

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

Open Session: February 2, 2026

Call to order *at* 10:17 a.m.

Roll call:

Sarah Garcia, Chair
Raynie Jackson, Vice-Chair
LeAnn Drake, Member
Karen Johnson, Member
Vantinies Johnson, Member
Jamie Kauffman, Member
Chandra Niemerg, Member
Raquel Sanchez, Member
Tobias Spears, Member
Veris Van, Member

Absent:

Raynie Jackson, Vice-Chair

Staff:

Greg Largent
Ann Erickson

Guests:

Brittani Lawlis
Jim Domiano
Maureen Mulhall
Nekia Pearson

Public Announcements & Comments

Nekia Pearson is a cosmetologist with the Dept. of Corrections. Ann and Greg will be working to schedule a call with her to answer her questions.

Jim Domiano shared his perspective on the unlicensed practice occurring in his area. Complaints have led to investigations and cease & desist orders but the practice continues. Van Johnson agrees that unlicensed practice is a large problem and the perception is that there is nothing being done to address it.

Board Announcements & Comments

Welcome new Board member, in the role of public member, Tobias Spears. Tobias addressed the Board and he provided a brief biography.

Legislative Update

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

None

Approval of Open Minutes

MOTION by Veris Van and a SECOND by Sarah Garcia to approve the Open Minutes from the November 3, 2025.

All in Favor? 9 Opposed? 0 Abstained? 0 The motion is approved.

Old Business

None

New Business

The Board elected Veris Van as Chair and LeAnn Drake as Vice-chair.

America's Beauty Show will be held in Rosemont April 18-20. Greg believes the show will again invite the Department to attend. Board members are asked to email Greg if interested in attending the event as a representative of the Board.

Chairman Notes

Sarah wants to ensure that exploring the opportunity to offer examinations in additional languages continues. Discussion and investigation of options is ongoing according to Ann and Greg. NIC offers exams in a small number of languages besides English. States like New York may be using exams of their own development.

Liaison Notes

- My email is in the chat. Email me if you wish to return to hear the announcements of the Closed Session.
- 2026 State of Illinois Mandatory Trainings - Due by 03/31/26
- Beyond the Chair Newsletter
- Remaining FY26 meeting schedule - 5/4/26
- FY27 meeting schedule will be provided at the May meeting
- Travel Vouchers need submitted within 30 days.
- Board vacancies/recruitment

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for May 4, 2026.

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

MOTION by Sarah Garcia and a SECOND by Van Johnson to enter into CLOSED SESSION, pursuant to Section 2(c)(4), 2(c)(15) and 2(c)(21) of the Open Meetings Act.

The MOTION is approved and the session is closed at 11:19 a.m.

Chair Veris Van adjourns the Closed Meeting at 11:56 a.m. The meeting returns to Open Session at 12:03 p.m.

Items Reviewed

- 1 License Application(s)
- 3 CE Waiver Request(s)
- 0 Deliberation(s)

Greg Largent announces the recommendations made in Closed Session:

- Cosmetologist applicant, Taguhi Shahbazyan, may choose to take a cosmetology refresher course or pass the Illinois exam to obtain licensure.
- Continuing Education waiver request was approved for Licensed Esthetician Danielle Sawyer.
- Continuing Education waiver request was denied for Licensed Cosmetologist Mallory Castillo.
- Continuing Education waiver request was denied for Licensed Esthetician Michelle Dimarsky.

Approve Recommendations

MOTION by Sarah Garcia and a SECOND by Veris Van to approve the recommendations made in Closed Session.

All in Favor? 9 Opposed? _____ Abstained? _____ The MOTION is approved.

MOTION by Sarah Garcia and a SECOND by Van Johnson to approve the Closed Minutes from the November 3, 2025 Closed Session and keep the Closed Minutes closed pursuant to Section 2.06(d) of the Open Meetings Act.

All in Favor? 9 Opposed? _____ Abstained? _____ The MOTION is approved.

ADJOURN MEETING

MOTION by Jamie Kauffman and a SECOND by Van Johnson to adjourn the meeting.

All in Favor. The motion is approved and the meeting is adjourned at 12:06 p.m.