



2026 MBE Summit Preliminary Agenda

Wednesday, April 22

Attendee Travel Day

5 pm	Registration	Waterplace Pre-Function
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Thursday, April 23

8:30 am	Registration	Waterplace Pre-Function
8:30-9:30 am	Networking Breakfast	South County
9:30 am	Welcome <i>Dr. Debra Persinger, FSMTB Executive Director</i>	Waterplace Ballroom
9:30-10:15 am	Public Engagement with Purpose <i>Caroline Espinosa, Director of Strategic Communication, Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation</i> <i>Ahmos Netanel, CEO, California Massage Therapy Council</i> <i>Bob Ruark, Executive Director, Oregon Board of Massage Therapy</i> <i>Facilitator: Kevin Snedden, FSMTB Director - Industry Relations</i> Explore successful strategies for outreach and public engagement with constituents. From rotating board meetings to newsletters and licensee town halls, learn how boards can foster trust and transparency.	Waterplace Ballroom
10:15-11 am	Understanding and Responding to Misinformation <i>Mara McGhee, MA, FSMTB Manager - Member Services</i> This session will examine misinformation through a research-based lens, exploring how it forms, spreads, and influences public perception. Building on this foundation, the session will consider practical implications and response	Waterplace Ballroom

	strategies boards can use to address misinformation while supporting transparency and public trust.	
11-11:30 am	Networking Break	Waterplace Ballroom
11:30 am-12:30 pm	<p>Synaptic: Advancing Support Through Technology <i>Brenna Hawley-Craig, Solution Architect, Synaptic Era</i> <i>Sahil Kumar, Vice President – Customer Success and Delivery, Synaptic Era</i> <i>Bojan Cubela, Vice President – Public Sector & GMT, Synaptic Era</i></p> <p>Learn how FSMTB is leveraging technology to modernize regulatory functions and support your processes.</p>	Waterplace Ballroom
12:30-1:15 pm	Networking Lunch	South County
1:15-1:30	<p>School Closings and MBLEx® Applicants <i>Mai Lin Petrine, Esq., FSMTB Director - Legal and Regulatory Affairs</i></p> <p>This session will discuss the impact of school closures on MBLEx applicants.</p>	Waterplace Ballroom
1:30-2:15 pm	<p>Investigation Best Practices <i>Brian Henry, Lead Investigator, Delaware Division of Professional Regulation</i> <i>Jason Shawver, Investigations Supervisor, State Medical Board of Ohio</i></p> <p>This session will provide an overview of best practices and the role of collaboration in investigations.</p>	Waterplace Ballroom
2:15-3:45 pm	<p>Hack-A-Thon Workshop: Education and School Approval <i>Facilitators:</i> <i>Mai Lin Petrine, Esq., FSMTB Director - Legal and Regulatory Affairs</i> <i>Kevin Snedden, FSMTB Director - Industry Relations</i></p>	Waterplace Ballroom

	This Hack-A-Thon style session will focus on developing standards, criteria, and requirements for massage school and program approval. Participants will explore what has worked well in various states, what challenges have emerged, and how those insights can inform stronger, more consistent approaches to oversight.	
3:45-4:15 pm	Networking Break	Waterplace Ballroom
4:15-4:45 pm	Hack-A-Thon Report Out	Waterplace Ballroom
4:45-5:30 pm	Sharing Successes and Challenges <i>Facilitator: Elise Baine, FSMTB Government Relations Specialist</i> In this interactive, community-building session, each jurisdiction is invited to share a recent success, a key challenge, or a meaningful story from their work. This time is designed to promote connection, spark conversation, and highlight the diverse experiences across FSMTB Member Boards.	Waterplace Ballroom
5:30 pm	Wrap Up	Waterplace Ballroom
6 pm	On-Site Networking Dinner	Providence Ballroom

Friday, April 24

8-8:45 am	Networking Breakfast	South County
8:45 am	Welcome	Waterplace Ballroom
8:45-9:30 am	Tricky Scenarios and Board Best Practices <i>Facilitator: David Marzilli, Esq., Legal Counsel, Rhode Island Department of Health</i> Explore real-life challenging board scenarios and learn best practices for handling them with confidence and professionalism.	Waterplace Ballroom
9:30-9:45 am	IMPact™ Update: Current Status and Recent Developments <i>Dr. Debra Persinger, FSMTB Executive Director</i>	Waterplace Ballroom

	<p>Stay informed about the IMpact (Interstate Massage Compact) with a review of recent developments and the initiative's current status, including what boards need to know going forward.</p>	
9:45-10:30 am	<p>A Rebuttal to The Licensing Racket: Arguments that Licensing Boards Can Employ Against Deregulation <i>Donald Balasa, JD, MBA, CEO and Legal Counsel, American Association of Medical Assistants</i></p> <p>This session will discuss flaws in the arguments against licensing in The Licensing Racket and will assist licensing boards in developing arguments and marshaling evidence against deregulation efforts.</p>	Waterplace Ballroom
10:30-10:45	Networking Break	Waterplace Ballroom
10:45-11:30 am	<p>De(fending) Regulation <i>Facilitator: Gloria Lindsey, Executive Director, Missouri Board of Massage Therapy</i></p> <p>In this interactive session, groups will tackle prompts about deregulation arguments and practices. Participants will brainstorm strategies to protect and strengthen regulatory standards, leaving with actionable ideas and a practical toolkit.</p>	Waterplace Ballroom
11:30-11:45 am	<p>Leveraging FSMTB: Resources to Strengthen Board Effectiveness <i>Mara McGhee, MA, FSMTB Manager - Member Services</i></p> <p>Explore FSMTB's latest and upcoming educational events and resources designed to enhance board effectiveness, support regulatory excellence, and equip boards for today's challenges.</p>	Waterplace Ballroom
11:45 am	Wrap Up and Conclusion	Waterplace Ballroom