

**Board of Registration of Dispensing Opticians
Public Session Minutes**

Date: February 1, 2023 Time: 10:00 a.m.

A public meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Dispensing Opticians (“the Board”) was held via Videoconference and Conference Call pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, signed into law on February 12, 2022.

Board Members Present:

William Carleton, Board Chair
Mark Davini, Board Secretary
Jesse Ellis
Deborah Black
Alicja Prachanronarong

Staff Present:

Sheila York, Board Counsel
Lauren McShane, Chief Investigator
Thomas F. Burke, Executive Director

Board Chair, William Carleton, called the meeting to order at 10:07 am and established a quorum via calling attendance: William Carleton, Jesse Ellis, Deborah Black, Alicja Prachanronarong, and Mark Davini. All members participated remotely via Microsoft Teams.

Housekeeping:

- Mr. Burke advised members of the public to mute their volume and utilize the raise hand function to address the Board. He asked that members of the public turn off their cameras during the meeting and when not directly addressing the Board.

Board Business:

- **Report from Executive Director, Thomas Burke:** Mr. Burke encouraged Board members to link their accounts in the new electronic licensing system. He reminded the Board that Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022 granting permission to meet via videoconference and conference call will expire on March 31, 2023. Mr. Burke will advise the Board on meeting arrangements prior to the April Board meeting.

Board Minutes:

- Public Meeting Minutes from January 4, 2023: **Dr. Davini moved to accept the minutes and Ms. Black seconded. The motion to accept the January 4, 2023 minutes passed by a roll call vote: Ms. Black: “Yes”, Mr. Ellis: “Yes”, Dr. Davini: “Yes”, Mr. Carleton: “Yes”, Ms. Prachanronarong: “Yes”.**

Application Review:

At 10:18 a.m., the Board was scheduled to meet with applicants for licensure and reviewed applications and additional documentation. Below is a list of the candidates for review and the motion and roll call vote for each:

Melissa Dias – After review of Ms. Dias’s application, Ms. Black moved to accept the applicant’s out-of-state practical exam and approve her for licensure. Mr. Ellis

seconded. Motion passed by a roll call vote: Ms. Black: “Yes”, Mr. Ellis: “Yes”, Dr. Davini: “Yes”, Mr. Carleton: “No”, Ms. Prachanronarong: “No”.

David Rodriguez Gonzalez – After review of Mr. Gonzalez’s application, Ms. Black moved to approve him for licensure. Ms. Prachanronarong seconded. Motion passed by a roll call vote: Ms. Black: “Yes”, Mr. Ellis: “Yes”, Dr. Davini: “Yes”, Mr. Carleton: “No”, Ms. Prachanronarong: “Yes”.

Samantha Baron – After review of Ms. Baron’s application, Mr. Ellis moved to approve her for licensure. Dr. Davini seconded. Motion passed by a roll call vote: Ms. Black: “Yes”, Mr. Ellis: “Yes”, Dr. Davini: “Yes”, Mr. Carleton: “Yes”, Ms. Prachanronarong: “Yes”.

Shannon Logan – After review of Ms. Logan’s application, Mr. Ellis moved to approve her for licensure. Ms. Black seconded. Motion passed by a roll call vote: Ms. Black: “Yes”, Mr. Ellis: “Yes”, Dr. Davini: “Yes”, Mr. Carleton: “Yes”, Ms. Prachanronarong: “Yes”.

Virgil Shaffer – After review of Mr. Shaffer’s application, Mr. Ellis moved to approve him for licensure. Ms. Black seconded. Motion passed by a roll call vote: Ms. Black: “Yes”, Mr. Ellis: “Yes”, Dr. Davini: “Yes”, Mr. Carleton: “Yes”, Ms. Prachanronarong: “Yes”.

Faye Sosnowski – After review of Ms. Sosnowski’s application, Mr. Ellis moved to approve her for licensure. Ms. Black seconded. Motion passed by a roll call vote: Ms. Black: “Yes”, Mr. Ellis: “Yes”, Dr. Davini: “Yes”, Mr. Carleton: “Yes”, Ms. Prachanronarong: “Yes”.

