

**BOARD FOR BARBERS AND COSMETOLOGY
STRAIGHT RAZOR SHAVING WORKSHOP
MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Board for Barbers and Cosmetology, Straight Razor Shaving Workshop, met on Monday, March 30, 2026, at the Offices of the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, 9960 Mayland Drive, 2nd floor board room 2, Richmond, Virginia.

The following Straight Razor Shaving Workshop members were present:

Marques Blackmon
Emmanuel Gayot
Claudia Espinoza
Jaime Turgeon
Ashleigh Schwimer
Chelsea Smith

The following Straight Razor Shaving Workshop members were not present:

Kimberly Lewis

The following DPOR staff were present:

Laura McClintock, Director
Stephen Kirschner, Director of Licensing and Regulatory Programs
Ashley Reed, Executive Director
Tamika Rodriguez, Regulatory Operations Administrator
Wendy Ducan, Licensing Operations Administrator
Joseph Haughwout, Regulation Affairs Manager
Heather Garnett, Administrative Coordinator

A representative from the Office of the Attorney General was not present.

Mr. Blackmon, Board Vice Chair, called the Board for Barbers and Cosmetology, Straight Razor Shaving Workshop meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Reed, Executive Director, explained the emergency egress procedure for board room 2.

**EMERGENCY
EGRESS**

The Committee took the agenda under consideration.

**APPROVAL OF
AGENDA**

Ms. Turgeon motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Gayot.

The members voting “yes” were Mr. Blackmon, Mr. Gayot, Ms. Espinoza, Ms. Turgeon, Ms. Schwomer, and Ms. Smith.

There were no negative votes. The motion carried.

There were no public comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT

DISCUSSION:
STRAIGHT RAZOR
SHAVING

Ms. Reed explained at the February 23, 2026, Board meeting that the Straight Razor Shaving Workshop was created to discuss a pathway for cosmetologists to be eligible to perform straight razor shaving.

18VAC41-20-20B.6

The workshop members discussed the proposed draft language. Mr. Andrew Johnson, Apprenticeship Consultant for Virginia Works, also addressed the workshop members and responded to members' questions.

Mr. Gayot motioned to recommend the proposed language as presented;

18.VAC41-20-20B.6. A Virginia cosmetologist licensed prior to July 1, 2025, having provided documentation satisfactory to the board of training in straight razor shaving completed prior to July 1, 2025, is eligible for the master barber practical examination. Such applicants will not be required to take the master barber written examination.

Seconded by Ms. Turgeon.

There was no discussion. The members voting "yes" were Mr. Blackmon, Mr. Gayot, Ms. Espinoza, Ms. Turgeon, Ms. Schwomer, and Ms. Smith.

There were no negative votes. The motion carried.

Mr. Kirschner presented a proposed guidance document outlining the criteria for verifying straight razor shaving training. Members discussed the specific documentation required for licensed cosmetologists seeking to qualify for the Barber or Master Barber examinations.

18VAC41-20-20B.6
Discussion on
Guidance Document

Ms. Turgeon motioned to recommend reamended language;

18.VAC41-20-20B.6. A Virginia cosmetologist licensed prior to July 1, 2025, is eligible for the barber or master barber practical examination. Such applicants will not be required to take the barber or master barber written examination.

Seconded by Mr. Gayot.

There was no discussion. The members voting “yes” were Mr. Blackmon, Mr. Gayot, Ms. Espinoza, Ms. Turgeon, Ms. Schwomer, and Ms. Smith.

There were no negative votes. The motion carried.

The workshop members discussed the minimum years of work experience to be eligible for the master barber examination and the cosmetology examination.

Ms. Turgeon motioned to reduce licensed work experience to one year.

4. A Virginia licensed cosmetologist with a minimum of one year of work experience is eligible for either the barber or master barber examination.

5. A Virginia licensed master barber with a minimum of one year of work experience is eligible for the cosmetology examination.


Seconded by Ms. Espinoza.

There was no discussion. The members voting “yes” were Mr. Blackmon, Mr. Gayot, Ms. Espinoza, Ms. Turgeon, Ms. Schwomer, and Ms. Smith.

There were no negative votes. The motion carried.

The Straight Razor Shaving Workshop’s recommendation will be an agenda item at the next board meeting. If the Board adopts the recommendation, the regulatory change could take 30 months before the regulation becomes effective.

There being no further business, Mr. Blackmon adjourned the meeting at 12:07 p.m.



Gregory Edwards, Board Chair



Laura McClintock, Board Secretary

18VAC41-20-20B.4
and 18VAC41-20-
20B.5
Reduction of
Minimum Years of
Work Experience

ADJOURN