Minnesota Board of Cosmetology
September 14, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes
10:02 AM to 11:51 AM
In-Person and WebEx Meeting
1000 University Avenue West, Suite 100, St. Paul, MN 55104

Board Members Present:	**Staff Present:**
Rhonda Besel, Chair	Gina Fast, Executive Director
Joi Bohn, Member	Jenna Bohl, Senior Manager of Policy & Regulation
Zariyah Chude, Member	Shannon Damlo, Administrative Coordinator
Catrina Mairose, Member	Angie Valdez, Licensing Division Manager
Alva McMillan, Member	Jodie Wehrspann, Board Relations & Research Administrator
Lisa Simon, Member	Allen Barr, Asst. Attorney General

I. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 10:02 AM by Rhonda Besel, Chair.
- Meeting held in person and by telephone or electronic means according to Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13D.

II. Attendance

- Rhonda Besel, Chair, conducted roll call of Board Members.
- Chair announced that Mahogany Plautz resigned from her board member position, effective 9/8/2026. Mahogany's seat was Cosmetologist Member #1, which requires endorsement by a professional association. The Governor's office has indicated they will be posting the position shortly (within the next two weeks). Once it is posted, Board staff will email the associations asking for their endorsements to fill the vacant position. The names will be provided to the Governor, who then appoints a new member. The new appointment will serve until the end of the predecessor's unexpired term, ending 1/3/2028. On behalf of the Board, the Chair thanked Mahogany for her years of service and commitment to the Board. This was her second term, and she had served since 2020.

III. Approval of Proposed Agenda

- **Motion:** Catrina Mairose – Approve proposed agenda with flexibility.
- **Seconded** by Alva McMillan; 6 ayes, 0 nays; **Motion Carried.**
  - Ayes: Rhonda Besel, Joi Bohn, Zariyah Chude, Catrina Mairose, Alva McMillan, Lisa Simon.
  - Nays: None

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- **Motion:** Catrina Mairose – Approve minutes from the June 15, 2026, Board Meeting.
- **Seconded** by Lisa Simon; 6 ayes, 0 nays; **Motion Carried.**
  - Ayes: Rhonda Besel, Joi Bohn, Zariyah Chude, Catrina Mairose, Alva McMillan, Lisa Simon.
  - Nays: None

V. New Business: Performance Review Results

- **Performance Review of Executive Director**
  - The performance review of Executive Director Gina Fast was completed at the June 15, 2026, Board meeting in a closed session pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13D.05 Subd. 3(a).
  - At its next public meeting (today), the Board must summarize its conclusions regarding the performance evaluation of Executive Director Gina Fast. Chair Besel read the Board's conclusions:

- "The Board has determined that the performance of Executive Director Gina Fast was exceptional and that she may be eligible for all pay increases for the next year."

VI. New Business: Rule Waiver Requests

- *Asia Abdullah*
  - **Request:** Appeal of the Board's June 2026 decision to deny request to waive Minnesota Rule 2105.0145 subp. 1a, item A, subitems (2) and (3), which require submission of original passing test results less than one year old for the AP esthetician general theory and written practical exams; and an original AP esthetician course completion certificate from a Minnesota board-approved school. Asia is seeking this waiver so she can obtain her advanced practice esthetician license in Minnesota. This request is based on hardship.
  - **Motion:** Catrina Mairose – Deny request to waive Minnesota Rule 2105.0145 subp. 1a, item A, subitems (2) and (3) to be consistent with all prior rulings of similar requests since 2021.
  - **Seconded** by Joi Bohn.
  - **Decision:** On a vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays, the motion passed.
    - Ayes: Rhonda Besel, Joi Bohn, Zariyah Chude, Catrina Mairose, Alva McMillan, Lisa Simon.
    - Nays: None

