

Maryland Board of Cosmetologists Meeting

Monday, February 3, 2025

A meeting of the State Board of Cosmetologists was held on Monday, February 3, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. by teleconference.

Board Member Attendees

Ms. Shanay Wiggs, *Chair, Cosmetologist Member*

Ms. April Kenney, *Cosmetologist Member*

Ms. Rosalind Hosley, *Cosmetologist Member*

Ms. Kelly Canty, *Consumer Member*

Mr. Maurice Fains, *Cosmetologist Member*

Ms. Lisa Ennis, *Cosmetologist Member **Absent***

Ms. Katrina Lee, *Esthetician Member*

Other Staff Attendees

Ms. Nicole Fletcher, *Executive Director*

Ms. Breona Scott, *Assistant Executive Director*

Ms. Leslie Braxton, *Licensing Supervisor*

Ms. Fatmata Rahman, *Administrative Specialist III*

Mr. Jacob Guy, *Board Administrator*

Ms. Ashley Thompson, *Office Secretary*

Mr. Kenneth Sigman, *Advice Counsel*

Ms. Renee Robertson, *Continuing Education Coordinator*

Ms. Karina Papavasiliou, *Inspector*

Mr. Welton Simpson, *Inspector*

Agenda and Minutes

Quorum Announced, and Meeting Called to Order

A quorum was announced by Chairperson Ms. Shanay Wiggs and the meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m.

Approval of Agenda

Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher first announced an amendment to the agenda replacing item E with Curriculum Approval and moving Inspection Summary to item F. Chairperson Ms. Shanay Wiggs then requested a motion for approval of the updated February 3, 2025 agenda. Ms. April Kenney made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Ms. Kelly Canty, and the agenda was unanimously approved.

Approval of January 6, 2025 Minutes

The minutes of the January 6, 2025, meeting were reviewed by the Board. Chairperson Ms. Shanay Wiggs then requested a motion to approve the minutes. A motion was made by Ms. Katrina Lee to approve the minutes which was seconded by Ms. Rosiland Hosley, and the motion unanimously passed.

New Business

A. SPONSOR VERIFICATION

Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher introduced the topic by explaining the prerequisites for holding a Senior Cosmetologist license. A licensee must hold a Cosmetologist license for at least 2 years, request an approval letter from the Board, and then apply for and pass a theoretical examination proctored by PSI to qualify. The current testing application requires applicants to have another Senior Cosmetologist sign off on their application to verify that the applicant has been working in a shop or salon for at least 2 years. Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher went on to say that this portion of the application has been removed after careful evaluation leading to the determination that obtaining the additional signature can create a barrier to licensure that is unnecessary.

Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher explained that she was bringing this to the Board to propose that a similar action be taken on the apprentice testing application. Apprentices testing for their license currently must have their sponsor sign off on their application in order for it to be approved. However, with the sponsor being the one responsible for submitting the apprentice's hours, and the Board approving them by sending out an official approval letter, requiring a sponsor's signature on the application could be redundant and create a barrier to licensure. Chairperson Ms. Shanay Wiggs spoke up stating that she believes the sponsor signature should remain a requirement in an effort to prevent fraud, and the apprentice and sponsor should be responsible for maintaining a relationship through the completion of the program. Assistant Executive Director Ms. Breona Scott replied by offering that in many instances an apprentice may not test immediately after completing their training program, and could lose touch with the sponsor in the time between testing and working as an apprentice. Consumer Member Ms. Kelly Canty built off this by stating that she had once been in the position as an apprentice described by Ms. Breona Scott. Ms. Canty is of the belief that a sponsor whose license is in full compliance logging into the electronic portal and reporting hours should be recognized as signing off on the completion of training by the apprentice. Cosmetologist Member Ms. April Kenney explained that she had a similar experience recently as a sponsor, where her apprentice could not test immediately and she was in support of removing the sponsor signature requirement on the application.

Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher then asked for a motion to strike the sponsor verification portion of the PSI testing application for apprentices. Ms. Kelly Canty then made a motion to strike the sponsor verification portion of the application, seconded by Ms. April Kenney. Voting in favor: Ms. Kelly Canty, Ms. April Kenney, Ms. Katrina Lee, and Mr. Maurice Fains. Voting against: Ms. Shanay Wiggs. The motion was then passed with a majority vote from Board members.

