

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

Date: November 6, 2024 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 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
Deborah Black
Alicja Prachanronarong
Jesse Ellis

Staff Present:

Shiela York, Board Counsel
Thomas F. Burke, Executive Director
Lauren McShane, Chief Investigator
Margaret McKenna, Board Staff

Board Members not Present:

None

Housekeeping:

- Board Chair, William Carleton called the meeting to order at 10:08 am and established a quorum via calling attendance: William Carleton, Deborah Black, Alicja Prachanronarong, and Mark Davini. All members participated remotely via Cisco Webex.

Board Business:

- Public Session agenda for November 6, 2024: **The board accepted the public session agenda by a roll call vote: Ms. Black: “Yes”, Mr. Ellis: “Yes”, Dr. Davini: “Yes”, Mr. Carleton: “Yes”, Ms. Prachanronarong: “Yes”.**
- Public Meeting Minutes from October 2, 2024: **Mr. Ellis moved to accept the minutes and Dr. Davini seconded. The motion to accept the October 2, 2024 minutes passed by a roll call vote: Ms. Black: “Yes”, Mr. Ellis: “Yes”, Dr. Davini: “Yes”, Mr. Carleton: “Yes”, Ms. Prachanronarong: “Yes”.**
- Opticians Association of Massachusetts (OAM): Fall conference November 2-3, 2024 – report to the board.

The Board reviewed a correspondence from the Opticians Association of Massachusetts (OAM). Gary Peters, a representative of OAM addressed the Board about a prior continuing education conference and informed members of upcoming United Opticians Association meetings.

Correspondence:

- Correspondence to ABO/NCLE regarding combined ABO Basic & ABO Practical Exam – VOTE

The Board reviewed a correspondence from ABO/NCLE regarding the new combined ABO Basic and ABO Practical Exam. ABO/NCLE now offers registrants the option to take both exams back-to-back with a short break in between exams. After discussion, the Board directed the Executive Director to contact ABO/NCLE representatives to meet with the Board at a subsequent meeting.

- Correspondence from M. Bean, Territory Director

The Board reviewed a correspondence form Michael Bean, territory director for Visionworks. Mr. Bean met with the Board to address his concerns regarding apprentice opticians and management. The Board and Mr. Bean engaged in discussion about the role of managers in optical goods stores and the various tasks and duties apprentice opticians must perform to receive both on-the-job training and related technical instruction. The Board acknowledged the demands of management in optical stores and the opportunities for advancement that management offers. The Board also stressed the responsibility of employers and stores not only to ensure that apprentice opticians receive adequate training during the three-year apprenticeship from their supervising mentors, but also to provide the hands-on and technical equipment and necessary time for apprentices to complete their training hours according to the signed apprentice agreement. The Board discussed the possibility of tuition reimbursement for managers who pursue formal education in the study and practice of opticianry. The Board acknowledged that the topic of management will be discussed as part of the review of the draft apprenticeship policy in February.

Application Review:

- At 11:01 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:

Kevin Francisco— After review of Mr. Francisco’s application, Ms. Prachanronarong moved to approve him for licensure. Ms. Black seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote: Ms. Black: “Yes”, Mr. Ellis: “Yes”, Dr. Davini: “Yes”, Mr. Carleton: “Yes”, Ms. Prachanronarong: “Yes”.

Shiyanne Ashle Dunkley - After review of Ms. Dunkley’s application, Dr. Davini moved to approve her for licensure. Mr. Ellis seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote: Ms. Black: “Yes”, Mr. Ellis: “Yes”, Dr. Davini: “Yes”, Mr. Carleton: “Yes”, Ms. Prachanronarong: “Yes”.

Amy Forbes-Larkin - After review of Ms. Forbes-Larkin’s application, Mr. Ellis moved to approve her for licensure. Ms. Black seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote: Ms. Black: “Yes”, Mr. Ellis: “Yes”, Dr. Davini: “Yes”, Mr. Carleton: “Yes”, Ms. Prachanronarong: “Abstain.”

Discussion

- Review of draft dispensing optician apprenticeship policy
- Review of frequently asked questions regarding:
 - starting an apprenticeship, taking exams, and applying for licensure
 - managers serving as apprentices
 - lab work
 - extending an apprenticeship
- Review of draft interpretation of 235 CMR 4.04(6) *Lens Hardening, including drop ball testing*

The Board reviewed a revised draft of the proposed dispensing optician apprenticeship policy. The executive director informed the Board that representatives of the Division of Apprentice Standards will review the draft policy and offer clarification. The Board directed staff to submit the policy with track changes for presentation to the Board and agreed to table further discussion. No vote was taken.

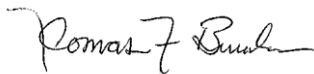
- Review possible dispensing optician monitoring requirements and practice restrictions.
- Recommendations for URAMP requirements and practice restrictions for dispensing opticians.

The Board reviewed sample supervisor agreements and reports from other BHPL boards and discussed possible monitoring requirements and return-to-work conditions for dispensing opticians who choose to enter URAMP as an alternative to discipline. The Board agreed that a licensee who consents to participation in URAMP should be restricted from performing duties that require the licensee to act in a supervisory role. The Board will discuss the topic at subsequent meetings. No vote was taken.

Adjournment:

At 12:07 p.m., Ms. Black moved to adjourn the public meeting. Ms. Prachanronarong seconded. The motion passed by 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:

- Public session meeting agenda for November 6, 2024
- Draft public meeting minutes from October 2, 2024

- Application for A. Forbes-Larkin (protected personal data redacted)
- Application for S. Dunkley (protected personal data redacted)
- Application for K. Francisco (protected personal data redacted)
- Draft dispensing optician apprenticeship policy
- Draft interpretation of 235 CMR 4.04(6) *Lens Hardening, including drop ball testing*
- Job performance report
- Job supervisor acceptance participant
- Monitoring instructions for optometrists
- Nurse employment supervisor report
- URAMP PowerPoint presentation