS today. With this new phase of work, here is what you can expect from the HELMS team in the upcoming months:

1. **Enhanced Communications:** Communication efforts will increase to ensure everyone is informed and engaged throughout the transition.

\* **Direct Engagement:** We will continue to engage with impacted partners to ensure alignment and address needs.

2. **Engaging Business Readiness Activities:** We will conduct a series of activities to prepare our teams and partners for the upcoming changes.

3. **Comprehensive Training Activities:** We will launch a comprehensive training program with online tutorials, workshops, and hands-on simulations. We will share details once we finalize the plan with the training committee.

The transition to HELMS Credentialing is a significant milestone in our journey. We look forward to our continued collaboration with HSQA Offices and Partner Commissions to ensure its success.

For more information, please visit our [website](#), sign-up for [Gov Delivery Bulletins](#) (Subscription topic: HELMS) or email us at [HELMS@doh.wa.gov](mailto:HELMS@doh.wa.gov).

Lynna Fuller, LMT

**Member**

Heidi Williams, LMT

**Member**

Whitney Smith

**Massage Educator**

Sherise Gueck, LMT

**Board Staff and Support**

**Executive Director**

U. James Chaney

**Program Manager**

Devin Brooks

**Program Associate**

Jonathan Chamrad

**Administrative Assistant**

Alyssa Brazil

**Department of Health**

PO Box 47852

Olympia, WA

98504-7852

**Customer Service**

360-236-4700

[Board Website](#)

[Contact the Board](#)

**Useful Resources**

- [Massage Therapy Website](#)
- [American Massage Therapy Association \(AMTA\)](#)
- [AMTA – Washington Chapter](#)
- [Associated Bodywork and Massage Professionals](#)
- [Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards](#)
- [National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork](#)
- [National Human Trafficking Hotline](#)
- [Washington State Massage Therapy Association](#)
- [Look up a healthcare](#)



## New Rules Where are we?

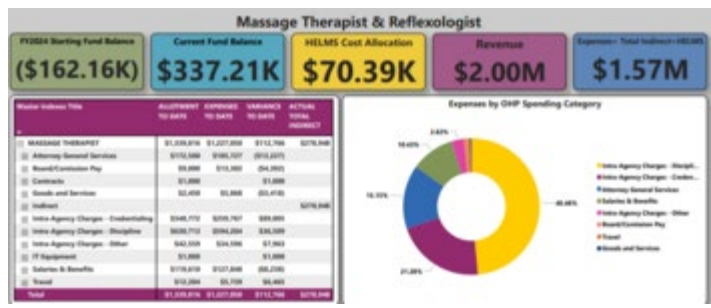
[Click here for a link to the current rules in progress.](#)

## Comments or Questions for the Board?

If you have questions or comments for the board, please remember that it is important to direct them to the massage program staff members or to provide them during a public comment period at a board meeting. While board members are more visible than the program staff, the public needs to be aware that board members do not speak on behalf of the board or department about decisions that are made in regard to the massage profession.

[provider](#)  
[See a list of sanctioned providers](#)

DOH 676-140  
 (Fall/Winter 2024)



## Massage Therapy License Counts as of August 6, 2024

Active Licenses	8,740
Active in Renewal	2,637
Inactive Licenses	343
Expired Licenses	26,443
Revoked Licenses	91
Pending Applications	391



## Frequently Looked For:

**Change contact information**

**Renew a license**



[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

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## Interview with Chimere Figaire-Correa, Massage Board Chair

*Chimere Figaire-Correa* is serving her second 4-year term on the Board of Massage, and recently became Board Chair in early 2024. Chimere also maintains her own practice, *Mere Massage*, in downtown Vancouver, and describes her work as less of a specialty . . . more of an experience. . . Read on to find out more about her as a person, board member, and massage therapist.

**Q:** How long have you been practicing massage, Chimere?

**A:** I graduated in 2005 From Ashmead College in Portland, Oregon and was licensed in Washington State in 2006. I currently practice in downtown Vancouver, Washington.

**Q:** Do you work for yourself, or for a company, clinic . . . ?

**A:** I established my own practice right out of the gate. Even though I have worked with many chiropractors and physical therapists, I've always maintained my own business, *Mere Massage*.

**Q:** How long have you been on the board, and what caused you to seek board service?

**A:** I'm in my second term. A life-changing event caused me to want to be bigger than myself. When I saw an opportunity to be a part of the massage industry, I dove in. Massage has always been deeply fulfilling, and has always been my passion.

**Q:** Did you have a job/career before becoming an LMT?

**A:** I worked for a Technology Research Firm, Griggs-Anderson & Gartner in downtown Portland, Oregon. This was actually the place that raised me since I was about 18 years old. I had many roles there over the years. Mainly administrative and support stuff.

**Q:** Why do you think you were called to massage?

**A:** The support from my fellow employees gave me the bravery I needed to pursue something more in life. So, I enrolled in massage school at Ashmead. The first day I watched my instructor perform a massage, I knew that's what I wanted to do for the rest of my life.