Old Business

A. DISTANCE LEARNING

Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher introduced the topic to Board members stating that back when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, distance learning was approved as an acceptable training method for both practical and theoretical hours. Ms. Fletcher brought the issue to the meeting wanting to discuss stipulations regarding distance learning, to determine if updates were needed. Ms. Rosiland Hosley responded stating that she is open to allowing all

theory hours to be completed through an online forum, and believes that all practical training should be completed in person. Ms. Katrina Lee agreed with the point from Ms. Hosley and added that the flexibility for students to complete training hours remotely is appealing. There was consensus among Board members that there should be no limitation on the portion of theoretical hours that could be earned online, however, due to the hands-on nature of practical training, that should all be completed in person. Chairperson Ms. Shanay Wiggs added that specifications for distance learning for the theory portion should be in regards to the content offered, rather than the amount of hours. Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher stated that she would draft a new letter of Distance Learning stipulations reflecting the ideas brought forth by the Board, and then send it out for comment.

B. SPECIALTY LICENSES

Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher began by stating that she had been reached by an interested party regarding the Board offering a Wax Specialist license under the Limited Esthetician license. The reasoning in her inquiry pertained to the cost burden and the hours requirement to learn the full scope of esthetics when she is only interested in providing Waxing services. Chairperson Ms. Shanay Wiggs expressed her hesitation to sub-divide an already limited license, and offered some issues that have emerged in neighboring states including the inability to transfer such a license to another state. Ms. April Kenney agreed with the comments made by Ms. Wiggs, stating that a person interested in esthetics should learn the full scope of the trade and then once they become licensed, decide which services they are going to perform. Ms. Rosiland Hosley agreed with both Ms. Wiggs and Ms. Kenney, adding that performing on another person's skin is a significant responsibility and those practicing should have full knowledge of the trade. Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher stated she would relay the thoughts offered from Board members to the individual who inquired.

C. MOBILE SALONS

Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher opened up the topic informing those on the call of the current prerequisites for operating a mobile salon, which was passed in 2019. As it stands, a mobile salon must be affiliated with an existing brick and mortar location, and services provided in a client's home must be documented in the salon's records. Ms. Fletcher stated that from an inspection and regulatory standpoint, compliance could be difficult to monitor for the Board. Licensing Supervisor Ms. Leslie Braxton then addressed an idea that inspections could take place at a central location like the operator's home. Ms. Braxton stated her concern that while this idea would be adequate to inspect certain sanitation elements of the practice, it would not give the Board any insight into the

operator's compliance while out practicing. Chairperson Ms. Shanay Wiggs echoed that concern, and added that based on discussions with the Compliance Committee, issues with eloping staff, unlicensed individuals, and sanitation have been growing. If the Board were to introduce a Mobile Salon license, mobile operators would essentially have the opportunity to evade inspectors and enforcement as a whole. Ms. Wiggs went on to support the idea of requiring a brick and mortar affiliation by stating her feeling of the importance of having an address for the Board to send official communications to businesses. Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher thanked Board members for their feedback and stated that she would confer with other state Directors to determine if there is a plausible way for the Board to enforce compliance on mobile salons.

D. LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher shared Senate Bill 617 with those on the call, which would establish a license type for those looking to solely provide eyelash services. Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher highlighted some of the changes to the bill that may help get the bill passed. The number of training hours has been increased from 60 to 100, there will be a practical and theory exam, and an apprenticeship program will be made available. Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher went on to say that the proposed regulations for Senate Bill 1044 have been approved by the Secretary's Office and will be made available for public comment in the near future. The regulations must be available for public comment for a thirty day period before they can be solidified.

E. CURRICULUM APPROVAL

Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher stated that Cortiva Institute located at 517 Progress Dr in Linthicum Heights, MD 21090 had reached out to her regarding reducing the number of hours from 660 to 600 for their esthetics program. Cortiva Institute submitted a revised curriculum reflecting these changes, and the Curriculum Review Committee approved the updated curriculum.

F. INSPECTION SUMMARY

Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher provided the Inspection Summary for today's meeting. The data was collected from January 3, 2025 - January 30, 2025.

