Prior to 2009, most massage therapists in California were subject to onerous local permitting processes that required paying annually for multiple city permits, often subjected therapists to health exams, and unfairly targeted legitimate therapists. Few thought the unusual approach of voluntary certification through CAMTC would get off the ground, much less succeed.

10 years later, CAMTC has over 50,000 certificate holders and 71 approved schools; has denied, revoked, or disciplined several thousand individuals; has unapproved or denied over 80 mostly fraudulent schools; and helped legitimize the massage profession in the eyes of lawmakers, law enforcement, and the public alike.

CAMTC shares this milestone with all of its stakeholders, including the many great CAMTC Approved Schools across California. Here’s to an even brighter future!

APPLICATION FOR CHANGE OF STAFF

Thanks to a helpful suggestion from a school on one of our monthly Schools Conference Calls, the Educational Standards Division has created a simplified application packet for staff changes to your school. You can find the CAMTC Application for Change of Staff packet on the website here:

https://www.camtc.org/media/1628/camtc-application-for-change-of-staff-ver4119.pdf

As a reminder, schools must inform CAMTC of all changes affecting their massage program including, but not limited to, changes to ownership, officers, school name, school address, BPPE approval, curriculum, instructors, and administrators. Use the application packet noted above for all changes of staff, including instructors, authorized transcript signers, and administrators. For all other changes, send an email to:

jbsmith@camtc.org
The monthly Schools Conference Call occurs the 1st Wednesday of every month at 2:00pm. The next call is May 1st. Calls are open to the public, but participation is prioritized for school owners and administrators. Please have your school-related questions ready for the call or email them in advance to jbsmith@camtc.org.

Here’s the info to phone in:

Phone number: 877-366-0711
Passcode: 82373574 #

Through these frequent conversations with schools, CAMTC has been able to share information more clearly, such as suspension of the exam requirement, fee changes, etc. We also solicit feedback (e.g., submitting transcripts electronically), receive feedback (e.g., streamlined staff change application process), and answer any questions schools may have.

The Board has authorized the continuation of the Schools Advisory Committee (SAC). CAMTC acknowledges that SAC has provided the Board with much needed input over the past 2 years. This year, SAC is tasked with making recommendations to the Board regarding changes to include in the CAMTC Sunset Review Report due late 2019 to the State Legislature. After receiving interest from numerous outstanding candidates, Committee Chair Dr. Jeffrey Forman has named the 2019 members of the committee:

- Jeff Forman - CAMTC Board Member appointed by California Community College Chancellor’s Office
- Allison Budlong - CAMTC Board Member representing California Association of Private Postsecondary Schools (CAPPS)
- Keith Grant - Former CAMTC Board Member and massage therapy instructor
- Katie Mickey - Santa Barbara Body Therapy Institute
- Deborah Reuss - Pacific College of Oriental Medicine
- Patty Flanagan - Hands On Healing Institute and Kali Institute
- Kieu Vo - International College of Holistic Studies

For School Questions or Comments, Joe Bob Smith, CAMTC Director of Educational Standards Division, can be reached at: jbsmith@camtc.org

We’re Here To Help
I am wondering if, as schools, we have the freedom to make exceptions to our attendance policy for students when that feels appropriate?

It is up to each school to establish its own attendance policy. What CAMTC looks for is that the school is following its own stated policy. The only requirement of CAMTC is that students successfully complete 500 hours of in-class education supervised by a qualified instructor, including 100 hours of core curriculum as outlined in the Procedures. Under no circumstances should a student receive credit for hours not attended. For example, if a student attends 80 of 100 hours under a school’s 80% attendance policy, the student may pass and complete the course but only receives credit for the 80 hours. This means that schools offering the minimum 500 hours of education must have 100% attendance policies. All schools should accurately track and record detailed attendance, absences, make-up hours, leaves of absences, and any other information necessary to verify that a student has successfully completed the number of hours stated on the student’s transcript.

CAMTC leadership and senior staff had a well-attended booth at the AMTA-CA Annual Conference. We were all ears for listening to massage professionals, business owners and school owners. Our #1 goal was to listen and problem-solve in real time at our booth and to follow-up when needed.

(Pictured L-R: Joe Bob Smith, Mark Dixon, Beverly May, Roberta Rolnick)
Currently, B&P Code only allows for CAMTC to accept out-of-state education that is: “...recognized by the corresponding agency in another state or accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education.” This generally precludes CAMTC from accepting foreign education. CAMTC is currently working with the Legislature to create a pathway for at least some acceptance of foreign education. If you have feedback or solutions to recommend, email: jbsmith@camtc.org

The next Schools Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 28, 2019. The next CAMTC Board meeting is scheduled for the following day, Wednesday, May 29, 2019. Both meetings are currently scheduled to take place in Northern California. The meeting location will be posted as soon as it's available.

All meetings are open to the public. Schedules are subject to change. You can find current meeting information, as well as minutes and audio for past meetings at https://www.camtc.org/information-about-camtc/meetings/ and scroll down.

A recently added feature on CAMTC’s website is a comprehensive Sitemap. The Sitemap at https://www.camtc.org/sitemap/ makes everything on CAMTC’s website accessible on a single page and it can be accessed via a link at the bottom of every CAMTC webpage. Please email rrolnick@camtc.org if you have any feedback.

Digital versions of all previous CAMTC School Newsletters can always be found here: https://www.camtc.org/information-about-camtc/publications/ and scroll down.

California Massage Therapy Council’s mission is to protect the public by certifying massage professionals in California that meet the requirements in the law and approving massage programs that meet the minimum standards for training and curriculum.

www.camtc.org