- *Demi Keough*
  - **Request:** Waiver of Minnesota Rule 2105.0145 subp. 1a, item A, subitem (3), which requires an applicant for an advanced practice (AP) esthetician license who holds an active esthetician license to submit a course completion certificate documenting completion of the 500-hour AP esthetician program at a Minnesota licensed school.
    If the Board will not grant the above waiver request, she requested a waiver of:
    1. The expiration of her passing AP esthetician general theory exam results *(passed on 1/22/2026)* under Minnesota Rule 2105.0145 subp. 1a, item A, subitem (2)(a).
    2. The expiration of her passing AP esthetician written practical exam results *(passed on 1/22/2026)* under Minnesota Rule 2105.0145 subp. 1a, item A, subitem (2)(b).
    3. The expiration of her AP esthetician practical skills test *(passed on 4/9/2026 and documented on the course completion certificate)* under 2105.0145 subp. 1a, item A, subitem (3).
    4. All practical requirements within the 500-hour AP esthetician curriculum including clinical service exercises (accepting services already completed through work experience) and practical hours of training within 2110.0525, permitting her to complete only the theory portion of a Minnesota AP esthetician course, which she proposed to complete online.

    Her request was based on hardship. The Board ruled in two parts:
  - **Motion 1:** Catrina Mairose – Deny request for a waiver of Minnesota Rule 2105.0145 subp. 1a, item A, subitem (3), which requires completion of the 500-hour AP esthetician training program, to be consistent with all prior rulings of similar requests since 2021.
  - **Seconded** by Zariyah Chude.
  - **Decision:** On a vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays, the motion passed.
    - Ayes: Rhonda Besel, Joi Bohn, Zariyah Chude, Catrina Mairose, Alva McMillan, Lisa Simon.
    - Nays: None
  - **Motion 2:** Alva McMillan – Approve request for a waiver of items 1- 3 with the condition that a completed application is received in the Board office no later than September 14, 2027; but deny request for a waiver of item 4.
  - **Seconded** by Zariyah Chude.
  - **Decision:** On a vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays, the motion passed.
    - Ayes: Rhonda Besel, Joi Bohn, Zariyah Chude, Catrina Mairose, Alva McMillan, Lisa Simon.
    - Nays: None

- *Sady Ly*
  - **Request:** Waiver of Minnesota Rule 2105.0200, subp. 2a. A to allow completion of a single total of 15 hours of board-approved clinical practice continuing education (CE) courses for Sady's instructor license renewals, rather than 15 hours for each of her two instructor license types (eyelash technician and nail technician). This request was based on financial hardship.
  - **Motion:** Lisa Simon – Approve request for a waiver of Minnesota Rule 2105.0200, subp. 2a. A as it pertains to Sady's eyelash instructor license, permitting Sady to complete zero hours of board-approved continuing education in clinical practice for her eyelash instructor license renewal expiring on 5/31/2028 with the condition she complete all other renewal requirements.
  - **Seconded** by Alva McMillan.
  - **Decision:** On a vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays, the motion passed.
    - Ayes: Rhonda Besel, Joi Bohn, Zariyah Chude, Catrina Mairose, Alva McMillan, Lisa Simon.
    - Nays: None

- *Eliana Gostomski*
  - **Request:** Waiver of Rule 2110.0670 E (5), which requires documentation of successful completion of all practical exercises, curriculum requirements, and the Practical Skills Test through the Course Completion Certificate. She requested exemption from the remaining 5 of the 10 required artificial nail clinical service exercises and the Artificial Nail Application and Removal portion of the Practical Skills Test required for cosmetology licensure. Her request was based on hardship due to a documented medical allergy to acrylic products.
  - **Motion:** Joi Bohn – Approve request for a waiver of Rule 2110.0670 E (5), based on medical hardship, permitting exemption from the remaining 5 of 10 required artificial nail clinical service exercises and the Artificial Nail Application and Removal portion of the Practical Skills Test, with the condition that she must not perform artificial nail services or would be subject to Board action.
  - **Seconded** by Zariyah Chude.
  - **Decision:** On a vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays, the motion passed.
    - Ayes: Rhonda Besel, Joi Bohn, Zariyah Chude, Catrina Mairose, Alva McMillan, Lisa Simon.
    - Nays: None

