

Maryland Board of Cosmetologists Meeting

Monday, July 7, 2025

A meeting of the State Board of Cosmetologists was held on Monday, July 7, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. by teleconference.

Board Member Attendees

Ms. Lisa Ennis, *Chairperson*

Ms. Rosalind Hosley, *Cosmetologist Member - **Absent***

Ms. April Kenney, *Cosmetologist Member*

Ms. Kelly Canty, *Consumer Member*

Mr. Maurice Fains, *Cosmetologist Member - **Absent***

Ms. Katrina Lee, *Esthetician Member*

Vacant, School Member

Other Staff Attendees

Ms. Nicole Fletcher, *Executive Director*

Ms. Breona Scott, *Assistant Executive Director*

Ms. Leslie Braxton, *Licensing Supervisor- **Absent***

Ms. Fatmata Rahman, *Administrative Specialist III- **Absent***

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*

Agenda and Minutes

Quorum Announced, and Meeting Called to Order

A quorum was announced by Chairperson Ms. Lisa Ennis and the meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m.

Approval of Agenda

Chairperson Ms. Lisa Ennis requested a motion for approval of the July 7, 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 June 2, 2025, Minutes

Chairperson Ms. Lisa Ennis requested a motion to approve the minutes from the June 2, 2025, meeting. A motion was made by Ms. April Kenney to approve the amended minutes which was seconded by Ms. Kelly Canty, and the motion unanimously passed.

New Business

A. RECAP OF JUNE 2, 2025, MEETING

Chairperson Ms. Lisa Ennis began by providing a brief overview of the June 2, 2025, meeting. In June, an update was provided on HB1223, announcing that the regulatory committee will work to draft regulations so that they can be posted to the register by the August 8, 2025 due date. Also, a reminder that HB1547 will go into effect January 1, 2026 was announced. The bill imposes a one time requirement for new licensees and current licensees to complete training in domestic violence awareness training. Additionally, Jessee Skittrall, a representative of the Department of Labor National Office spoke to Board members regarding transitioning to a Registered Apprenticeship Program, which is something the Board has placed under consideration. Lastly, Shawn Conder the Account Manager for Maryland at PSI presented the outline for PSI's national exam, which standardizes testing across the country, and is something Maryland will consider.

B. PSI AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE INITIATIVE

Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher introduced the topic by stating that she had reached out to Board members to gauge their interest in introducing an authorized signature requirement on testing applications. Ms. Fletcher further explained that while there is no indication that it has happened in Maryland, some other states have experienced attempted fraud in testing applications. In an effort to be proactive, PSI reached out to Ms. Fletcher about implementing such a signature requirement. Board members were made aware of the initiative prior to July's meeting and individually communicated their thoughts to Ms. Fletcher via email. The consensus was that implementing an authorized signature requirement was a smart and proactive step to fraud prevention. Ms. Kelly Canty spoke about the initiative, stating that it could be smart to have multiple authorized signatures from each school to prevent any backups and ensure a smooth application process. With the consensus being to include an authorized signature requirement, Ms. Fletcher stated that this notion would be communicated to schools and details regarding exactly who could sign off on an application would be ironed out.

C. APPRENTICE RESTART

Apprenticeship Coordinator Jacob Guy began by announcing Jessica Belizaire, formerly an Apprentice Limited Nail Technician from October 2022 - October 2023. Ms. Belizaire had contacted the Board stating her interest in restarting the program, as she was unable to complete during her original license timeframe. Chairperson Ms. Lisa Ennis then asked Ms. Belizaire to explain why she was unable to complete the program during her first license timeframe. Ms. Belizaire explained that her sponsor was unreliable and would not schedule training for her and she would appreciate the opportunity to restart with a new sponsor. She continued saying that she had met with a new sponsor who she believes is committed and will invest the proper time into her training. Chairperson Ms. Lisa Ennis then requested a motion to approve the restart for Ms. Jessica Belizaire. Ms. Kelly Canty made a motion to approve the apprentice restart, seconded by Ms. April Kenney, and unanimously approved.

