



2023 Massage Board Executive (MBE) Summit April 27-28, 2023 | Denver, Colorado

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

5:00pm – 7:00pm **Registration at Halcyon Hotel**
(2nd Floor, Outside of Arbor Room)

Thursday April 27, 2023

7:00am – 9:00am **Registration** *(Outside of Arbor Room)*

7:30am – 8:30am **Networking Breakfast** *(Arbor Room)*

JOINT SESSIONS *(Arbor Room):*

8:30am – 9:00am **Federation Briefing**
Speaker: Dr. Debra Persinger, Executive Director, FSMTB

9:00am – 9:45am **Keynote Presentation – Illicit Massage: How Race, Gender, and Policy Contributes to Today’s Harmful Industry**
Speakers: Kathy Chen, Senior Program Advisor, The Network
The historical backdrop of trafficking in illicit massage businesses is often overlooked or misunderstood. However, after tragic events like the 2021 Atlanta spa shootings, it is critical to unpack the deeper dynamics of how racism, sexism, and harmful policy contributed to the rise of today’s US illicit massage industry.

9:45am – 10:15am **Networking Break**

10:15 am – 11:00am **Massage Therapists Are Not Sex Workers**
Speaker: Dr. Debra Persinger, Executive Director, FSMTB
FSMTB conducted a survey of massage therapists regarding sexual harassment committed by clients. This session will provide an overview of these survey results and discuss the development of resources and tools for regulators. While regulatory boards cannot discipline or prosecute the clients who perpetrate these acts, there is an opportunity for regulators to support and educate their licensees.

11:00am – 12:00pm **Massage Establishment Regulation Panel**
Moderator: Robert Ruark, Executive Director, Oregon State Board of Massage Therapists
Panelists: Theresa Brown, South Carolina; Christine Brunner, Nevada; Keith Warren, Alabama
Regulation of massage establishments is expanding across the country. It is also one tool in the arsenal to combat illicit businesses. This panel discussion will describe the structures of selected jurisdictions and the challenges and successes of these different models and philosophies. From pure health code enforcement to countering human trafficking, massage establishment regulation varies widely.



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12:00pm – 1:00pm

Networking Lunch (*Arbor Room*)

1:00pm – 2:15pm

Exam Security – Emerging Threats and FSMTB’s Initiatives

Speakers: Harry Samit, Director, Special Investigations, Pearson VUE; Colby Dixon, Assistant Director, Data and Compliance, FSMTB

Licensing examinations as an assessment of entry-level competence are under increasing scrutiny from the political sphere but are also under constant threat of security breaches. This session will provide insight on the exam security threats by nefarious actors, both domestic and foreign, and Pearson VUE’s initiatives to identify and thwart the attackers. You will also learn more about the strategies and tactics used by FSMTB, on your behalf, to identify exam security breaches and fraud in the licensure process.

2:15pm – 2:45pm

Networking Break

2:45pm – 4:00pm

AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

Board Executive Track (*Marble/Linear Room*)

Massage Education Standards and Education Fraud

Speaker: Kevin Snedden, Director of Industry Relations, FSMTB

This session will provide an overview of the challenges caused by the lack of consensus on massage therapy education standards and the effects on MBLEx® eligibility and FSMTB’s massage education policy. Particular emphasis will be on the regulatory gaps that can unintentionally facilitate education and licensure fraud.

Investigator/Inspector Track (*Arbor Room*)

Tricky Issues in Investigations/Inspections

Moderator: Dr. Debra Persinger, Executive Director, FSMTB

We sought your tricky issues and will share the scenarios submitted to problem-solve and commiserate on the circumstances you face in the field.

4:00pm – 5:00pm

AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS (*Continued*):

Board Executive Track (*Marble/Linear Room*)

Regulatory Trends – Roundtable Discussion

Facilitator: Ashley Hernandez, Government Relations Specialist, FSMTB

This session is an opportunity for board executives to discuss legislative trends, regulatory challenges, and best practices regarding deregulation efforts, scope of practice and exemption concerns, universal licensing, online education, apprenticeships, and IMPact.



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Investigator/Inspector Track (Arbor Room)

Investigator Training Models

Moderator: Kevin Snedden, Director of Industry Relations, FSMTB

Panelists: Mary Winston, Texas; Jeff Van Laanen, Oregon; Rick McElroy, California; Dennis Trammel, Alabama

This session is intended for investigators and inspectors to share the various training models used in their jurisdictions, strategies to mitigate resource constraints, and other tactics to improve consistency and effectiveness.

5:00pm

Refresh for Dinner

5:45pm

Networking Dinner (SOL Mexican Cocina)

Meet in the lobby of your hotel at 5:45 to walk to the restaurant. It is a one block walk.

Friday April 28, 2023

7:30am – 8:30am

Networking Breakfast (Arbor Room)

8:30am – 9:45am

MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

Board Executive Track (Marble/Linear Room)

Tricky Issues in Board Management

Moderator: Janelle Larson, Board Executive, Iowa Board of Massage Therapy

This session is back for an encore presentation. We will share the interesting situations you submitted, identify some of the legal and ethical issues, and seek your suggestions, best practices, and strategies on how to handle some quite unexpected, but unfortunately not unusual, scenarios.

Investigator/Inspector Track (Arbor Room)

Trauma-Informed Investigations and Secondary Trauma: Yours, Mine and Ours

Speaker: Pam Hamilton, LSCSW, LCSW, Therapist and Consultant, Hamilton Counseling and Consulting

Becoming trauma-informed in our investigations and interactions starts with a basic understanding of trauma and an increased capacity to recognize the signs of trauma in others. It is also vital to recognize the impact of others' traumas on ourselves which can manifest in symptoms of secondary stress or vicarious trauma. Learn to ward-off secondary stress through practical resiliency practices.



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JOINT SESSIONS (*Arbor Room*):

10:00am – 11:15am

Regulatory Successes and Interagency Collaboration

*Moderator: Keith Warren, Executive Director, Alabama Board of
Massage Therapy*

*Panelists: Mike Longmire, North Carolina; Elizabeth Kirk, North
Carolina; Jason Shawver, Ohio*

11:15am – 11:30 am

Closing Remarks and Adjourn

Speaker: Dr. Debra Persinger, Executive Director, FSMTB