

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

Date: December 4, 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
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:

Alicja Prachanronarong

Housekeeping:

- Board Secretary, Mark Davini called the meeting to order at 10:14 am and established a quorum via calling attendance: Deborah Black, Jesse Ellis, and Mark Davini. All members participated remotely via Cisco Webex.

Board Business:

- Public Session agenda for December 4, 2024: **Mr. Ellis moved to accept the public session agenda. Ms. Black seconded. The motion to accept the December 4, 2024 agenda passed by roll call vote: Ms. Black: “Yes”, Mr. Ellis: “Yes”, Dr. Davini: “Yes”, Mr. Carleton: “not present”, Ms. Prachanronarong: “not present”.**
- Public Meeting Minutes from November 6, 2024:

Tabled.

Correspondence:

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

The Board reviewed a correspondence regarding the new combined American Board of Opticianry (ABO) Basic and Practical Exams and met with Nicole McGuiness and Randall Smith, representatives from American Board of Opticianry & National Contact Lens Examiners (ABO-NCLE). Ms. McGuiness explained that the basic and practical exams are administered discretely and the candidate receives separate score reports and certificates. She confirmed that there is a cost savings for the candidate who chooses the combined exam option. Mr. Smith informed the Board that there is a thirty-minute break between exams and candidates who do not achieve a passing score on either or both exams must register again to re-take the exams. He verified that candidates must take the

exam at prometric testing sites. **After further discussion, Ms. Black made a motion to accept the combined exam option for dispensing optician applicants in Massachusetts. Mr. Ellis seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote: Ms. Black: “Yes”, Mr. Ellis: “Yes”, Dr. Davini: “Yes”, Mr. Carleton: “not present”, Ms. Prachanronarong: “not present”.**

- Correspondence – Frankling Cummings Tech accelerated and traditional programs & United Opticians Association update

Professor Blair Wong reminded the Board of the Franklin Cummings Tech accelerated degree program in dispensing opticianry, which may be a viable option for individuals who work as optical store managers. He explained that students who enroll in the program may receive credit for work experience and prior college credit. The degree program may be completed in a twelve-month period. He noted that the degree program is designed so that enrolled students may maintain full-time employment during their studies even as they attend in-person classroom learning. A small portion of the curriculum may be completed by electronic means. Mr. Gary Peters announced the new executive members of the Opticianry Association of Massachusetts (OAM).

Willam Carleton joined the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Application Review:

- At 11:01 a.m. the Board was scheduled to meet with three applicants for licensure and one applicant seeking to reactivate his dispensing optician license. The Board reviewed applications and additional documentation. Below is a list of the candidates for review and the motion and roll call vote for each:

Anissa Solatani– **After review of Ms. Solatani’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: “not present”.**

Devyn Shea - **After review of Ms. Shea’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: “not present”.**

Joshua Monroy De Prodigalidad - **After review of Mr. Monroy De Prodigalidad’s application, the board instructed the applicant to receive hands on training in the subject areas of drilling and rimless mounting of plastic lens. Mr. Ellis moved to defer further review until the applicant completes the training and resubmits the application. Dr. Davini seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote: Ms. Black: “Yes”, Mr. Ellis: “Yes”, Dr. Davini: “Yes”, Mr. Carleton: “Yes”, Ms. Prachanronarong: “not present”.**

Michael Shaer – After review of Mr. Shaer’s application to reactivate his dispensing opticians license, Mr. Ellis moved to approve the reactivation application. Ms. Black seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote: Ms. Black: “Yes”, Mr. Ellis: “Yes”, Dr. Davini: “Yes”, Mr. Carleton: “Yes”, Ms. Prachanronarong: “not present”.

Discussion

- Review draft dispensing optician apprenticeship policy and frequently asked questions with Board proposed changes.

The Board received copies of the draft policy and questions showing track changes that include revisions members made at a previous meeting. There was no discussion.

- Recommendations for URAMP requirements and practice restrictions for dispensing opticians.

The Board discussed specific work restrictions for dispensing optician licensees who agree to enter into a non-disciplinary monitoring agreement with URAMP. The Board generally agreed that participants in URAMP should not engage in management for up to one year following successful completion of the URAMP program. Board counsel reminded the Board that URAMP will be active in the coming weeks, but work restrictions and monitoring requirements are open to further amendment. She noted that the Board may make additional restrictions on management for participants at subsequent board meetings. No vote was taken.

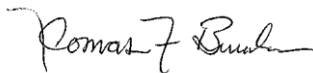
Adjournment:

At 11:31 a.m., Dr. Davini moved to adjourn the public meeting. Ms. Black seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote: Ms. Black: “Yes”, Mr. Ellis: “Yes”, Dr. Davini: “Yes”, Mr. Carleton: “Yes”, Ms. Prachanronarong: “not present”.

Move to 65C:

At 11:32 a.m., Dr. Davini moved to enter into closed session to conduct investigatory conferences pursuant to G.L. c. 112, §65C. Mr. Ellis seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote: Ms. Black: “Yes”, Mr. Ellis: “Yes”, Dr. Davini: “Yes”, Mr. Carleton: “Yes”, Ms. Prachanronarong: “not present”.

Respectfully Submitted,



Thomas F. Burke
Executive Director

Documents used in the public session meeting:

- Public session meeting agenda for December 4, 2024
- Draft public meeting minutes from November 6, 2024
- Correspondence from ABO/NCLE
- Correspondence from Frankin Cummins Tech and United Opticians Association
- Application for A. Soltani (protected personal data redacted)
- Application for D. Shea (protected personal data redacted)
- Application for J. Monroy De Prodigalidad (protected personal data redacted)
- Reactivation application for M. Shaer (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