**Q:** What is your favorite type of massage to give? To receive?

**A:** My favorite type of massage to give and receive is a fine-tuned injury specific massage with deep, relaxing, rhythmic strokes to cater to the client's needs.

**Q:** Do you have a specialty?

**A:** I think my clients would describe my work not as a specialty, but as an experience.

**Q:** Do you have an area you would like to devote study and training to?

**A:** No, But I would like to teach intuitive touch, and motivational interviewing within client care.

**Q:** What are some things in your life that give you joy and that you are passionate about?

**A:** My family is my everything. I love to travel with them and make memories.

**Q:** What excites you about being Board Chair?

**A:** Being a part of the massage industry on a greater level. You learn so much about the regulation of massage. Also, meeting and networking with people who love massage.

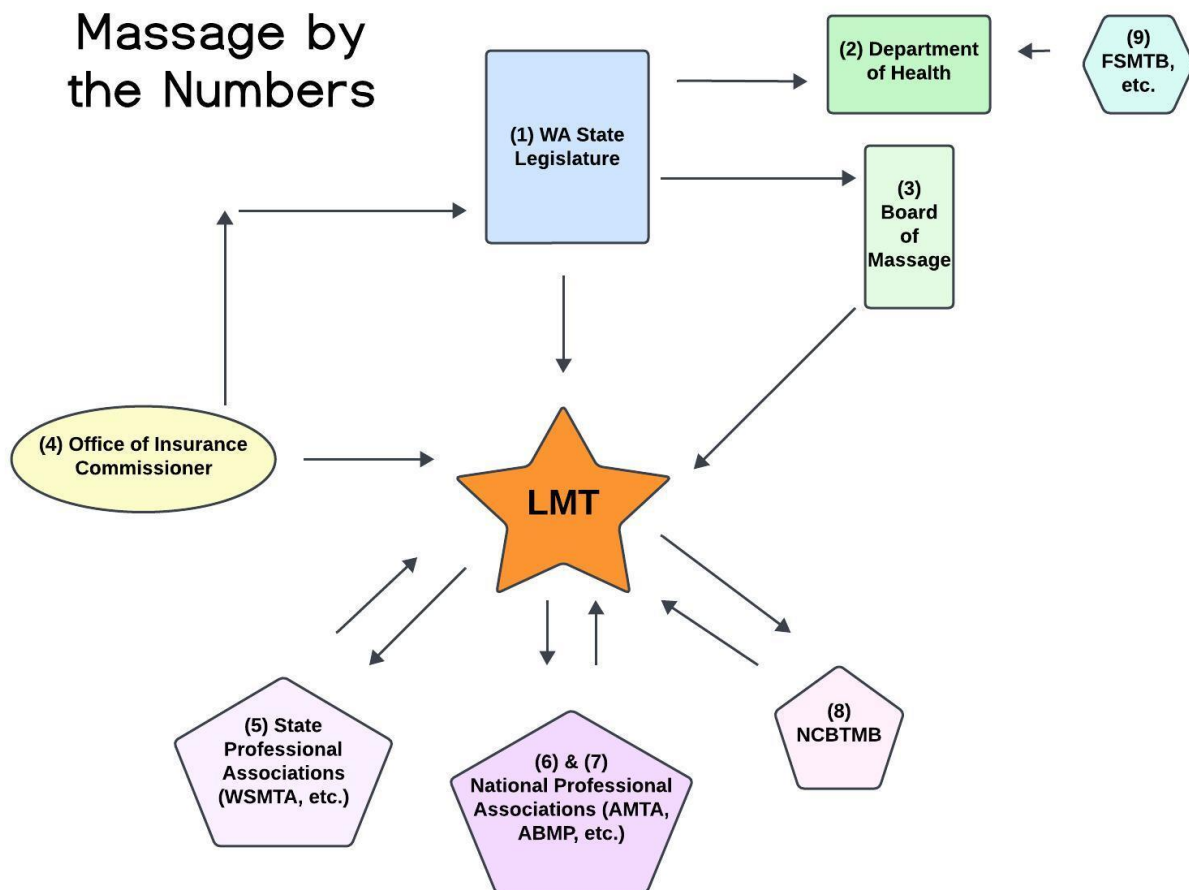
**Q:** What have you seen/done as a board member, and what would you like to do in your time on the board?

**A:** I've seen some amazing programs in Washington State that offer outstanding education for our entry level therapists. I have been a part of learning and researching for cultural competency and diversity training for Washington. I still can't believe I get to help develop and implement policies, rules and guidelines so that we can maintain high standards of ethics, professionalism and education for our state. The journey has been real. But I still feel like I'm just getting started.

# MESSAGE BY THE NUMBERS

Information for this article was taken from an original article entitled "Massage Therapists' Information Guide to Massage Organizations, Advocacy and Government" written and edited by WSMTA members Stephanie Dickey and Marybeth Berney in December, 2021. Used with both WSMTA and author permission.

LMTs in leadership positions have witnessed a great deal of confusion from a wide range of LMTs about what the various state agencies and organizations *ARE*, as well as the differences in what they *DO*. Below is an illustration showing all of the organizations, entities, and agencies that impact what we do as LMTs AND how they are related to us and to each other.



