

3203

EMBARGOED MATERIAL

Kathy Cooper

From: ktcassidy20@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, November 14, 2018 2:03 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: #16A-724(IRRC#3203)



My name is Katie Cassidy. I wrote in the first time regarding the previous proposed regulation of \$200.00. As i stated previously, I was never opposed to a fee increase but myself and many of my fellow employees were looking for more transparency and understanding of where the money would go and how it would strengthen us as a whole (including the board members.)

I do feel like this new proposed regulation is more reasonable, so i will start by expressing my appreciation as a massage therapist. Every bit helps. I witnessed first hand at a prior board meeting the hard work everyone does. There are a few issues that i am still unsure about and would like more clarification on.

As stated on the PA Massage Board website, it states that our renewal notices are expected to be mailed out to 2-3 months prior to the license expiration date. This seems to be cutting it a bit close and none of my fellow massage therapists have received any renewal notices. They are still nervous and unsure of what they will be paying.

Going forward, i think it should be more set in stone exactly when we are to receive our renewal notices. November 1rst would have been the fair time, in my opinion, to send out our renewal notices even though changes were about to be made. Will they be sent out and received by massage therapists by November 30th?

My only other concern and question is why the CEU providers fee and new massage license applicants fee are the same? If my information is correct, both categories are paying an increase of \$65.00 to 100.00 with no more increases going forward.

I feel \$100.00 for an initial application fee is somewhat reasonable, but should not be the same as a ceu provider. The graduating student is not yet established. As we all know, it can be tough to make money in the beginning due to various work conditions, opportunites, and pay structure as a new massage therapist. The pay structure is not set in stone the way it is for other health care providers such as nurses.

A CEU provider is usually much more established and has more avenues to make money through teaching in addition to being a massage therapy provider. They are leaders in the field and hold the advanced skills needed to create a full time living in the field. I feel like either the initial licensure fee for a new graduate could be lower or the CEU provider fee could be a tad bit higher.

Lastly, I feel like a fee increase of \$150- 165.00 for massage therapists seems a bit more fair for 2022 as opposed to \$175.00. Do you ever plan to raise it to \$200.00? Or can we rest assured it will stay at \$175.00 for the next ten years?

Massage therapists have a lot of issues surrounding the field that need to be worked out. One massage therapist might have a growing thriving small practice making high income and another could be barely making ends meet. Some could work at a spa and might make enough money to survive, but the lack of hourly pay or lack of client flow can make it very tough to make ends meet.

Our field is based on a client centered approach that takes time and skill to learn before some can make an established income. Some find out they can't even do it and give up. We don't have the same hourly wage that other fields in health care rely on and varying work conditions.

We are a unique industry with many variables affecting what we actually make per year.

I would like to see if we could have an initial fee increase this year for everyone, and wait it out or have the numbers re-evaluated sometime before 2022 in all categories.

I thank you for your time. A lot of my colleagues don't trust the board and I don't want that. I don't personally feel that way. I witnessed the hard work you do and I know you play a vital role in our survival. I just feel like with everything else, it's a rapidly growing field and a lot of changes (many unexpected) are taking place all over the country. This is why I am happy with the change, but still feel like maybe the future holds more options that could keep licensure fees a bit lower but still satisfy the needs of the board. Evaluating the CeU fee versus the new applicant I feel is important too.

With that being said, my only true goal in writing this is to have everyone be in the know and be able to trust one another and feel secure in where their money goes.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Katie Cassidy

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail