



Barbers' Board Meeting

Monday, March 9, 2020

A meeting of the State Board of Barbers was held on Monday, March 9, 2020 on the 2nd floor conference room at the Department of Labor building located at 500 North Calvert Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202.

Board Member Attendees

Mr. Phillip Mazza, *Chairman, Barber Member*
Mr. Derick L. Ausby, Sr., *Barber Member*
Mr. Andrew Campbell III, *Barber Member*

Other Attendees

Ms. Erica Lewis, *Executive Director*
Mr. Christopher Hawkins, *Deputy Director*
Mr. Eric London, *Assistant Attorney General*
Ms. Nicole Fletcher, *Licensing Supervisor*
Ms. Ashley Wallace, *MHEC*

Absent

Mr. James Dickerson, *Barber Member*
Dr. Brenda Gould, *Consumer Member*

Agenda

Quorum Announced and Meeting Called to Order—Chair

A quorum was announced and the meeting was called to order at 10:06 A.M. by Mr. Phillip Mazza, Chairman.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Mazza asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Andrew Campbell made this motion, it was seconded by Mr. Derick Ausby and the agenda was approved.

Approval of December 9, 2019 Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes of the December 9, 2019 meeting. Mr. Mazza asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Ausby made a motion, Mr. Campbell seconded and the minutes were approved.

New Business

Informal Conference

Mr. Ronnie Thomas petitioned the Board to restart his Barber apprenticeship. At the time of his initial apprenticeship, he did not take the learning experience seriously. He confirmed that he has a new sponsor and is ready to restart the program. Upon his restart of the program, he will be required to attend the apprentice orientation class. Chairman Mazza asked for a motion to approve Mr. Thomas to restart the Barber apprenticeship program. Mr. Ausby made a motion, Mr. Campbell seconded and the motion unanimously passed.

House Bill 1041

Executive Director Erica Lewis advised the Board that HB 1041 has been discussed by the legislature and that she anticipate approval. The Bill proposes that to increase, from 1 to 3, the maximum number of apprentice barbers per master barber that a barber shop may employ at the same time. The Board had a discussion on how this change will impact the industry. Ms. Lewis indicated that it may be an administrative challenge to process additional apprentices with the current database for licensees.

Importance of Sanitation Requirements

Executive Director Lewis advised members of the industry to remember to adhere to the sanitation laws and regulations that have been put in place for public safety to reduce the spread of the Coronavirus.

Staffing Update

Executive Director Lewis advised the Board that the administrative team had selected a new licensing supervisor in the person of Ms. Nicole Fletcher. Ms. Lewis also noted that the Education Coordinator position will be posted for open recruitment.

Old Business

Replacing Live Model with Mannequin

Ms. Erica Lewis, Executive Director, advised the Board that PSI, the testing vendor for the Barber Board, had received complaints by candidates that had expressed difficulty with finding live models that qualify as subjects for their practical exam and were requesting the use of mannequins. Ms. Lewis displayed a video to demonstrate the mannequin's potential. Mr. Mazza and Mr. Campbell expressed concerns about introducing mannequins, as they advised that they do not believe a candidate could shave a mannequin. They stated that the technique will not be properly demonstrated on a mannequin. The Board would like to receive input from stakeholders, including as many school owners as possible. The data will be reviewed at the next meeting.

The Maryland Higher Education Commission- Instructional Staff 13B.01.01.10

The Administrative staff had a conference call with the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC). The conversation consisted of ways to improve the overall communications throughout the curriculum approval process. The board voted to clarify, with representative Ashley Wallace (MHEC), that a master barber license is required to teach the barber curriculum in a barber school in the State of Maryland. There was a representative from MHEC. Mr. Hawkins and Executive Director Lewis advised that, in the future, the Board will conduct joint agency investigations with MHEC.



Barber Reciprocity Work Experience §4-306(3)

Executive Director Lewis reviewed the barrier that Barber reciprocity requirements cause for Barbers that pursue licensure in Maryland. Mr. Mazza and Mr. Ausby both agree that the 2 year work requirement is too long for Barbers outside of Maryland to have before they are allowed to be licensed in Maryland. Mr. Mazza and Mr. Ausby expressed their interest in the drafting of the Bill.

Inspection Report

Deputy Director Hawkins expressed his congratulations to the investigative team for their continued support and diligence to conduct inspections in a timely manner.

Complaint Committee Review

Deputy Director Christopher Hawkins advised the Board that 3 files were reviewed in the Compliant Committee. Two shops were given consent orders and ordered to be re-inspected. The remaining barbershop has been recommended for an informal hearing.

Public Comment

Michelle Hawkins

Ms. Hawkins addressed the Board in relation to how complaints are processed through the system.

Brian White

Mr. White, a licensed Barber and member of the International Barbering Association, addressed his concern for HB 1041. He stated that the Board should be required to inspect the Master Barber's skill level before they are allowed to train 3 apprentices. He also disagreed about mannequins being used by candidates during the practical portion of the Barber exams.

Oudarri Ali and Janeen Butler

Mr. Ali, a licensed Master Barber, gave his input regarding the Barber apprenticeship program. He suggests that there should be a monetary benefit for the Master Barber to volunteer their time and expertise to prospective licensees. Ms. Butler added to Mr. Ali's idea, suggesting a commission as a way to compensate Master Barbers.

Elliott Pretlow

Mr. Pretlow expressed his thoughts about the industry and noted that he agrees that mannequins should not be used for testing.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Mazza asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Andrew Campbell made this motion, seconded by Mr. Ausby and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 A.M.

APPROVED BY: P. Mazza per CH on June 8, 2020.