

## Interview with Chimere Figaire-Correa, Massage Board Chair

*Chimere Figaire-Correa* is serving her second 4-year term on the Board of Massage, and recently became Board Chair in early 2024. Chimere also maintains her own practice, *Mere Massage*, in downtown Vancouver, and describes her work as less of a specialty . . . more of an experience. . . Read on to find out more about her as a person, board member, and massage therapist.

**Q:** How long have you been practicing massage, Chimere?

**A:** I graduated in 2005 From Ashmead College in Portland, Oregon and was licensed in Washington State in 2006. I currently practice in downtown Vancouver, Washington.

**Q:** Do you work for yourself, or for a company, clinic . . . ?

**A:** I established my own practice right out of the gate. Even though I have worked with many chiropractors and physical therapists, I've always maintained my own business, *Mere Massage*.

**Q:** How long have you been on the board, and what caused you to seek board service?

**A:** I'm in my second term. A life-changing event caused me to want to be bigger than myself. When I saw an opportunity to be a part of the massage industry, I dove in. Massage has always been deeply fulfilling, and has always been my passion.

**Q:** Did you have a job/career before becoming an LMT?

**A:** I worked for a Technology Research Firm, Griggs-Anderson & Gartner in downtown Portland, Oregon. This was actually the place that raised me since I was about 18 years old. I had many roles there over the years. Mainly administrative and support stuff.

**Q:** Why do you think you were called to massage?

**A:** The support from my fellow employees gave me the bravery I needed to pursue something more in life. So, I enrolled in massage school at Ashmead. The first day I watched my instructor perform a massage, I knew that's what I wanted to do for the rest of my life.



Q: What is your favorite type of massage to give? To receive?

A: My favorite type of massage to give and receive is a fine-tuned injury specific massage with deep, relaxing, rhythmic strokes to cater to the client's needs.

Q: Do you have a specialty?

A: I think my clients would describe my work not as a specialty, but as an experience.

Q: Do you have an area you would like to devote study and training to?

A: No, But I would like to teach intuitive touch, and motivational interviewing within client care.

Q: What are some things in your life that give you joy and that you are passionate about?

A: My family is my everything. I love to travel with them and make memories.

Q: What excites you about being Board Chair?

A: Being a part of the massage industry on a greater level. You learn so much about the regulation of massage. Also, meeting and networking with people who love massage.

Q: What have you seen/done as a board member, and what would you like to do in your time on the board?

A: I've seen some amazing programs in Washington State that offer outstanding education for our entry level therapists. I have been a part of learning and researching for cultural competency and diversity training for Washington. I still can't believe I get to help develop and implement policies, rules and guidelines so that we can maintain high standards of ethics, professionalism and education for our state. The journey has been real. But I still feel like I'm just getting started.