37	New shop applications received
18	New shops pending inspections - to be assigned
0	Complaints received
2	Complaints - open / to be assigned
4	Complaints - inspections completed
83	Inspections conducted
34	Inspections passed
25	Inspections failed
0	Failed - new shop inspections
7	Failed - late renewal inspections
4	Failed - complaint / per board inspections
14	Failed - routine inspections
15	Closed at time of inspection

Public Comment

Dione Blackledge - Ms. Blackledge inquired regarding Senate Bill 617, and specifically about who would be approved to provide the proposed 100 training hours for Eyelash licensure. Chairperson Ms. Shanay Wiggs replied that existing schools would need to submit curriculum to be approved by the Board as an addendum to their offerings, or new schools would go through the new school process to gain approval from Maryland Higher Education Commission and curriculum approval from the Board.

Roy Miller - Mr. Miller brought forth his concern that natural hair salons practicing with no license have a tendency to infringe on services that would require licensure. Mr. Miller spoke on specific examples where he has seen damage caused to his client's hair and/or scalp which stemmed from services received at a natural hair salon. Chairperson Ms. Shanay Wiggs and Cosmetologist Member Ms. Rosiland Hosley both answered Mr. Miller by sharing his concern, and expressing that making changes to the law is a lengthy process. Amendments must go through legislation and require sponsorship, and public support is crucial to push such changes across the finish line. Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher then displayed the exact language in the statute to show how it could potentially be altered to close any loopholes.

Kim Matthews - Ms. Matthews spoke to the Board to ask about having her school added to the Board list of approved Continuing Education providers. Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher replied stating that open enrollment is twice a year for potential Continuing Education providers, and curriculum requirements are readily available on the Board's website. While Ms. Matthews's continuing education courses are not yet approved by the Board, she may continue to offer them, however, licensees would not be able to use them towards fulfilling their continuing education requirements. Ms. Matthews also asked about the publication of meeting minutes and when they should be expected to be available to the public. It was explained to Ms. Matthews that meeting minutes must first be reviewed and approved by Board members, which occurs at the next board meeting after the meeting for which the minutes were taken, and they will be available on the Board's website shortly after being approved.

Sid Saab - Mr. Saab spoke on the call to ask about the quantity of inspectors working for the state as well as the frequency of which salons and shops should expect to be inspected. Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher replied stating that the Board strives for at least one routine inspection per year for registered businesses. Ms. Fletcher went on to say that she would prefer to make them more frequent, however, with limited resources that may not be realistic at this time. Licensing Supervisor Ms. Leslie Braxton provided more insight, sharing that because of the volume of shops and salons in the state and the limited number of inspectors, the Board is forced to prioritize complaints, per Board, and new shop inspections.

Toni Yvette - Ms. Yvette is a licensed cosmetologist and member of the Maryland Board of Barbers. She stated that she joined to gain a better understanding of the flow of a Cosmetology Board meeting, and that she was very impressed with the participation.

Nicole Fletcher - Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher took a moment to introduce newly hired inspector Mr. Welton Simpson to the Board. Mr. Simpson expressed his excitement for his new role and enthusiasm to get out in the field.

Dione Blackledge - Ms. Blackledge chimed in once more to ask if Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher had any indication if the changes made to Senate Bill 617 would help to get it passed as

this is now the third time that such a bill has been proposed. Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher stated that she is unsure and clarified for Ms. Blackledge that if the bill is not passed then performing eyelash services will require a Cosmetology or Limited Esthetician license.

Courtney Hare - Ms. Hare asked if there is an expected date for the proposed regulations supporting Senate Bill 1044 to be posted for public comment. Advice Counsel Mr. Kenneth Sigman stated that the draft could be posted to the website any time and should be expected on the Maryland Register within a few weeks. Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher stated that she would make them available under News and Updates.

Sid Saab - Sid wanted to reply to Ms. Blackledge with his thoughts as to why previous bills for establishing Eyelash Licensure have not been passed. The first time around the bill was sponsored by the Senate and not by the House of Representatives, and this time around is supported by a Senator and a Delegate who should help to push the bill through. Mr. Saab stated that the more public support the bill receives the better the chance it has to pass.

Adjournment

Chairperson Ms. Shanay Wiggs requested a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:37 A.M. Ms. Kelly Canty made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. April Kenney, and then unanimously approved.

APPROVED BY: _____ on March 3, 2025.