Many LMTs are confused about *HOW* and *WHERE* to go for information, requests or procedures. And with good reason! There are many acronyms to keep track of, and each entity does very different things.

Follow the numbers to find out more about your world of massage. There are many ways we LMTs can be a part of our profession, and be voices or advocates for the things we believe in, if we know the right places to go.

TIP: For ANY and EVERY question about your license and credentialing requirements, first contact the Department of Health, Board of Massage (BOM) at <https://www.doh.wa.gov/LicensesPermitsandCertificates/ProfessionsNewReneworUpdate/MassageTherapist>

## 1 Washington State House of Representatives Health Care and Wellness Committee AND Senate Health and Long-Term Care Committee

- Tasked with the primary goal of protecting the public and creating laws and regulations that allow a profession—like massage therapy—to operate without infringement on financial gain, while not harming the public while doing so.
- Define LMT scope of practice and how LMTs can operate within that scope.
- Consider a broad range of issues relating to the provision of physical and behavioral healthcare services (including the licensing and regulation of massage schools and massage practices, and the credentialing of LMTs).
- Consider issues relating to the accessibility and affordability of healthcare in both the private health insurance market and public health programs (such as Medicaid and the state healthcare exchange).
- Create and expand RCWs (Revised Code of Washington rules).
- Learn more at *House Health Care and Wellness Committee/Senate Health and Long Term Care Committee*, <https://leg.wa.gov/House/Committees/HCW/Pages/default.aspx>



## 2 Department of Health (DOH)



- A branch of Washington State's regulatory entities.
- Involved in creating regulatory guidance for all healthcare providers (e.g. protocols and rules established in 2020 for dealing with COVID-19).
- Tasked with the primary goal of protecting the public and creating laws and regulations that allow a profession to operate without infringement on financial gain, while not harming the public while doing so.
- Defines healthcare provider scope of practice, and how providers can operate within that scope.
- Guided by, and answering to, the Secretary of Health.
- Includes the Health Systems Quality Assurance (HSQA) Department, which oversees all boards and commissions that represent and regulate healthcare providers and sets licensure fees. This includes the Board of Massage and the massage therapy profession.
- Learn more at *Department of Health*. <https://www.doh.wa.gov/>

## 3 The Board of Massage\*

- Part of the DOH's Health Systems Quality Assurance (HSQA) Department.
- Tasked with the primary goal of protecting the public and creating laws and regulations that allow the massage therapy profession to operate without infringement on financial gain, while not harming the public while doing so.
- Defines massage therapist scope of practice and determine how LMTs can operate within that scope.
- Promotes the welfare of the state by regulating the competency and quality of the massage therapy programs and LMTs under its jurisdiction.



- Takes new or expanded legislative acts (RCWs) and creates rules known as Washington Administrative Codes (WACs) to give details about how new laws affect massage therapy and LMT scope of practice.
- Defines, evaluates, approves, and designates those massage schools, massage programs, transfer programs, and massage apprenticeship programs including all current and proposed curriculum, faculty, and health, sanitation, and facility standards from which graduation will be accepted as proof of an applicant's eligibility to take the massage licensing examination.
- Reviews approved massage schools and programs periodically.
- Prepares, grades, administers, and supervises the grading and administration of, examinations for applicants for massage licensure.
- Establishes and administers requirements for continuing education.
- Determines which states have educational and licensing requirements for LMTs equivalent to those of this state.
- Establishes the standards and procedures for approving courses of study in massage therapy and may contract with individuals or organizations having expertise in the profession or in education to assist in evaluating courses of study.
- **Does not set our licensure fees.** A profession's licensure fees are based on the costs of support staff and their responsibilities for licensure, complaints, etc.
- Learn more at *Board of Massage (BOM)*, <https://www.doh.wa.gov/LicensesPermitsandCertificates/ProfessionsNewReneworUpdate/MassageTherapist>

### **\*Board of Massage Breakdown**

- **5 professional members.** Must be residents of Washington with at least 3 years' experience in the practice of massage immediately preceding their appointment. They must also be both licensed and actively engaged in the practice of massage during their terms.
- **1 massage educator.** Must have at least three years' experience in the teaching or administration of direct student learning of the practice of massage. Is not required to be a currently licensed massage therapist.
- **1 consumer member.** Must not derive his or her livelihood by providing healthcare services or massage therapy and is not a licensed health professional. Must not be

an employee of the state, nor a present or former member of another licensing board.

- All members are appointed by the governor for a 4-year term.
- **Please do not contact members individually with comments and questions.** Instead go to *Board of Massage (BOM)*, <https://www.doh.wa.gov/LicensesPermitsandCertificates/ProfessionsNewReneworUpdate/MassageTherapist>

## 4 Office of Insurance Commission (OIC)



- Oversees the laws that are created by legislation for healthcare carriers, and thus healthcare providers.
- Monitors how those laws and rules are administered. For example:
  - ❖ Insures network adequacy (i.e. that there are enough LMTs to serve those insured).
  - ❖ Makes sure providers are paid adequately.
- Learn more at *Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC)*, <https://www.insurance.wa.gov>

## LMTs: Where Do YOU Come Into This Equation?

In many ways, you are ALREADY a part of this process. You are licensed and working in the field of massage and have learned the techniques and laws in our profession to become an LMT.

