

**Mississippi State Board of Cosmetology  
Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting Minutes  
September 25, 2023**

**Location for Public Access:**

**Robert E. Lee Building, 239 N Lamar Street, Suite 301, Jackson, MS 39201**

**I. Welcome and Call to Order**

Warren Rossi, Chairman of the Mississippi State Board of Cosmetology called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on September 25, 2023. Debbie Coker performed the roll call. May the record reflect that there was a quorum present for voting purposes.

Present at Board office:

Warren Rossi, Chairman

Debbie Coker, Vice-Chairman

Hilda Bills, Member

Catherine Bell, Special Assistant Attorney General / Counsel for the Board

Ruby Lowery, Deputy Director

Sharon Clark, Executive Director

Members Absent:

Jewel Stewart, Secretary

Public Present:

Sylvina Buckley

Chelsea Kelly

Melvin Calton

Cedric Abston

Vanessa Myers

Kenya Nguyen

Carlene Daniels

Kaitlyn Bonvillain

Courtney Dearman

Rouser Buchanan

Cynthia Perry

Angel Griffin

Agenda Approval

Motion made by Hilda Bills to approve the agenda. Debbie Coker provided a second.

The vote was, as follows:

Aye – Warren Rossi

Aye – Debbie Coker

Aye – Hilda Bills

- II. Discussion/Approval of Prior Board Meeting Minutes  
Motion made by Debbie Coker to approve the August 28, 2023, Board Minutes with no corrections. Hilda Bills provided a second. The vote was, as follows:

Aye – Warren Rossi  
Aye – Debbie Coker  
Aye – Hilda Bills

- III. Formal Complaint  
Sharon Clark presented investigation findings from Formal Complaint Number 20230628-001. Motion made by Debbie Coker to notify the Complainant that the complaint is closed. Hilda Bills provided a second. The vote was, as follows:

Aye – Warren Rossi  
Aye – Debbie Coker  
Aye – Hilda Bills

- IV. Report of Officers

A. Chairman

Warren Rossi advised there was nothing to report at this time.

B. Vice President

Debbie Coker advised there was nothing to report at this time.

C. Financial Report

Sharon Clark – Financials, UMB Monthly Bills, and Trustmark report and reconciliation were presented.

- V. Executive Director Report

Sharon Clark provided the Executive Director's Report.

Hilda Bills made a motion to approve travel and per diem expenses for monitoring SOTA – Clinton on October 2, 2023. Hilda Bills and Debbie Coker will monitor. Warren Rossi seconded the motion. The vote was, as follows:

Aye – Warren Rossi  
Aye – Debbie Coker  
Aye – Hilda Bills

Debbie Coker made a motion to approve travel and per diem expenses for final inspection of Delta Greenwood New School Application on October 9, 2023. Hilda Bills, Ruby Lowery, and Sharon Clark will inspect. Warren Rossi seconded the motion. The vote was, as follows:

Aye – Warren Rossi  
Aye – Debbie Coker

Aye – Hilda Bills

Debbie Coker made a motion to approve travel and per diem expenses for Nail Certification Course at Dynasty College on October 15, 2023. Warren Rossi will monitor. Hilda Bills seconded the motion. The vote was, as follows:

Aye – Warren Rossi  
Aye – Debbie Coker  
Aye – Hilda Bills

Hilda Bills made a motion to approve travel and per diem expenses for the Delta Greenwood School Grand Opening on October 16, 2023, for Ruby Lowery, Sharon Clark and any Board Member that can attend. Warren Rossi seconded the motion. The vote was, as follows:

Aye – Warren Rossi  
Aye – Debbie Coker  
Aye – Hilda Bills

Hilda Bills made a motion to approval travel and per diem expenses for the Regulatory Roundtable Meeting on October 24, 2023. Debbie Coker and Sharon Clark to attend. Warren Rossi seconded the motion. The vote was, as follows:

