

# BCTA/NA Judicial & Governmental Review Committee (JGRC)

## 2021 Annual Report

The BCTA/NA Judicial and Governmental Review Committee continues to communicate national and local issues that impact our members by encouraging them to become more involved in their state and local legislation and regulations by contacting their lawmakers and regulators. Our intention is to empower our members around their right to practice, to increase the number of eyes and ears on legislative and regulatory issues, and to further educate the public about the benefits of Biodynamic Craniosacral Therapy.

### 2021 Accomplishments

- Encouraged members to contact their local regulators & legislators, providing information about the issue, who to contact and their contact information.
- Provided members with a letter writing guide and key talking points around an issue impacting their right to practice.
- Encouraged members to track legislative and regulatory issues that impact their right to practice and alert the JGRC of any new issues. Enrolled members from MA, OH & KS.
- The BCTA/NA Judicial & Governmental Review Committee added a new member, Deborah (Deb) Fox, RCST®, CCH, BCPP. Deb is certified in Polarity Therapy, Biodynamic Craniosacral Therapy and holds the CCH designation of Classical Certified Homeopath.

Deb serves with Health Freedom Action Massachusetts and inspires others to join her in advocating for the right to access and practice the complementary and alternative healthcare of one's choice. Deb joined the JGRC to educate other practitioners in strengthening their understanding and awareness regarding the current health freedom environment and the impending legislative challenges we are facing. Deb also serves as the Treasurer for the Accreditation Commission for Homeopathic Education in North America and on the Board of the American Polarity Therapy Association. In her free time she studies and practices Japanese calligraphy and bookmaking.

- Elish McPartland, RCST®, Lic. Massage Therapist, Assoc Polarity Practitioner, and Deborah Whitman agreed to assist tracking legislative and regulatory issues in MA which impact your right to practice.
- JGRC was in communication with BCTA/NA members from the states listed below, advising & providing information regarding proposed bills and their impact on right to practice.
  - **Massachusetts' "Alternative Healing Therapies Board"** (S.221 and H.350) were reported out of committee in February 2022 by referring for further investigation and study order. Professionals and the public speaking out helped to defeat this current version of the bill.

**The Massachusetts Health Freedom Bills, H2343 and S1380**, An Act Providing for Consumer Access to and the Right to Practice Complementary and Alternative Health Care Services has been extended to December 31, 2022. The virtual hearing was held on October 15, 2021 by The Joint Committee on Public Health and attended by many health freedom advocates who testified in favor of the bill. Similar bills were heard last session and moved favorably to Ways and Means. Due to COVID the Legislature was unable to move the bills any further during the last session. Based on last year's favorable movement, Health Freedom Action Massachusetts (HFAMA) hopes to see the Joint Committee for Public Health support the bill again during this session.

- **Ohio legislature's amendment to the Massage Therapy Practice Act (HB 81)** to require registration and licensing of massage therapy establishments as a means to combat human trafficking was introduced to the Senate in June 2021 but hasn't yet been assigned to committee. This bill also proposes to require all forms of massage (relaxation & therapeutic) to be licensed. The bill has a very broad definition of massage which could be interpreted to include practitioners of BCST as massage therapists.
- **The Kansas legislature introduced a bill (HB 2400)** to enact professional licensure of massage therapy in Kansas. This bill as written would require all types of professional touch therapies to obtain a massage therapy license. HB 2400 was referred in February 2021 to the Committee on Health and Human Services for further study.
- JGRC responded to questions from members and the public regarding licensure requirements for the following states: **Florida, Oregon, California, Vermont, Colorado, Hawaii, New Hampshire, and Maine.**

## Upcoming FederationMBS Meeting

Edwin will attend in person the 2021 FederationMBS Annual meeting in Memphis, TN, April 15-16, 2022. Deb Fox & Gayle Buchner will join the meeting virtually. The Annual meeting is a forum for communication among its members, non-profit professional organizations with related concerns.

Participating organizations represent a broad spectrum of professions, including massage therapy, bodywork therapy, structural integration, somatic practices, movement education, and energy practices.

Members include American Massage Therapy Association®, The American Society for the Alexander Technique, Inc., American Polarity Therapy Association, American Organization for Bodywork Therapies of Asia, The Feldenkrais Guild® of North America, International Association of Structural Integrators®, Rolf Institute of Structural Integration, United States Trager® Association.