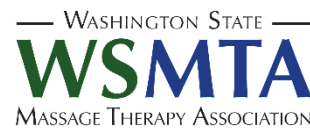
But you also have the opportunity to be part of a larger body of voices, both in our state and across the country through massage organizations. These organizations share these things in common:

- They are not government entities.

- Many of them are nonprofit organizations.
- They often influence and work closely with the massage boards and legislators in states to influence and help create language for our profession.
- Many of the laws that change and the rules that are written, are created by these organizations, and then presented and lobbied for.
- Much of the groundwork for change in our profession begins in these organizations.

The following (5-9) is a list of the organizations that work with the state and that make changes across the country, while advocating for and supporting LMTs and the profession of massage therapy.

## 5 Washington State Massage Therapy Association (WSMTA) (non-profit)



Formed in 2015, the mission of the Washington State Massage Therapy Association (WSMTA) is to “advocate for massage therapy as a recognized and respected healthcare profession.” Until WSMTA, massage was the only healthcare provider group in Washington that was not represented by a state association.

- Not supported or influenced by massage corporations and large chain lobbyist activity.
- Promotes and ensures the accessibility and financial viability of massage therapy as a reimbursed healthcare service through advocacy and communication with government entities/agencies, third-party insurance payers, and allied healthcare organizations.
- Provides necessary resources for practitioners of massage therapy, including advanced education in manual therapy and healthcare business development as well as advanced credentialing avenues.
- Get involved at *Washington State Massage Therapy Association (WSMTA)*, <https://www.mywsmta.org>

## 6 Associated Bodywork and Massage Professionals - ABMP (for-profit)



- Offers professional liability insurance and various professional benefits (discounts on massage therapy tools and products, continuing education, business services, etc.)
- Has a Government Relations position that keeps updated on all the states' current laws and changes state by state.
- Sends a representative to WA Board of Massage meetings to support or reject changes to language and to advocate.
- Provides various means of communication such as publications like *Massage & Bodywork*.
- Works on larger, broader issues that affect all massage therapists across all states.
- Get involved at *Associated Bodywork and Massage Professionals (ABMP)*.  
<https://www.abmp.com>

## 7 American Massage Therapy Association - AMTA (non-profit)



- Offers professional liability insurance and various professional benefits (discounts on massage therapy tools, products and business services, etc.)
- Sends a representative to WA Board of Massage meetings to support or reject changes to language and to advocate. Seeks cordial relations with all professional massage organizations and requires state and local AMTA chapters to develop joint political efforts with compatible non-AMTA groups.
- Provides various means of communication such as publications like *Massage Therapy Journal*.
- Not affiliated in any way with political action committees (PACs).
- Has chapters (like AMTA-WA) that hold meetings, conduct chapter business, provide professional and social networking opportunities.
- Helps organize educational, legislative, public relations, and membership programs on the state and local levels.
- Get involved at *American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA)*,  
<https://www.amtamassage.org> or <https://wa.wp.amtamassage.org>.

## 8 National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (NCBTMB)



NCBTMB maintains that Board Certification is the highest voluntary credential attainable in the massage therapy and bodywork profession, with a distinct level of achievement beyond entry-level licensure—including completing more education, hands-on experience, and a background check—that will give meaning to your career (and your clients!) with credentials that matter.

- Formerly the top content creator for testing of LMT's in all states.
- Focused now on continuing education and competency and elevating standards of massage therapy.
- Created and maintains the Board Certification credential for the massage therapy profession, representing a lifelong commitment to raising the standards of the massage profession to that of other allied health and medical professions, while enhancing the value and credibility of LMTs.
- Created and maintains the Specialty Certificate, symbolizes advanced education and training in a particular modality or when working with a specific population.
- Supports massage therapy's role in integrative healthcare.
- Provides therapists access to high-quality, advanced programs for specific modalities and populations, to ensure clients receive the best possible care.
- Learn more at *National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (NCBTMB)*, <https://www.ncbtmb.org>

## 9 Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB)

The mission of the FSMTB is to support its member state massage boards (42) in their work to ensure that the practice of massage therapy is provided to the public in a safe and effective manner.



- Founded in 2005 as a result of a meeting convened by the Associated Bodywork and Massage Professionals (ABMP). Massage regulators and educators came

together in recognizing the need for consistent scopes of practice; entry-level standards across the country; a valid and reliable universal licensing exam; a common database with licensing and disciplinary information; and simplification of the licensing process to create greater professional mobility (state-to-state movement).

