

Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation  
Division of Professional Regulation  
Illinois Barber, Cosmetology, Esthetics, Hair Braiding, and Nail Technology  
Board

***Open Minutes***

Illinois Barber, Cosmetology, Esthetics, Hair Braid,  
and Nail Technology Board

Date: February 5, 2024  
Convened: 10:30 am  
Adjourned: 12:20 pm  
Location: Springfield/Chicago/WEBEX

Members Present: Thomas Lawler, Board Chair  
Donald Ulm, Vice-Chair  
Karen Johnson, Member  
Raynie Jackson, Member  
Sarah Garcia, Member  
Sandra Gay, Member  
Vantinies Johnson, Member

Member(s) Absent: Denise Provenzano, Member  
Veris Van, Member

Staff Present: Greg Largent, Board Liaison  
Ann Erickson, DPR General Counsel  
Gwendolyn Payton, DPR General Counsel

Guests Present: Susan Polatz, PS Salon  
Noorjahan Bhojani, Bollywood Beauty School  
Veris Van, Next Level Mastery Center

**I. Open Session Call to Order**

The Meeting was called to order at 10:30 am.  
Roll Call: The Board Members present  
constituted a quorum of the Board.

**II. Announcements/Correspondence**

Mr. Lawler welcomed everyone and asked if  
anyone had announcements or comments.

Visitor Susan Polatz addressed the Board. She  
was frustrated with the amount of time it takes to  
get an Illinois Salon/Shop Registration and that  
applying online is impossible. Her company  
operates in 36 states and has over 1,300 licenses  
nationally. Illinois is the most difficult state in  
which to obtain a license. She indicated that  
licenses in Texas are issued in about 2 days

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Board

subsequent to application. Other states such as Virginia and California take the longest at about 8 weeks. Her wait in Illinois is 5-13 months.

Noorjahan Bhojani offered the same complaint. Applying for an Illinois Salon/Shop Registration is difficult and takes an inordinate amount of time between application and issuance.

Veris Van was unable to attend and participate as a Board Member but was in attendance during the open portions of the meeting to stay informed on Board activity.

**III. Review and Approval of Open Minutes**

The Board reviewed the open minutes of the November 6, 2023, meeting. Motion was made, seconded (Gay/Ulm) to accept the open minutes. Motion passed with a quorum of members.

**IV. Old Business**

Mr. Lawler recognized the unlicensed practice problem and lead discussion on the topic. The Board has had the discussion and wants to know where the discussion needs to go next.

**V. New Business**

Mr. Lawler wants the Open Meetings Act shared with all members. He noted that in years past there was a “welcome packet” or handbook for new Board members.

**VI. Motion to Move Into Closed Session**

Motion was made, seconded (Gay/Jackson) to go into Closed Session pursuant to Section 2c (4) & (15) of the Open Meetings Act at 10:33 am. Motion passed with a quorum of members.

**A. Review of Closed Minutes**

The Board reviewed the closed minutes of the November 6, 2023, meeting.

**B. Review of applications**

- a. The Board reviewed eleven licensure applications pursuant to Part 1175 of the Rules for the

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Illinois Barber, Cosmetology, Esthetics, Hair Braiding, and Nail Technology  
Board

Administration of the Illinois Barber, Cosmetology, Esthetics, Hair Braiding, and Nail Technology Act of 1985.

- b. The Board reviewed seven CE Waiver Requests pursuant to Part 1175 of the Rules for the Administration of the Illinois Barber, Cosmetology, Esthetics, Hair Braiding, and Nail Technology Act of 1985.
- c. The Board deliberated one case in reference to violations of the Act.

**Return to Open Session**

The Board Chair adjourned the Closed Session and moved the meeting back into Open Session at 11:48 am.

**VII. Motion to Keep Closed Minutes Closed**

Motion was made, seconded (Jackson/K. Johnson) to accept the recommendations made in closed session. Motion passed with a quorum of members.

Motion was made, seconded (Jackson/K. Johnson) to keep the closed minutes closed pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2.06(d) of the Open Meetings Act. Motion passed with a quorum of members.

**VIII. Chairman Time**

Chairman Lawler advised the Board members that they would be requested to participate in informal conferences where discipline for violations of the Act may be negotiated with the licensee.

Chair and Vice-Chair nominations were accepted. Mr. Lawler was the only candidate for Chairman and retained for another year. Mr. Ulm and Mr. Jackson were nominated for Vice-Chairman. Mr. Ulm was elected to the position.

**IX. Board Liaison Time**

Mr. Largent advise the Board that there are vacant

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Board

Board seats and Board seats occupied by members who have exceeded their terms. Mr. Largent and Ms. Erickson have been directed to actively seek qualified individuals to fill these positions. Ms. Erickson informed the Board of the seats impacted and in need of a new member. The Board is encouraged to share contacts with their respective associations.

**X. Next Meeting Date**

May 13, 2024

**XI. Adjournment**

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:20 pm.