- *Ava Mercado*
  - **Request:** Waiver of Minnesota Rule 2110.0670 E (5), which requires documentation of completion of practical exercises, curriculum requirements, and the Practical Skills Test on the Course Completion Certificate. Ava requested exemption from completing the remaining waxing service quotas (8 of 20 face waxes and 12 of 20 body waxes) and from performing the Eyebrow Wax required in the Practical Skills Test. Ava claimed medical hardship based on a documented allergy to waxing products.
  - **Motion:** Alva McMillan – Approve request for a waiver of Rule 2110.0670 E (5), allowing exemption from completing the remaining waxing service quotas (8 of 20 face waxes and 12 of 20 body waxes) and from performing the Eyebrow Wax required in the Practical Skills Test with the condition that she must not provide waxing services once her license is granted or would be subject to Board action.
  - **Seconded** by Lisa Simon.
  - **Decision:** On a vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays, the motion passed.
    - Ayes: Rhonda Besel, Joi Bohn, Zariyah Chude, Catrina Mairose, Alva McMillan, Lisa Simon.
    - Nays: None

VII. New Business: Clinical Service Exercise Requirements Bulletin, presented by Jenna Bohl, Senior Manager of Policy and Regulation

- A revised Clinical Service Exercise Requirements bulletin was presented for Board consideration and approval.

- **Background.**
  - In 2016, the Board issued a Clinical Service Exercise Protocol bulletin establishing expectations for cosmetology schools regarding clinical service exercises completed by students as part of their training. The bulletin included expectations regarding the number of clinical service exercises to be performed on people, rather than mannequins, as well as other expectations related to clinical service exercises.
  - The bulletin has remained in use since that time. However, the language of the bulletin does not clearly establish whether the expectations are mandatory requirements or recommendations. As a result, staff have observed that schools have interpreted and applied the bulletin inconsistently. Some schools have treated the expectations as requirements, some have treated them as suggestions, and some schools may not be aware of the bulletin.
  - A recent inquiry from a school regarding whether the Board would reduce the number of a particular service required to be performed on people prompted a review of the bulletin and its current application.
- **Proposed Revision.**
  - Staff have prepared a revised Clinical Service Exercise Requirements bulletin which establishes that the provisions in the bulletin are requirements rather than recommendations or suggested targets. The proposed bulletin also modifies some of the numbers of clinical service exercises to be performed on people based on feedback received from schools.
  - The Board Packet contains both the 2016 bulletin and the proposed revised bulletin for comparison and review.
  - Ms. Bohl proposed revising the bulletin to apply to students who begin their training on or after January 1, 2027.
- **Motion:** Alva McMillan – Approve the Clinical Service Exercise Requirements Bulletin as proposed, with the revision that it apply to students beginning their training on or after January 1, 2027, establishing that the requirements contained in the bulletin as Board-approved curriculum requirements for licensed cosmetology schools.
- **Seconded** by Catrina Mairose.
- **Decision:** On a vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays, the motion passed.
  - Ayes: Rhonda Besel, Joi Bohn, Zariyah Chude, Catrina Mairose, Alva McMillan, Lisa Simon.
  - Nays: None

VIII. New Business: 2027 Board and Committee Meeting Dates, presented by Rhonda Besel, Chair.

- The following 2027 Board and Committee Meeting Dates were proposed:
  - ***2027 Board Meeting Dates:***
    January 25, 2027
    March 29, 2027
    June 14, 2027
    September 13, 2027
    November 15, 2027
  - ***2027 Complaint Committee Meeting Dates:***
    February 1, 2027
    May 3, 2027
    August 2, 2027
    November 1, 2027
  - **Motion:** Joi Bohn – Approve the 2027 Board and Committee Meeting Dates as proposed.
  - **Seconded** by Alva McMillan.
  - Decision: On a vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays, the motion passed.
    - Ayes: Rhonda Besel, Joi Bohn, Zariyah Chude, Catrina Mairose, Alva McMillan, Lisa Simon.
    - Nays: None