Old Business

A. PSI EXAM OUTLINES

Prior to July's meeting Board members had been introduced to PSI's national examination outline, which lays out each portion of the exam in detail. During June's meeting the Board requested more time to review the outline to determine if any changes were needed. If any changes are to be made, instructors and apprentice program facilitators will be made aware and given the opportunity to ask questions prior to implementation. Chairperson Ms. Lisa Ennis brought up her concern that a portion for curling iron use exists in the Limited Hairstylist exam, however is not listed as part of the Cosmetology exam. Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher agreed that this should be included on the Cosmetology exam and stated that she would speak with PSI representative Shawn Conder about this. Ms. Fletcher added that this would not be a major change, and in the interest of not prolonging the decision any further, she would like to move to a vote to determine if the Board is going to move forward with the outline as written. Board members voted unanimously in favor of proceeding with the PSI examination outlines as written.

B. LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

i. SB617 Regulations

Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher started by stating that since the previous Board meeting in June, Advice Counsel Kenneth Sigman has composed regulations for the Eyelash Technician license. The regulatory committee met in June, and conversations are ongoing. The goal is to have the regulations posted to the register by August 8, 2025 for public comment. Ms. Fletcher continued stating that there have been meetings with the Maryland Higher Education Commission regarding new school applications for eyelash technicians, as well as the process for existing schools that will be looking to add a program for eyelash technician training. It was determined that existing schools will need to communicate to the Board and Maryland Higher Education Commission indicating their desire to add the program. Institutions will be required to submit detailed outlines of the curriculum they wish to add and gain Board approval before the application is passed to the Education Commission.

Advice Counsel Kenneth Sigman then spoke stating the Eyelash Regulations are fairly comprehensive as written, and in the interest of maintaining an efficient process Board members

could vote on the proposal. Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher agreed, and Mr. Sigman then requested a motion to approve the proposed Limited Eyelash Technician license regulations. Ms. Kelly Canty then made a motion to the proposal, which was seconded by Ms. April Kenney and unanimously approved.

C. CURRICULUM APPROVAL

Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher announced the curriculum approval for Yar Beauty Academy, located at 6475 New Hampshire Ave Unit 750 Hyattsville, MD 20783. The school's curriculum for cosmetology was approved and their application has been passed to the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

D. INSPECTION SUMMARY

Assistant Executive Director Ms. Breona Scott provided the Inspection Summary for today's meeting. The data was collected from May 28, 2025 - July 2, 2025.

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| 55 | New shop applications received |
| 4 | New shops pending inspections - to be assigned |
| 3 | Complaints received |
| 12 | Complaints - open / to be assigned |
| 2 | Complaints - inspections completed |
| 153 | Inspections conducted |
| 72 | Inspections passed |
| 45 | Inspections failed |
| 6 | Failed - new shop inspections |
| 7 | Failed - late renewal inspections |
| 2 | Failed - complaint |
| 6 | Failed - per board inspections |
| 24 | Failed - routine inspections |
| 26 | Closed at time of inspection |
| 10 | Permanently Closed |

Public Comment

Brittany Cureton - Ms. Cureton asked what will be the training hours requirement to obtain approval for testing for the Eyelash Technician license. Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher replied that the requirement will be 100 hours.

Jamielyn Carter - Ms. Carter asked via chat where to submit an application to add an Eyelash Technician training program, and whether applications are currently being accepted. In response, Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher stated that applications can be emailed to the Board at barbers.cos@maryland.gov. Additionally, Ms. Fletcher stated that she would communicate with the Maryland Higher Education Commission to determine if these applications were currently being accepted.

Dionne Blackledge - Ms. Blackledge asked how she could construct a comprehensive curriculum for Eyelash Technician training without having an outline for testing. Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher stated that a proposal for the license regulations had just been voted on during today's meeting, however, it has not been made available to the public yet. Ms. Fletcher did offer that PSI typically works off of the Milady curriculum and that would be a good guideline to help anyone producing a curriculum to get started. Ms. Fletcher added that during its review of a curriculum the Board will work with applicants to help them gain approval.

Jamielyn Carter - Ms. Carter asked about a potential go-live date to begin providing Eyelash Technician training to students once programs have been approved. Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher replied that a school that has been approved would be permitted to begin offering the training immediately, however, she does not know exactly how soon schools would be able to gain approval. Ms. Fletcher stated that she will coordinate with the Maryland Higher Education Commission to try to determine a more concrete timeline.

