

Board of Registration of Dispensing Opticians
1000 Washington St. Room 1C
Date: September 4, 2019 Time: 10:00 a.m.

Public Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present:

Gary Peters
David Fogg
Deanna Kurlowecz
Marty Bregman

Staff Present:

James O'Connor, Board Counsel
Michael Hawley, Executive Director
Thomas F. Burke, Associate Exec. Director

Members of the Public Present:

Blair Wong
James Russo
Kelly Finnerty
Tyrone Wilson
Aenise Wyatt
Ashlie Perkins

10:06AM: Meeting called To Order:

- Mr. Peters called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.
- Mr. Burke reviewed exit procedures in the case of an emergency.

Review Meeting Minutes:

- Minutes of August 7, 2019 Meeting: **Mr. Fogg moved to accept the public minutes. Mr. Peters seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Board Business:

- Report from Executive Director, Michael Hawley
Mr. Hawley reported that, along with the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of the Division of Professional Licensure ("DPL") he met with representatives of the Division of Apprentice Standards ("DAS") to discuss issues related to apprenticeship and Dispensing Optician licensure. The discussion topics included:
 - Initial Apprentice Certificate Issuance
 - Use of the term "sponsor".
 - Notification to apprentices and supervisors regarding termination of apprenticeship.
 - Apprenticeship Completion Certificates and their use in the licensure process.
 - Regularization of communication between the board and DAS (specifically special email subject lines to communicate apprentice extensions and denials, as well as Board acceptance or non-acceptance of apprentice hours worked outside of an official Massachusetts apprentice program, etc.).Board staff will begin to implement a process for issuing certificates to new apprentices and will work to record certificate information for existing apprentices. The regularization of communication referred above will begin immediately. Other changes

proposed as results of this meeting will be topics for future board discussions. DAS has agreed to directly notify apprentices when their apprenticeships have been terminated. Ms. Perkins, who was also present at the inter-agency meeting also added some comments about the meeting.

Discussion:

- **DO Consumer Fact Sheet** – The Board tabled discussion.
- **National Academy of Opticianry** – The Board reviewed the Academy’s advertisement of acceptable degree programs. After discussion, the Board noted that accredited degree program is Hillsborough College, a COA approved program and approved by the Board.
- **Review of the DO Application Process** – The Board tabled discussion until the October meeting.

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

- **Aenise Wyatt** – Ms. Wyatt appeared before the Board to request an extension of her CEPA agreement in order to take and pass the required ABO and NCLE exam for licensure. Ms. Wyatt is a recent graduate of Benjamin Franklin Technical Institute. Mr. Blair Wong addressed the Board in support of Ms. Wyatt’s request.

Mr. Fogg moved to grant Ms. Wyatt a one-year extension of her CEPA agreement (without precedent) on the condition that she takes the ABO and NCLE every time the exams are available. Mr. Peters seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Kelly Finnerty** – Ms. Finnerty is a recent graduate of Benjamin Franklin Technical Institute to request an extension of her CEPA agreement until she takes the Massachusetts practical exam in spring 2020.

Ms. Kurlowecz moved to grant an extension of her CEPA agreement on the condition that she take the Massachusetts Practical Exam in April 30, 2020. Mr. Fogg seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Tyrone Wilson** – Mr. Wilson addressed the Board briefly to request that he come off of his conditional licensure agreement. Board staff instructed Mr. Wilson to submit a formal letter to the Board and provide documentation that he has met the conditions of the agreement.
- Professor Blair Wong noted that the OAM meeting will be held November 2-3, 2019 at the Southbridge Hotel. He acknowledged that board members Mr. Fogg and Mr. Peters will be presenting a course “in their own capacity”.

Cases, Investigative Conference, Settlement Offers [Closed session pursuant to G.L. c. 112 §65C]:

At 11:41 a.m. Mr. Fogg moved to enter into Investigative Conference to consider a settlement offer in the following matter. [Closed Session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 112 §65C]. Ms. Kurlowecz seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

At the end of the investigative session, the open meeting resumed.

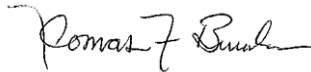
During the investigative conference the board voted to take the following action:

- DO-2018-000210-IT-ENF – Tabled.

Adjournment:

At 12:30 p.m., Mr. Bregman moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Kurlowecz seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Thomas F. Burke
Associate Executive Director

Documents used in the open meeting:

- Agenda for DO Board Meeting of September 4, 2019
- Dispensing Optician Consumer Fact Sheet
- Minutes from previous meeting(s) where applicable