Aye – Warren Rossi  
Aye – Debbie Coker  
Aye – Hilda Bills

Debbie Coker made a motion to approval travel and per diem expenses for the NIC Annual Conference in Albuquerque, NM on October 26-31, 2023, including travel days. Debbie Coker, Jewel Stewart, Ruby Lowery, and Sharon Clark to attend. Hilda Bills seconded the motion. The vote was, as follows:

Aye – Warren Rossi  
Aye – Debbie Coker  
Aye – Hilda Bills

Warren Rossi made a motion to approval travel and per diem expenses for presentation of the Merger Bill at the Barber Board Meeting on October 15, 2023. Debbie Coker, Ruby Lowery, and Sharon Clark will attend. Debbie Coker seconded the motion. The vote was, as follows:

Aye – Warren Rossi  
Aye – Debbie Coker  
Aye – Hilda Bills

VI. Deputy Director Report

Ruby Lowery provided the Deputy Director's Report.

VII. Felony Candidate Approval

Ruby Lowery requested Board approval of a felony candidate of Blue Cliff College bearing the Board assigned number FSA-20230925 -001. Debbie Coker made a motion to approve based on the Fresh Start Act. Hilda Bills seconded the motion. The vote was, as follows:

Aye – Warren Rossi

Aye – Debbie Coker

Aye – Hilda Bills

VIII. Old Business

Debbie Coker brought up concerns regarding the Dermaplaning articles circulating. Catherine Bell explained that she had filed an order for a rule change that is implemented for 120 days with a 90-day option to renew. The Board requested formal comment from the Board to be posted on the website under Important News.

The formal comment is as follows: "On September 1, 2023, the Mississippi State Board of Cosmetology extended the permitted scope of services for licensed cosmetologists and estheticians to include the practice of dermaplaning with a guarded razor. The Board revised Rule 1.10 and Rule 7.8 to reflect the extension in permitted scope of practice; such revisions will expire after 120 days from September 1, 2023, unless renewed for an additional 90 days by the Board."

IX. New Business

The Board requested an appearance by salon owners and/or managers who received a second offence violation for unlicensed workers working in the salon during an inspection. The purpose was to discuss the violation as well as rules and regulations and to continue the investigation. The Board asked questions of the license holders, and the license holders were permitted opportunity to ask questions of the Board and/or discuss the reason for the second offence violation of unlicensed workers.

The following license holders were offered the option of a consent order or a formal hearing. The consent order required that the license holder pay all outstanding violations, agree that they will not hire unlicensed workers going forward, and a suspension of their personal license for six (6) months. The following license holders signed consent orders, and their licenses will be suspended effective September 25, 2023, thru March 25, 2024:

Johnny Au (00-66436)

Thuy Nguyen (00-66110)

Hoang Van Le (02-1595)

Cathy Nguyen, Owner of N Vision Salon & Spa (07-19142) appeared before the Board and explained that the Manager, Victoria Dang did not appear. Cathy Nguyen explained to the Board that she was the sole person responsible for personnel actions, including the hiring and firing of staff.

Debbie Coker made a motion for the need to go into Closed Session. The vote was, as follows:

Aye – Warren Rossi  
Aye – Debbie Coker  
Aye – Hilda Bills

The Board entered Closed Session.

Debbie Coker moved that the Board has reason under Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (k), as amended, to go into Executive Session, namely, to discuss prospective litigation. Hilda Bills seconded the motion. The vote was, as follows:

Aye – Warren Rossi  
Aye – Debbie Coker  
Aye – Hilda Bills

The Board entered Executive Session at 10:40 a.m.

Hilda Bills made a motion to return to open session. Debbie Coker seconded the motion. The vote was, as follows:

Aye – Warren Rossi  
Aye – Debbie Coker  
Aye – Hilda Bills

The Board returned to Open Session at 10:49 a.m.

