

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

Date: May 3, 2023 Time: 9:00 a.m.

A public meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Podiatry (“the Board”) was held via Videoconference and Conference Call pursuant to section 40 of chapter 2 of the acts of 2023, signed into law on March 29, 2023.

Board Members Present:

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

Staff Present:

Sheila York, Board Counsel
Thomas F. Burke, Executive Director
Margaret McKenna, Board Staff

Housekeeping:

- In lieu of Board Chair, William Carleton, Mr. Burke called the meeting to order at 9:04 am and established a quorum via calling attendance: Jesse Ellis, Deborah Black, Alicja Prachanronarong, and Mark Davini. All members participated remotely via Webex by Cisco.
- 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 reminded Board members to utilize their DPH email accounts for access to Board packets and files.

Board Minutes:

- Public Meeting Minutes from April 5, 2023: Tabled.

Application Review:

At 9:20 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:

Rachel Miller – After review of Ms. Miller’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: “No”, Ms. Prachanronarong: “Yes”.

Kerry Simeon – After review of Ms. Simeon’s application, Dr. Davini 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: “No”, Ms. Prachanronarong: “Yes”.

Vedra Torres – After review of Ms. Torres’ 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: “No”, Ms. Prachanronarong: “Yes”.

Discussion:

- Letter from Blair Wong - Opticianry Associate Degree Program, Accelerated

The Board reviewed a memo and correspondence from Professor Blair Wong, Director of Opticianry at Benjamin Franklin Cummings Institute of Technology (BFCIT), regarding the accelerated opticianry degree program option. Professor Wong reported that the accelerated program is open to candidates with a bachelor’s degree or higher who may transfer general course credit toward the associate’s degree. The accelerated program compresses a two-year course of study into a twelve-month period. In response to Board questions, Professor Wong assured the Board that most students in this program successfully complete exam requirements prior to degree completion, and therefore are eligible to apply for licensure at the end of the twelve-month period. He noted that the accelerated program provides a realistic option for general managers who wish to become licensed dispensing opticians in Massachusetts.

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

- A prospective applicant who is a full-time registered apprentice is also enrolled in the Penn Foster online optician school but expressed concerns about accreditation. The Board encouraged the apprentice to complete the apprenticeship program and referred her to the Commission on Opticianry Accreditation for information on accredited degree programs.
- Mr. James Russo inquired on the topic of laboratory work for apprentice opticians and Ms. York responded that the matter should be coordinated with the Division of Apprentice Standards. Ms. York and Mr. Burke encouraged Mr. Russo to submit his comments in writing.
- Ms. York encouraged Board members to submit questions and topics of concern in writing to Mr. Burke for further Board discussion.

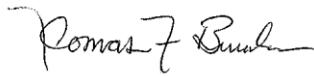
Cases, Investigative Conference, Settlement Offers [Closed session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 112 §65C]: Investigative Matters and Settlement Offers- [Closed Session Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 112, § 65C]:

None

Adjournment:

- **At 10:05 a.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 May 3, 2023
- Draft Public Meeting Minutes from April 5, 2023
- Applications for R. Miller, K. Simeon and V. Torres (protected personal data redacted)
- Correspondence and Memo from Professor Blair Wong