BOARD FOR BARBERS & COSMETOLOGY
AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR VOCATIONAL SCHOOL TRAINING

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Board for Barbers & Cosmetology Ad Hoc Committee for Vocational School Training met on Thursday, October 16, 2014, at the Offices of the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, 9960 Mayland Drive, 2nd Floor, Hearing Room 5, Richmond, Virginia. The following Committee members were present:

Margaret B. LaPierre, Board Member
Lonnie Quesenberry, Board Member
Tony Williams, Board Member

The following Committee member was not present:

Joseph Wharff, Virginia Department of Education

DPOR staff present for the meeting included:

Demetrios J. Melis, Executive Director
Stephen Kirschner, Regulatory Operations Administrator
Tamika Rodriguez, Licensing Operations Administrator
Cathy Clark, Administrative Assistant

The following representatives from National Testing Network/Ergometrics were present:

Cathy Erhart, Virginia Program Manager
Ruth Letchford, Test Center Supervisor

Call To Order

Mr. Quesenberry called the meeting to order at 8:58 a.m.

Introductions

Mr. Melis introduced Ms. Erhart and Ms. Letchford to the Committee members

Discussion of Concerns

Mr. Quesenberry opened the discussion by making a statement of concerns, including:

- The reduction in the number of training hours in vo-tech programs.
- Previously, the vo-tech programs had consisted of approximately 1080 hours of training over a 2-3 year period; presently, there are approximately 280 hours of training in each of 2 years, and students are testing with 500 hours or less.
- Students are being trained to pass the exam, but are not prepared to practice.

Discussion Continued

Mr. Melis stated that there had been a loss of relationship with the Department of Education many years ago. He noted the importance of this relationship and that the Board was re-establishing contact with key personnel at the Department of Education.

Mr. Melis also stated that the program needs to be consistent across school districts.

Mr. Kirschner reported that Joseph Wharff, with the Department of Education, has agreed to be a member of the Committee, but was unable to attend today's meeting.

Mr. Kirschner indicated that the Regulations reiterate that public schools are exempt from regulation by the Board.

Mr. Quesenberry stated that the number of students is the focus, and that technical program hours are being cut because of the greater demand for academic hours.

Mr. Melis expressed the question of whether there is a focus on teaching to test.

Ms. Letchford asked for clarification of Mr. Quesenberry's and Mr. Melis' comments, which opened a discussion among the group about the lack of working skills when students are only taught the basic skills to pass the examination.

Mr. Quesenberry raised the question of whether the Board can require a minimum of practical training in vo-tech programs.

Mr. Melis asked Mr. Quesenberry to explain competency-based training. Mr. Quesenberry explained that competency was based upon a rating of 1 through 5:

- 5 – can teach others the skill
- 4 – can perform the skill without supervision
- 3 – can perform the skill with supervision
- 2 – can perform the skill with assistance
- 1 – cannot do the skill

Mr. Quesenberry stated that the competencies are easy to meet and must be met before taking the exam.

Mr. Melis posed the question of why there was a difference between the hours required for private and public schools.

Discussion Continued

Mr. Melis reported that he and Ms. Erhart had attended the VATIE (Virginia Association of Trade & Industrial Educators) meeting, where Ms. Erhart presented the new examination process through National Testing Networks/Ergometrics.

Ms. Erhart stated that examination sites were moved from the public/vo-tech school sites to exam sites maintained by the exam vendor for security and consistency reasons.

Mr. Melis stated that the federal government is creating standards to measure the balance of student debt to career income potential.

Mr. Quesenberry asked if there were still internship programs. Ms. LaPierre responded to Mr. Quesenberry's question by stating that at Highland Springs High School, senior cosmetology students are placed in internships.

Mr. Williams asked about cosmetology apprenticeships, and Mr. Melis explained that the Department of Labor and Industry oversees apprenticeships in cosmetology, barbering, and nail technicians. Mr. Melis added that the hourly requirements for apprenticeships are 3000 hours for cosmetology and barbering, and 2000 hours for nail technicians.

Mr. Williams asked how Board members may be more involved in public/vo-tech education. Mr. Melis responded that the Board could establish a relationship with public/vo-tech instructors, so that Board members could speak to student groups about the industry.

Mr. Quesenberry stated that it was important to educate the educators and guidance counselors to emphasize to students what it takes to succeed in the business.

Questions for the Department of Education

Members of the meeting suggested a list of questions for the Department of Education:

- What options does the Department have for increasing the number of instructional hours required?
- What is the status of the student internship program?
- Is there a limit to student/instructor ratio?

Report to the Board

Mr. Melis asked that the Committee be prepared to make a brief report to the full Board at the November 17, 2014 meeting.

Additional Committee

Mr. Kirschner suggested that there should be a Barber member of the Committee. Other suggestions for potential Committee members were

Lolita Hall, CTE Director for Virginia, and Instructor Julie Anderson from Pulaski County. **Members**

There being no other discussion, Mr. Quesenberry adjourned the meeting at 9:54 a.m. **Adjourn**

Lonnie Quesenberry, Committee Chair

Jan. 29, 2015
Date