Questions for NM Board of Massage Therapy – August 27, 2019 Board Meeting
From Bhanu J Harrison, LCSW, LMT, RMTI

1. When does this law take effect? In my humble opinion it should take effect Nov 1, 2019 after the current renewal cycle, as by now therapists will have completed most of their CEU training and did so under the older regulations. Making the law effective in late August would place undue burden and expense to take more CEUs to meet the new regulations within a very short time frame. It would be unfair to make these regulations effective in August.
2. Is CPR still required? I don't see it as a requirement in the new regulations.
3. Are ethics classes considered "hands-on" if they are conducted in person "live"? One of my students asked, as she has taken 8 online and wanted to know if they ethics could be considered "hands-on". This is very, very confusing!
4. Does the 8-hour requirement of "hands on" training mean 'technique' classes or are they classes that are conducted "live' in person, such as ethics. The Board has never had a requirement to take "hands on" technique classes. In fact, the usual distinction at NCBTMB or even my social work CEUs is online or "live". It may be very difficult for therapists to find technique classes over time….there are not that many providers or modalities available in New Mexico. Many therapists have found modalities that they are really good at and have already been certified in. This again is an undue burden to have to keep on taking technique classes. This type of requirement is not required for social work or counseling licenses.
5. Are classes that offer experiential exercises (but not hands on) considered "hands on"? I teach stress management through mindfulness and I offer many skills and in class practice, but there is no touch involved. Stress management is one of the listed options for CEUs for massage therapists.
6. The name "non-continuing education provider" can't stand, as no one will feel comfortable taking a class from a non-provider. It needs to be replaced. I suggest that the "Continuing Education Provider (former RMTI-Independent) be listed as "Continuing Education Provider- I", and the "non-Continuing" label be changed to: "Continuing Education Provider -II". Or Level I and Level II…something to that effect.
7. If I am only teaching ethics classes to LMT's do I still need to maintain my LMT license if I am no longer practicing massage therapy with clients? In the past, the LMT license was required in order to have an RMTI (which I know is lapsing).
8. As continuing ed providers, can we have access to email lists of LMTs so that we can notify them of classes?

I would love answers to all of these questions before the bill is approved to take effect.
Thank you very much.
Bhanu J. Harrison, LCSW, RMTI