VII. New Business: Division Reports

- Reports from the Investigations, Inspections, Licensing and Policy Divisions were included in the packet for review and are summarized as follows:
- ***Investigations Division Report***
  - **Compliance Staff Update**, submitted by Stacie Anderson, Senior Manager of Compliance
    - The investigations team is down one investigator.
  - **Complaint Committee Meetings**
    - There has been one Committee meeting since our last update. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 2.
    - The categories of complaints heard during the **August** meeting were as follows:
      Total Complaints Reviewed: 112
      - Licensing – 68
      - Infection Control – 16
      - Negligence/Incompetence/Injury – 15
      - Prohibited Items – 0
      - Technical/Other – 9
      - Unprofessional Conduct – 4
      - Records – 0
  - **New Complaint Breakdown**
    - In the second quarter of 2026, a total of 178 new complaints were filed with the Board, representing a 36% increase from the volume received in the second quarter of 2025. Board staff are currently managing 291 open complaints. Of these, 8 are closed tracking complaints that remain open pending either completion of the infection control course or payment of civil penalties.
  - **Reminders**
    - Complaints can only be closed after review by the Board's Complaint Committee, or after a final order issued by the full Board following findings issued by an Administrative Law Judge from an Administrative Hearing.
    - Executed disciplinary actions are public and can be found on the Board website using the online license lookup.

- ***Inspections Division Report****, submitted by Josh Luhmann-Woodbury, Inspection Division Manager*
  - **Q2 2026 Inspection Summary**
    - 716 Salons and 9 Schools – 725 Total Inspections
  - **News and Updates:**
    - Staffing Updates: As of August 18, 2026, the board's Inspections Division employs three inspectors. One inspector is scheduled to retire at the beginning of September.
  - **Statewide Completion Statistics as of 7/8/2026:**
    - 61% (3,302 salons) inspected within the past one year
    - 39% (2,099 salons) inspected between one and two years ago.
    - 0% (0 salons) inspected over two years ago.

- ***Licensing Division Report****, submitted by Angie Valdez, Licensing Division Manager*
  - **Licensing Activity Q2**
    - In the second quarter of 2026, we maintained an average processing time of 13 business days. There was an average of 59 licenses issued per day, and 295 licenses issued per week.

- ***Policy Division Report,*** *submitted by Jenna Bohl, Senior Manager of Policy and Regulation.*
  - **Legislation Implementation**
    - The Board's bill went into effect on August 1, 2026, amending Minn. Stat. 155A, with two provisions scheduled to take effect at later dates.

- Key implementation actions completed:
    - All 14 Special Events Permit holders were notified of the repeal of the permit, and the permit type has been disabled in the licensing database.
    - The Military Temporary License Application was revised to reflect the extended license duration and removal of its fee.
    - Schools and designated school managers received a comprehensive notice outlining legislative changes.
        - Schools will receive additional reminders as the January 1, 2027, effective date approaches, regarding the allowance for registered barbers to receive up to 500 hours of credit toward cosmetology or hair technician licensure.
    - Staff are preparing major database updates so that, starting January 1, 2028, instructor license expiration dates will align with underlying practitioner license expiration dates and the licenses can be renewed together for a single fee.

X: New Business: KC S. Bennett & KS Lash Co. LLC

- The next order of business was a disciplinary matter before the full Board. Deliberations for KC S. Bennett & KS Lash Co. LLC were conducted in a closed session pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.01 Subd. 2 (2).
    - Board Chair Rhonda Besel closed the meeting at 11:15 AM on September 14, 2026.
    - Members on the Complaint Committee and familiar with the case, the public, and staff were asked to leave the room and told they could reenter once deliberations were completed.
- Board Chair Rhonda Besel reopened the meeting at 11:51 AM on September 14, 2026 following the closed session. Recused members re-joined.
    - Attorney Allen Barr stated the Board adopted the ALJ recommendations and granted summary disposition. KC Bennett and KS Lash Co LLC shall jointly and severally pay a $10,000 civil penalty to the Board. KC Bennett and KS Lash Co LLC shall jointly and severally pay an additional $3,641 in fees to reimburse it for its costs in this proceeding. KC Bennett and KS Lash Co LLC shall cease and desist from further violations.

XI: Adjournment

- Board Chair Rhonda Besel adjourned the meeting at 11:51 AM on September 14, 2026.