

AMTA-NM Government Relations Report
Dan R Barrow
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The New Mexico Massage Therapy Board (NMMTB) met on October 8th and January 28th in Hearing Room #1 at the Regulation and Licensing Department 2550 Cerrillos Road in Santa Fe. Several AMTA members were in attendance including NM President Rick Wiles.

Representatives from the Albuquerque and Santa Fe police departments gave verbal presentations in October and January respectively regarding the growing prevalence of unlicensed therapists, prostitution, and possible human trafficking masquerading as legitimate massage establishments (often “Chinese Massage Parlors”). Investigations are active in both communities; arrests have been made and more are anticipated. Attendees were encouraged to be on the lookout for possible illegal activities and report such to <http://www.crimestoppersnm.org/>

Kirstie Segarra the new Chair of the Board discussed medical insurance billing by massage therapists and the “Clean Claims Act” under which participating providers are protected when billing in New Mexico.

There was continuing discussion regarding whether or not it is appropriate under NM regulations for LMTs to give facials. It seems that some spas have been requiring LMTs to provide facials that are requested by their customers, and that facials might in fact be exclusive under the realm of cosmetologists or estheticians. The board chooses to have no official position on facials by massage therapists but rather to refer inquiries to the respective licensing laws governing facials and massage therapy.

Dan Barrow presented AMTA’s position on entrance exams for massage therapists in addition to the written report sent by AMTA national government relations staff member Bill Brown. Although AMTA encourages the adoption of one test (and prefers the MBLEX) emphasis was given to the autonomy of state licensing boards to determine whether one or more entrance exams is appropriate for each jurisdiction.

There were basically no additional reports given by the members of the Board as the other material that was to be dealt with had to be done in executive session.

The next meeting will be on Friday, April 29th at 1:30 in Santa Fe (Hearing Room #1 2500 Cerrillos Road)

Respectfully submitted,

Dan R Barrow
AMTA-NM IPP & Government Relations Chair