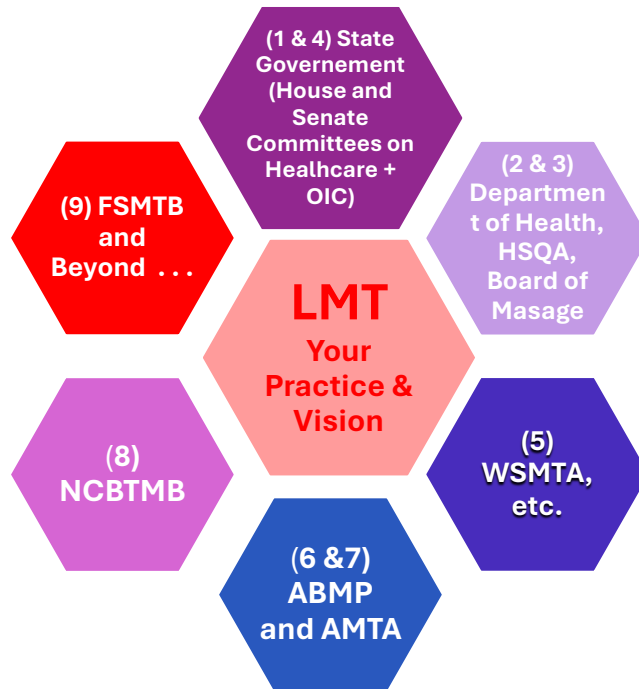
- Ensures the provision of a valid, reliable, licensing examination (the MBLX) to determine entry-level competence.
- Improves the standards of massage therapy education, licensure, and practice through cooperation with entities that share this objective, including other massage therapy organizations, accrediting agencies, governmental bodies, and groups whose areas of interest may coincide with those of member boards.
- Represents the interests of its member boards in matters consistent with the scope of the bylaws.
- Develops CE-*required* course content for some states, and offers this content to other states who wish to use it.
- Learn more at *Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB)*, <https://www.fsmtb.org>

## How to Become Involved

To better understand and support and make positive change within our wonderful profession, get involved—even in small ways—with your local massage groups and organizations.

- **Leave the therapy room** for just a short amount of time and attend a Board of Massage meeting (in person or virtually).
- **Volunteer a bit of time** to work on one of the many projects and topics that the various massage organizations are developing and supporting.
- **Network with others**, talking about ideas, questions, and topics that concern all of us. Groups such as the WSMTA, ABMP, ATMA, NCBTMB and FSMTB all have places where you can get involved, adding your voice to other voices.

## Reach Out Online



This is a lot to take in when you are trying to balance a career, life—and potentially all sorts of other things—but it will be handy information for you at some point.

The best thing to do is find **ONE** place to start getting connected, and the rest will usually flow.

You **DO** have a voice. Go throw that pebble in the pond and watch the waves!

- *House Health Care and Wellness Committee/Senate Health and Long Term Care Committee*, <https://leg.wa.gov/House/Committees/HCW/Pages/default.aspx>
- *Department of Health*. <https://www.doh.wa.gov/>
- *Board of Massage (BOM)*, <https://www.doh.wa.gov/LicensesPermitsandCertificates/ProfessionsNewReneworUdpdate/MassageTherapist>
- *Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC)*, <https://www.insurance.wa.gov>
- *Washington State Massage Therapy Association (WSMTA)*, <https://www.mywsmta.org>
- *Associated Bodywork and Massage Professionals (ABMP)*, <https://www.abmp.com>
- *American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA)*, <https://www.amtamassage.org>
- *Washington Chapter, American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA-WA)*, <https://wa.wp.amtamassage.org>