During Executive Session the Board took the following action: The Board requested Ms. Nguyen appear on October 23, 2023, for a formal hearing. Ms. Nguyen was instructed to pay all outstanding fines and to renew the salon license prior to October 23, 2023. The Board will send formal notification by certified mail. The vote was, as follows:

Aye – Warren Rossi  
Aye – Debbie Coker  
Aye – Hilda Bills

Vy Nguyen Verrett (02-15748) signed a consent order on August 30, 2023. Ms. Verrett requested to be heard by the Board for reconsideration or a decrease in the

period of her six (6) month suspension. After consideration, the Board determined that the six (6) month suspension will remain in force.

Sharon Clark notified the Board of an issue with UROLA Testing Candidate Tri Van of Clinton based on dishonest conduct in the taking of the sanitation examination. Hilda Bills made a motion to deny the UROLA application of Mr. Van. Warren Rossi seconded the motion. The vote was, as follows:

Aye – Warren Rossi  
Aye – Debbie Coker  
Aye – Hilda Bills

Sharon Clark presented the audit findings of Art of Hair Academy (08-16873). Ms. Clark notified the Board that there has been no reporting received since May 2021 to date. The Board spoke with Cedric Abston about the missing documentation. Debbie Coker made a motion that Cedric Abston has until 5:00 on September 26, 2023, to either voluntarily surrender his school license or appear for a formal hearing for October 23, 2023. Hilda Bills seconded the motion. The vote was, as follows:

Aye – Warren Rossi  
Aye – Debbie Coker  
Aye – Hilda Bills

Sharon Clark presented the audit findings of Blue Cliff College (08-222). After review, Debbie Coker made a motion for Blue Cliff College to appear for a formal hearing on October 23, 2023. Hilda Bills seconded the motion. The vote was, as follows:

Aye – Warren Rossi  
Aye – Debbie Coker  
Aye – Hilda Bills

The Board provided Board guidance and interpretation on the definition of “successful completion” of a course of training for which the applicant is examining for licensure pursuant to Rule 2.8. Hilda Bills made a motion that “successful completion” means the obtaining the minimum required clock hours for the licensure sought and a passing grade of 70 for cosmetologists, estheticians and manicurists and a passing grade of 75 for instructors. Warren Rossi seconded the motion. The vote was, as follows:

Aye – Warren Rossi  
Aye – Debbie Coker  
Aye – Hilda Bills

Sharon Clark presented audit findings of Chris’ Beauty College (14-10173). After reviewing the inspection violations, Debbie Coker made a motion to waive the required equipment violation of \$100 based on the definition of a dryer needing

Board guidance and interpretation. While the equipment requirement violation was waived for the 2023 inspection, going forward, Chris' must comply with equipment requirements, including the hooded dryer requirement as clarified by the Board. Hilda Bills seconded the motion. The vote was, as follows:

Aye – Warren Rossi  
Aye – Debbie Coker  
Aye – Hilda Bills

A review of the response letter was completed. The Board advised that Sharon Clark return the \$650 check back to Chris' Beauty College since fines levied cannot be paid in partial payments. Chris' Beauty College owes \$750 from the 2021 Audit and Inspection and a remaining balance of \$2550 after the Board waived the \$100 equipment minimum violation from 2023 for a total of \$3300. The Board advised that Chris' must pay the \$750 immediately and the \$2550 is due by October 25, 2023, or Chris' may request a formal hearing for November 2023. Hilda Bills made the motion. Warren Rossi seconded the motion. The vote was, as follows:

Aye – Warren Rossi  
Aye – Debbie Coker  
Aye – Hilda Bills

Debbie Coker made a motion to provide Board guidance and interpretation of the definition of dryer. The word "dryer" is defined as "a chair or standing hair dryer with a hood, either stationary or portable." This definition applies to both Rule 4.3 (A)(4) and Rule 5.4 (B)(1)(d). Hilda Bills seconded the motion. The vote was, as follows:

Aye – Warren Rossi  
Aye – Debbie Coker  
Aye – Hilda Bills

The Board broke for lunch at 1:00 p.m. with request to return at 1:35 p.m. Hilda Bills made the motion. Warren Rossi provided a second. The vote was, as follows:

Aye – Warren Rossi  
Aye – Debbie Coker  
Aye – Hilda Bills

The Board reconvened at 1:35 p.m.