Correspondences:

- Paula Lino

The Board reviewed the correspondence from Ms. Lino and met with her to discuss her past work experience prior to licensure. Ms. Lino explained that after the completion of her apprenticeship she worked under the supervision of a dispensing optician since 2014. She was unable to proceed with licensure because of personal matters.

After discussion with Board Counsel, Mr. Ellis moved to accept the correspondence with no further action taken. Ms. Prachanronarong seconded. Motion passed by a roll call vote: Ms. Black: “Yes”, Mr. Ellis: “Yes”, Dr. Davini: “Yes”, Mr. Carleton: “Yes”, Ms. Prachanronarong: “Yes”.

Discussion:

- Review of 5-year Management Apprentice Program

The Board reviewed the existing policy jointly approved in 2011 by the Board of Dispensing Opticians and the Division of Apprentice Standards. The Board discussed problems implementing and enforcing the policy, as well as the merits of the policy. The Board recognized the need for revisions to the policy in the interest of public safety. Specifically, the Board expressed concern about apprentice opticians who are assigned to manage their own supervising mentors. The Board stated that if apprentices are allowed to work as managers of retail operations, they must receive clear guidance on requirements and expectations. The hours that an apprentice spends on retail tasks could not be credited as qualifying apprenticeship hours. Board members acknowledged that other healthcare related professions may provide guidance in revising the policy. Ms. Prachanronarong stated that any revised policy should include protections for licensed opticians who do not want to act as supervisor to an apprentice. The Board requested further discussion at a subsequent meeting. No vote was taken.

- Massachusetts optometrists as supervising mentors for apprentice opticians pursuant to 235 CMR 4.07

Considering prior discussion of 235 CMR 4.07 as it relates to direct and on-site supervision of apprentice opticians by optometrists, Ms. York requested input from the Board. In turn, the Board expressed an interest in creating a viable pathway for optometrists to supervise apprentices and requested that further review be coordinated with the Board of Registration in Optometry and the Division of Apprentice Standards. No vote was taken.

- Optical Training Institute – Related technical Instruction for apprentice opticians

The Board discussed whether the curriculum presented by the Optical Training Institute (“OTI”) should be considered as a course of study comparable to an accredited degree program in opticianry or technical instruction to provide test preparation for apprentice opticians. The Board agreed that clarification is needed and endorsement or approval should include consulting with the Division of Apprentice Standards (“DAS”). The Board stated that parameters should be in place prior to approval of this program. The Board decided to take no further action on this correspondence until more detailed information is provided about what exactly the Board is being requested to do.

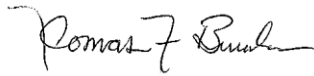
Open session for topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance meeting

- The Chair invited members of the public to provide comment to the Board.
 - ABO/NCLE executive director James Morris stated that the ABO and NCLE practical exams have incorporated exam material from prior Board-approved vendors.
 - Mr. Robert Volpe queried the Board on the inclusion of public comments regarding the 5-year manager apprentice program.
 - Dr. Gerow, O.D. expressed interest in further discussion on the topic of optometrists as supervising mentors for apprentice opticians. Ms. York responded that the Board’s regulations permit optometrists to be supervising mentors. She will provide further guidance at a subsequent meeting.

Adjournment:

- **At 12:15 p.m. Mr. Ellis moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Black seconded. Motion passed by a roll call vote: Ms. Black: “Yes”, Mr. Ellis: “Yes”, Dr. Davini: “Yes”, Mr. Carleton: “Yes”, Ms. Prachanronarong: “Yes”.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Thomas F. Burke
Executive Director

Documents used in the open meeting:

- Agenda for DO Board Meeting of February 1, 2023
- Draft Public Meeting Minutes from January 4, 2023
- Correspondence from P. Lino
- Applications for M. Dias, D. Gonzalez, S. Baron, S. Logan, V. Shaffer and F. Sosnowski (protected personal data redacted)
- Five-Year Dispensing Optician Policy