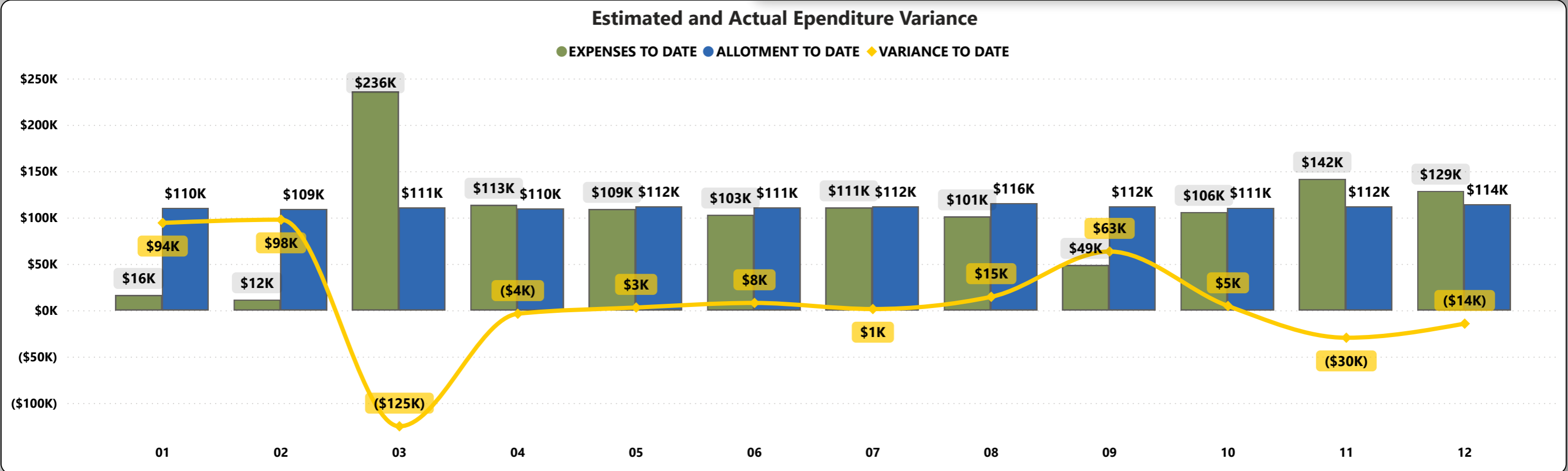
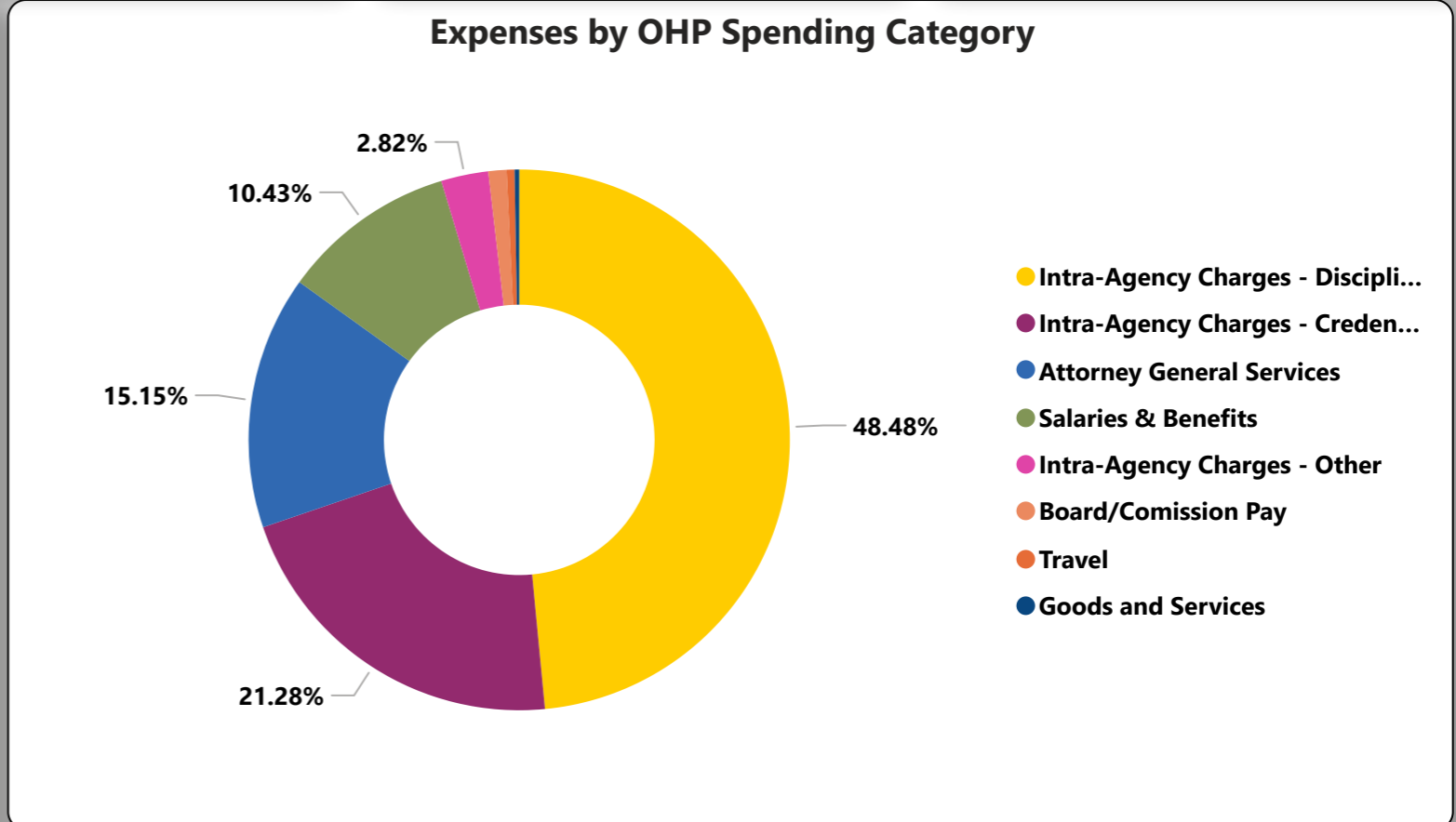
- *National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (NCBTMB)*, <https://www.ncbtmb.org>
- *Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB)*, <https://www.fsmtb.org>



