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NEVADA STATE BARBERS' HEALTH and SANITATION BOARD

January 26, 2021

VIA EMAIL

Patricia (Pat) Spearman, D.B.A
Nevada State Senator

Dear Senator Spearman and all members of the Sunset Committee:

I am writing to report on the Nevada State Barbers' Health and Sanitation Boards progress since the last hearing on August 31, 2020. We have made great progress since that meeting. We have worked diligently on trying to get everything that was requested of the Board done.

- (1) Website development - Our website is complete and is a great tool for every licensee in Nevada. It serves as a great tool for consumers as well. Licensee's can create a profile and do all business through the website. Students can apply for their student license on line also. Barber shop owners can obtain and submit new Barber Shop applications on line. We have created a Barber Path that leads anyone through every process of becoming a barber or transferring a license from another State by ways of Endorsement. Consumers may verify a license of an individual or a Barber Shop, complaints can be filed on line. Individuals are able to petition the Board for hearings on the website. Anything that can be done in person can now be done on the website. As we work through individuals using the website, we are updating this site continuously to make things easier and better. We strive to have the most efficient and user friendly website for everyone wanting to use it.

- (2) Modernization of practices - We have changed several procedures that we used to a new and modernized way of doing thing. With the website these changes were able to be made. We are also making all of Board Meeting available to teleconference.

- (3) Cooperation with the Cosmetology Board – We have worked with the Cosmetology Board and I have built a good relationship with Adam Higginbotham, and Maggie Adams. Those are the individuals I have worked a great deal with both of them during this time. Mr. Higginbotham and I have had lengthily discussions on questions that I have inquired on. Ms. Adams and I work together on consumer complaints. I feel that if we had a question or concern we could go to the Cosmetology Board and they would be willing to try and help us work it out. Mr. Higginbotham and Ms. Adams have expressed to me what a nice website we have.
- (4) Increasing the frequency of testing and licensing – We have been working on this actively since the day after the hearing in August. The Board’s President and I have had numerous phone conferences with the Cosmetology Board, NIC, and PSI over the last several months. We started with the Cosmetology Board asking them if they would be willing to do the Board’s testing as suggested to me at the August 31, 2020 meeting. President Hathaway and I had a conference with Mr. Gary Landry and Mr. Higginbotham we were told that they could do our written exams but could not accommodate us for the practical examination because they had no water in their examination room. Mr. Higginbotham said he would check with their landlord to see if they would allow them to put water in that room. After checking with the Landlord, there is no way to put water to that room because that building used to be a bank and that room was the vault. Mr. Higginbotham suggested that I contact PSI which is the testing company that they work with. President Hathaway and I had a conference with Mr. Alon from PSI and put us in contact with his team. We have had several phone conferences with them and their facility is not set up for a practical exam it’s only for written examinations. It was expressed to us that the cost to be able to set everything up to accommodate us would be astronomical and the exam would probably be around \$300 to take it. We charge \$100 right now. They were supposed to get back to us with the exact numbers. Since then they have let us know that they cannot put water in the room, and they are not able to test on an on-demand model. Because of the shaving that is done during the Barber’s examination, water is a must. We have contacted NIC which is another testing company and they do not even have a facility in Nevada. After checking with our neighboring States, only the written portion of the exam is offered daily. You have to schedule your practical examination and some of them are a month out before there is an opening. When the Board set the schedule for 2021, they have changed our examinations to every month. I received a phone call from an individual in California asking if he could come here and take his test before testing in California because he has been waiting for 7 months. He claims they are back logged. When COVID shut everything down we were not testing but, as soon as we were able to open back up, we were able to catch up in 2 weeks. Once again, I understand that California numbers are way higher than ours, but we try to accommodate our Barbers so that they are able to get to work. Our February exam only has 15 applicants and we have no one for March yet. When the Board set their examination schedule for 2021, they only set it for 6 months anticipating that either the Cosmetology Board or PSI would be able to administer the examinations, but it’s not looking like that is an option. We will continue to explore any options that we may find.

(5) Payments to be made on line – Yes, payments for everything are accepted on line with a debt or credit card.

In closing, we have accomplished everything that was asked of us except for the testing. We have increased it to once a month. The way it is set up some of the applicants can graduate from school and test within a couple of days. We allow them to test as long as the hours are complete before the exam date. We work in an efficient manner but at the same time a costly manner. The Board would never want to see the price of the exam go up to an outrageous price. The Board has adjusted examinations as they have grown and will continue to adjust the more we grow. I hope this report has answered the questions you may have. If there are any questions you may have, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Antinette Maestas, Secretary/Treasurer
Nevada State Barbers' Health and Sanitation Board