Sharon Clark presented Out of Country Reciprocity Applicants for consideration.

Gozun Ferdinand Muhi requested reciprocity for Manicurist license from Philippines. Warren Rossi made a motion to deny based on apprenticeship hours. Hilda Bills seconded the motion. The vote was, as follows:

Aye – Warren Rossi  
Aye – Debbie Coker  
Aye – Hilda Bills

Ngoc Anh Thu Tran requested reciprocity for Manicurist license from Vietnam. Debbie Coker made a motion to deny based on Rule 2.10 (3)(c)(3) regarding education requirement and for lack of documentation. Hilda Bills seconded the motion. The vote was, as follows:

Aye – Warren Rossi  
Aye – Debbie Coker  
Aye – Hilda Bills

Vandana Vipulkumar Patel requested reciprocity for Cosmetology license from India. Debbie Coker made a motion to deny based on apprenticeship hours. Hilda Bills seconded the motion. The vote was, as follows:

Aye – Warren Rossi  
Aye – Debbie Coker  
Aye – Hilda Bills

Phan Thi Bich Phuong requested reciprocity with no notation for request of licensure program. Debbie Coker made a motion to deny based on missing documentation, transcript not translated into English, no copy of active license, and no proof of education. Hilda Bills seconded the motion. The vote was, as follows:

Aye – Warren Rossi  
Aye – Debbie Coker  
Aye – Hilda Bills

X. Testing No Show Forfeiture of Funds

Debbie Coker made a motion that all examination fees paid by any licensure applicant may not be refunded to the applicant if the applicant cancels the examination five (5) days prior to the examination. Licensure applicants who cancel an examination six (6) days prior or to the examination are not eligible for an examination fee refund but will receive an examination voucher. Hilda Bills seconded the motion. The vote was, as follows:

Aye – Warren Rossi  
Aye – Debbie Coker  
Aye – Hilda Bills

Merger Bill

Board Members made their recommendations for changes to the Merger Bill. Catherine Bell will make the requested changes and the Board will hold a Special



Called Telephonic Board Meeting to approve final draft with Cosmetology changes for presentation to the Barber Board.

XI. Executive Session

Debbie Coker made a motion for the need to go into Closed Session. The vote was, as follows:

Aye – Warren Rossi  
Aye – Debbie Coker  
Aye – Hilda Bills

The Board entered Closed Session to discuss personnel issues.

Hilda Bills moved that the Board has reason under Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (k), as amended, to go into Executive Session, namely to discuss personnel matters. Debbie Coker seconded the motion. The vote was, as follows:

Aye – Warren Rossi  
Aye – Debbie Coker  
Aye – Hilda Bills

The Board entered Executive Session at 4:01 p.m.

Debbie Coker made a motion to return to open session. Hilda Bills seconded the motion. The vote was, as follows:

Aye – Warren Rossi  
Aye – Debbie Coker  
Aye – Hilda Bills

The Board returned to Open Session at 4:10 p.m.

Action taken during Executive Session: The Board announced that it voted to increase the salary of Sharon Clark, Executive Director effective October 1, 2023 by \$5,000. The vote was, as follows:

Aye – Warren Rossi  
Aye – Debbie Coker  
Aye – Hilda Bills

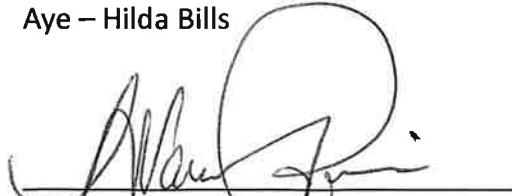
XII. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the motion was made by Debbie Coker to adjourn the meeting at 4:12 p.m. A second was provided by Hilda Bills. The vote was, as follows:

Aye – Warren Rossi

Aye – Debbie Coker  
Aye – Hilda Bills

APPROVED:



Warren Rossi, Chairman



Jewel Stewart, Secretary