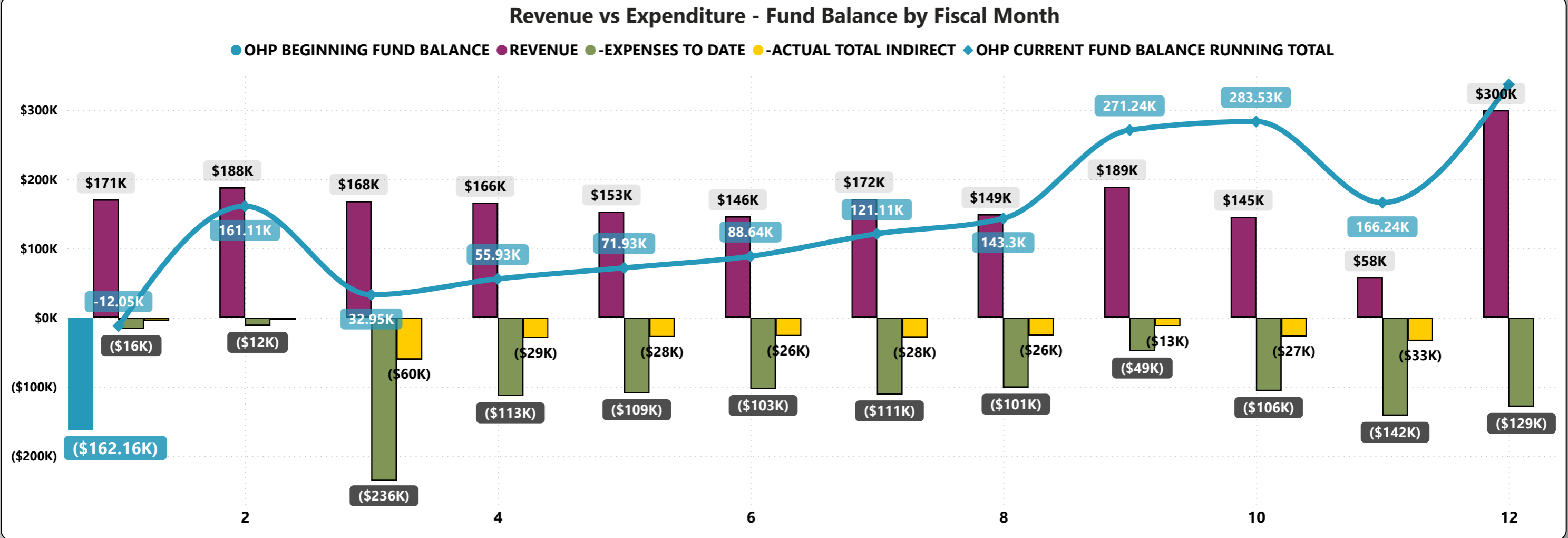
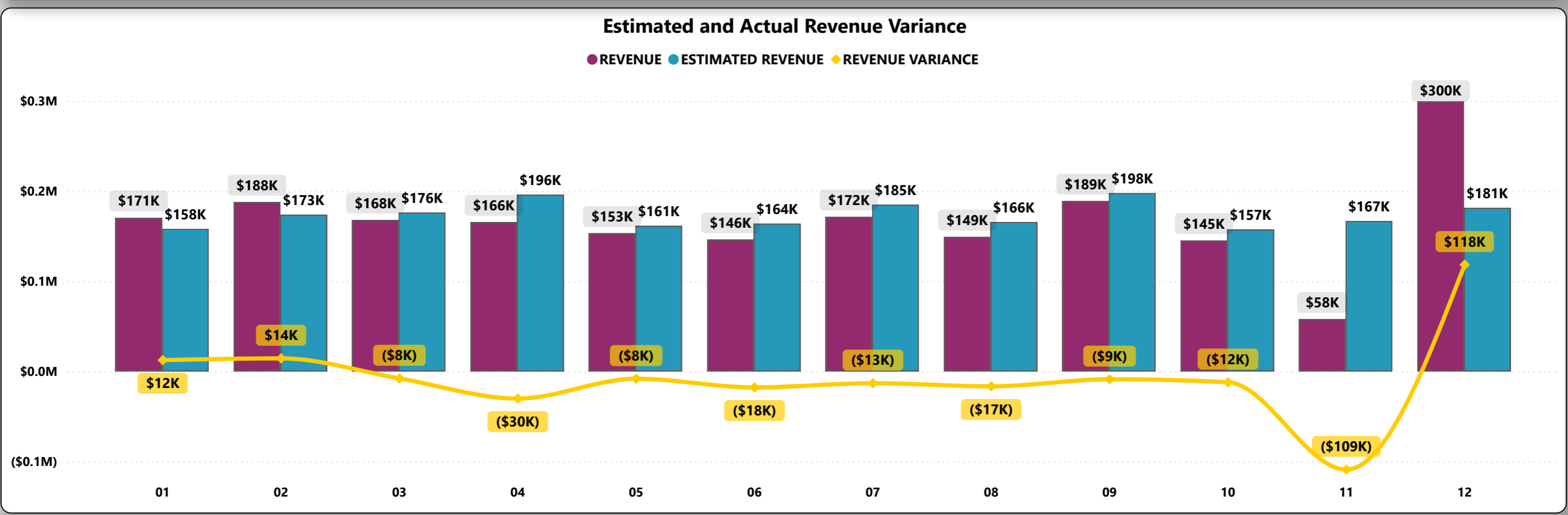
# Massage Therapist & Reflexologist