Tonia Patillo - Ms. Patillo asked who would be qualified to offer Continuing Education courses. She had been under the impression that only producers of published text would be able to do so. Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher addressed Ms. Patillo's concern stating that one would not have to be a textbook publisher to provide courses but must be an approved school through the Maryland Higher Education Commission with a Board-approved curriculum. Ms. Patillo also asked if there was somewhere that she could find guidelines to help her create educational text. Ms. Fletcher referred her to statutes which can be accessed through the Board's official website.

Lanine Swann - Ms. Swann asked about the process for those already certified in providing eyelash services to become licensed Eyelash Technicians and whether they would be grandfathered in. Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher stated that those that are not already licensed Senior Cosmetologists, Cosmetologists, or Estheticians would be required to meet the 100 hour training requirement, and then pass both the theory and practical examinations to become licensed. The Board is progressing to have these processes in place by the October 1, 2025 deadline. Additionally, Ms. Swann asked if a list of approved schooling programs would be published on the state's website, which Ms. Fletcher replied by stating that this will be available on the Maryland Higher Education Commission website once those programs have been approved. The Board may consider adding to the Board of Cosmetology website in the future as

the program grows.

Dionne Blackledge - Ms. Blackledge asked about the required credentials for a sponsor in a Limited Eyelash apprenticeship program. Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher responded that such apprenticeship programs will not be able to be offered until 2027, and qualified sponsors will be Senior Cosmetologists who have completed continuing education in eyelash services, or Limited Eyelash Technicians with at least two years of licensed experience.

Brittany Cureton - Ms. Cureton asked about a potential grace period following the go live date for the Limited Eyelash Technician licensure, as training programs are not yet available, and people could feel rushed to complete their training. Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher answered that it is the Board's goal to be fair in enforcement of compliance. While it has not been announced publicly, Ms. Fletcher expects that there will be some kind of grace period before enforcement of the license requirement commences given that those providing services may not be able to obtain the necessary training on the effective date of the statute.

Holly Rhodes - Ms. Rhodes asked if there is a list of continuing education courses available, and the deadline for that to be completed if you are due to renew a license this year? Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher replied that there is a list of approved providers available on the Board of Cosmetologist's website. Providers continue to submit applications during open enrollment periods in April and October of each year. There are about twenty approved providers currently, and the list is expected to grow. Ms. Fletcher also emphasized that licensees should ensure that they are taking courses within the scope of practice of their license. Additionally, the timeline for licensees to come into compliance is dependent on the individual's license expiration date. The continuing education requirement goes into effect January 1, 2026, and will be a condition of renewal for any license expiring after that date. Ms. Fletcher ended by encouraging licensees not to wait until the last minute to obtain these education hours, as courses are currently available. Ms. Rhodes then asked about tiers of limited licenses, as well as the terminology on certain licenses using the word "limited." In response, Ms. Fletcher stated that the only license that includes a step up would be Cosmetologist to Senior Cosmetologist. The senior license allows those licensees to sponsor for any of the four currently available cosmetology apprenticeships. Ms. Fletcher also clarified that "limited" licensees are limited to the scope of practice in which you trained and took an examination. Those with limited licenses may also sponsor within their scope of practice once they have two or more years of licensed experience.

Meka Owens - Ms. Owens wanted clarification regarding the need for salon permits within shared office spaces. Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher responded that any space that is providing services operating as its own entity must hold a salon permit. The law requires that the location must be permitted, and licensees operating in unpermitted locations are in violation. Ms. Owens also asked about the process of applying for an original license once an individual has completed examinations. Ms. Fletcher answered by stating that exam scores are transmitted to the

States licensing software, and a registration number is generated for the applicant. Applicants should expect to receive their registration number and instructions to apply for licensure within 10 business days of passing their exam. If applicants have not received any correspondence from the Board within that timeframe they are encouraged to reach out to the Board so the situation can be escalated to PSI.

Kim Matthews - Ms. Matthews asked about the process for approved continuing education providers to add additional courses. Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher responded that existing providers may request to add additional courses once they have been a certified provider for at least one year.

Adjournment

Chairperson Ms. Lisa Ennis requested a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:16 A.M. Ms. April Kenney made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Kelly Canty, and then was unanimously approved.

APPROVED BY: _____ on August 8, 2025.