

# Barbers' Board Meeting

**Monday, February 10, 2025**

A meeting of the State Board of Barbers was held on Monday, February 10, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. by teleconference.

## Board Member Attendees

Mr. Larry Franklin - *Chairperson*  
Mr. Andrew Campbell - *Industry Member*  
Mr. Wade Menendez - *Industry Member*  
Ms. Toni Wallace - *Industry Member*  
Mr. Channing Trent- *Industry Member*  
Ms. Lanine Swann, *Consumer Member*  
Ms. Yasmine Young- *Consumer Member*

## Other Staff Attendees

Ms. Nicole Fletcher- *Executive Director*  
Ms. Breona Scott- *Assistant Executive Director*  
Ms. Leslie Braxton- *Licensing Supervisor*  
Mr. Jacob Guy- *Board Administrator*  
Ms. Fatmata Rahman- *Administrative Specialist III*  
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**

## **Quorum Announced, and Meeting Called to Order**

A quorum was announced by Chairperson Mr. Larry Franklin and the meeting was called to order at 10:11 a.m.

## **Approval of Agenda**

Chairperson Mr. Larry Franklin requested a motion for approval of the agenda. Mr. Andrew Campbell made a motion to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Mr. Wade Menendez, and the agenda was unanimously approved.

## **Approval of December 9, 2024 Minutes**

Chairperson Mr. Larry Franklin then asked for a motion to approve the December 9, 2024 meeting minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Andrew Campbell to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Channing Trent and the motion unanimously passed.

# **New Business**

## **A. STAFFING UPDATE**

Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher opened February's meeting by introducing Board members and those on the call to the newest member of the administrative team, Mr. Welton Simpson, a full time inspector. Mr. Simpson will contribute with investigations and inspections of barbershops and salons across Maryland.

## **B. BARBER STYLIST CLOCK HOURS**

Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher wanted to review with the Board a Barber Stylist curriculum checklist, and more specifically the allocation of theoretical vs. practical training hours. Industry Member Mr. Andrew Campbell spoke regarding the breakdown of such at his barbering school, which consists of 530 practical training hours, and 370 theoretical training hours. Industry Member Toni Wallace replied stating that she believes that the theoretical training allocation should align with that of the Barber training curriculum, or even be lessened as it is for a limited license. To become a licensed barber

students are required to take 200 hours of theoretical training, and Ms. Wallace stated her belief that the allocation of hours should be equitable across both barber and barber stylist training. In response, Mr. Channing Trent offered that in his teaching experience students are struggling much more with the theoretical portion of testing, and as a result are becoming discouraged and ultimately do not get licensed. Mr. Andrew Campbell spoke again stating his concern that if training hours were to be reduced, the Board must still ensure there is enough time to cover all necessary training topics. Consumer Member Ms. Yasmine Young offered her opinion that with barber stylist being a limited license that does not include chemical application, there may not need to be as many training hours allocated to the theoretical portion. She stated that much of the theoretical training for a standard barber license would be chemical application subjects, and due to this, the theoretical training for a barber stylist could be lowered. Mr. Channing Trent stated in response that oftentimes limited barber stylists will want to advance to a full barber license, and providing them the same theoretical training as a barber license could be beneficial. This way, if they do choose to eventually pursue a full barber license, this information is being reinforced and is not totally new. Industry Member Mr. Wade Menendez chimed in stating that he agrees that the allocation of theoretical vs. practical training should be equitable across both licenses. He offered that perhaps rather than lowering limited barber stylist theoretical training hours, the requirement for barber theoretical training needs to be increased. Mr. Menendez built on an earlier idea presented by Mr. Channing Trent, saying that many aspiring barbers begin their pursuit of licensure already possessing some natural skill for the trade. Too frequently the theoretical portion of the exam can become a barrier that prevents individuals from becoming licensed.

Consumer Member Ms. Lanine Swann then spoke up offering her idea to incorporate theory training into continuing education requirements for limited barber stylist licensees looking to advance to a full barber license. Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher responded by stating that while there is some interest in adding a continuing education requirement for barbers it has not begun the legislative process and therefore is not close to being implemented. Licensing Supervisor Leslie Braxton responded that in her experience as team lead for investigations and inspections, it is very common to see barbers obtain their license and then never follow up with the renewal process. Due to this she stated her opinion that forcing continuing education onto these licensees would not be the right approach. To wrap up the discussion Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher stated that she would share documents via email with Board members outlining proposed training hours allocation. Executive Director Ms. Nicole Fletcher asked that upon receipt of these documents, Board members reply with their thoughts and opinions

so that at the next meeting a vote could be taken regarding what action will be taken.

## Old Business

### A. INSPECTION SUMMARY

Licensing Supervisor Ms. Leslie Braxton provided an Inspection Summary for today's meeting. The Data was collected from December 5, 2024 - February 7, 2025.

<b>6</b>	<b>New shop applications received</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>New shops pending inspections - to be assigned</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>Complaints received</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>Complaints - open / to be assigned</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>Complaints - inspections completed</b>
<b>55</b>	<b>Inspections conducted</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>Inspections passed</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>Inspections failed</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>Failed - new shop inspections</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Failed - late renewal inspections</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>Failed - complaint / per board inspections</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Failed - routine inspections</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Closed at time of inspection</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Permanently Closed</b>

## Public Comment

**James Green** - Mr. Green spoke regarding the theoretical training hours for barber stylists. Mr. Green agreed with the idea previously mentioned that the theoretical test prevents so many aspiring barbers from becoming licensed, and he would be against lowering the requirement.

**Janine Butler** - Ms. Butler spoke at the meeting in regards to the theoretical portion of training for barber licensure. She stated there are plenty of important topics to cover for theoretical training, for example, sanitation and infectious disease control. Ms. Butler stated that she would support not lowering the requirement for aspiring limited barber stylists, and if the Board wishes for the requirements to be equitable, the theory training hours for barbers should be increased to match what is required for limited barber stylist training.

## Adjournment

Chairperson Mr. Larry Franklin requested a motion to call the meeting to adjournment at 11:11 A.M. Mr. Channing Trent made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Andrew Campbell and the motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ on April 14, 2024.