<b>FY2024 Starting Fund Balance</b> <b>(\$162.16K)</b>	<b>Current Fund Balance</b> <b>\$337.21K</b>	<b>HELMS Cost Allocation</b> <b>\$70.39K</b>	<b>Revenue</b> <b>\$2.00M</b>	<b>Expenses+ Total Indirect+HELMS</b> <b>\$1.57M</b>
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Master Indexes Title	ALLOTMENT TO DATE	EXPENSES TO DATE	VARIANCE TO DATE	ACTUAL TOTAL INDIRECT
<b>MASSAGE THERAPIST</b>	\$1,339,816	\$1,227,050	\$112,766	\$278,948
Attorney General Services	\$172,500	\$185,727	(\$13,227)	
Board/Comission Pay	\$9,000	\$13,302	(\$4,302)	
Contracts	\$1,000		\$1,000	
Goods and Services	\$2,450	\$5,868	(\$3,418)	
Indirect				\$278,948
Intra-Agency Charges - Credentialing	\$348,772	\$259,767	\$89,005	
Intra-Agency Charges - Discipline	\$630,713	\$594,204	\$36,509	
Intra-Agency Charges - Other	\$42,559	\$34,596	\$7,963	
IT Equipment	\$1,008		\$1,008	
Salaries & Benefits	\$119,610	\$127,848	(\$8,238)	
Travel	\$12,204	\$5,739	\$6,465	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,339,816</b>	<b>\$1,227,050</b>	<b>\$112,766</b>	<b>\$278,948</b>



Health Professions	ESTIMATED REVENUE	REVENUE	REVENUE VARIANCE
Massage Therapist & Reflexologist		\$2,082,545.00	\$2,003,883 (\$78,662)
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$2,082,545.00</b>	<b>\$2,003,883 (\$78,662)</b>



## Credential Count

<b>Credential status</b>	<b>8/6/24</b>	<b>06/24/24</b>	<b>4/22/24</b>	<b>3/6/24</b>	<b>12/26/23</b>	<b>10/27/23</b>	<b>9/12/23</b>
<b>Active</b>	11,401	11,385	11,635	11,594	11,645	11,703	11,722
Active	8,740	8730	8,955	8,849	9,150	9,363	9,343
Active in Renewal	2,637	2631	2,650	2,725	2,473	2,315	2,358
Active w/ conditions or Active on Probation	24	24	30	20	22	21	21
<b>Expired</b>	26,443	27,101	26,257	26,152	26,745	26,589	26,467
<b>Expired in Renewal</b>	1,121	1,116	1,085	1,120	1,133	1,151	1,177
<b>Inactive</b>	343	352	342	340	343	330	326
<b>Revoked</b>	91	90	90	90	90	90	90
<b>Summary Suspension</b>	4	4	3	3	3	4	4
<b>Surrender/ Voluntary Surrender</b>	47	47	47	42	46	46	45
<b>Suspended</b>	175	174	172	171	169	169	167

## Disciplinary Statistics

<b>Case Status</b>	<b>8/6/2024</b>	<b>6/24/24</b>	<b>4/22/24</b>	<b>3/12/24</b>	<b>12/29/23</b>
Adjudication	9	5	4	4	6
Case Disposition	30	33	32	21	25
Compliance Monitoring	23	25	27	28	24
Investigation	27	23	20	28	20
Pending Service	16	15	12	11	12
SOA served- awaiting response	0	1	0	0	2
SOC served- awaiting response	4	6	6	5	4

## Proposed Language

[WAC 246-830-035](#) Licensing by endorsement for out-of-state applicants.

(1) A massage therapist applicant holding an active and unrestricted massage license in another state or foreign jurisdiction may be granted a Washington massage license if:

(a) The board determines the other state's or foreign jurisdiction's education and training requirements are substantially equivalent to Washington's; AND

(b) The applicant provides proof of successful completion of the Washington state massage jurisprudence examination; AND

(c) The applicant satisfies the requirements in WAC [246-830-020](#).

(2) Substantial equivalency means a course of study at a massage school or massage program that requires:

(a) A minimum of six hundred twenty-five hours of education and training, to be completed in no fewer than twenty-four weeks and approved by the equivalent licensing agency in which it is located at the time of applicant's graduation; OR

(b) A minimum of five hundred hours of education and training which is approved by the equivalent licensing agency in which it is located at the time of applicant's graduation; AND documentation of at least twenty-four hours of continuing education as required in WAC [246-830-475](#) within two years prior to making the application; OR

(c) The applicant meets the requirements of RCW [18.130.077](#).

(3) If an applicant does not meet the requirements of this section, then the applicant may:

(a) Fulfill the remaining education and training requirements as outlined in WAC [246-830-037](#); AND the applicant satisfies the requirements in WAC [246-830-020](#); OR

(b) If the applicant has been licensed in another state or foreign jurisdiction for at least two years immediately preceding their application with no interruption in licensure lasting longer than 90 days; AND the applicant shows proof of at least twenty-four hours of continuing education as required in WAC [246-830-475](#) within two years prior to making the application; AND the applicant provides proof of successful completion of the Washington state

massage jurisprudence examination; AND the applicant satisfies the requirements in WAC [246-830-020](#).