

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

Date: February 5, 2025 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
Margaret McKenna, Board Staff
Lisa Park, Board Staff

Board Members not Present:

Housekeeping:

- Board Chair, William Carleton called the meeting to order at 10:05 am and established a quorum via calling attendance: **Ms. Black: “Yes”, Mr. Ellis: “Yes”, Dr. Davini: “not present”, Mr. Carleton: “Yes”, Ms. Prachanronarong: “yes”**. All members in attendance participated remotely via Cisco Webex.

Board Business:

- Public Session agenda for February 5, 2025: **Dr. Davini moved to accept the agenda and Ms. Prachanronarong seconded. The motion to accept the public session agenda passed by a roll call vote: Ms. Black: “Yes”, Mr. Ellis: “Not Present”, Mr. Carleton: “Yes”, Ms. Prachanronarong: “Yes”, Dr. Davini: “Yes”**.
- Public Meeting Minutes from January 8, 2025: **Ms. Black moved to accept the minutes and Ms. Prachanronarong seconded. The motion to accept the January 8, 2025 minutes passed by a roll call vote: Ms. Black: “Yes”, Mr. Ellis: “Not Present”, Mr. Carleton: “Yes”, Ms. Prachanronarong: “Yes”, Dr. Davini: “Yes”**.
- Opticians Association of Massachusetts (OAM)

- D. Bartlett, report about the OAM and its future plans

Ms. Bartlett reported to the board the dates for upcoming OAM and OAM sponsored meetings and conferences. She noted that licensed opticians who attend the spring conference on April 27 as well as the Vision Expo East may receive continuing education hours. She announced the publication of the OAM newsletter. The Board thanked Ms. Bartlett for the report.

- G. Peters, comment on managers and Licensed Opticians

Mr. Peters met with the board to discuss the issue of management and the role of apprentice opticians. He noted that there are alternative pathways to licensure for individuals who choose to work in management.

Application Review (Initial):

- At 10:17 a.m. the Board was scheduled to meet with applicant(s) for licensure and reviewed applications and additional documentation. Below is a list of the candidate(s) for review and the motion and roll call vote for each:

Milan Minor– After review of Ms. Minor’s application, Ms. Black moved to approve her for licensure. Ms. Prachanronarong seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote: Ms. Black: “Yes”, Mr. Ellis: “Not Present”, Mr. Carleton: “Yes”, Ms. Prachanronarong: “Yes”, Dr. Davini: “Yes”.

Micha Benton - After review of Mr. Benton’s application, Dr. Davini moved to approve him for licensure. Ms. Prachanronarong seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote: Ms. Black: “Yes”, Mr. Ellis: “Not Present”, Mr. Carleton: “Yes”, Ms. Prachanronarong: “Abstain”, Dr. Davini: “Yes”.

Mr. Ellis joined the meeting at 10:31 am.

Discussion

- Dispensing Opticians – Division of Apprentice Standards survey and responses from states regarding management

Margaret Gilligan from the Division of Apprentice Standards (“DAS”) presented the board the results of an informal survey from states that currently have apprentice opticianry programs. She noted that only one state allows managers to enroll in an apprentice programs. In response to the board’s queries, she stated that DAS does not monitor managers. Further, she reported that at present DAS does not accept managers into the apprentice program.

- Review draft dispensing optician apprenticeship policy and frequently asked questions

The Board reviewed the draft dispensing optician policy and discussed apprenticeship training and the needs of corporate leadership. Board counsel reported that the policy does not prohibit dispensing opticians from working in a management role; however, apprentice opticians who wish to work in management would need to step down from their apprentice training to do so. The Board requested additional time to review and agreed to table further discussion until a subsequent meeting. No vote was taken.

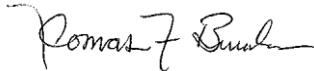
- Review draft interpretation of 235 CMR 4.04(6) *Lens Hardening, including ball drop testing*

The Board agreed to table further discussion until a subsequent meeting. No vote was taken.

Adjournment:

At 11: 41 a.m. Dr. Davini moved to adjourn the public meeting. Ms. Prachanronarong seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote: Ms. Black: “Yes”, Mr. Ellis: “Yes”, Mr. Carleton: “Yes”, Ms. Prachanronarong: “Yes”, Dr. Davini: “Yes”.

Respectfully Submitted,



Thomas F. Burke
Executive Director

Documents used in the open meeting:

- Public session meeting agenda for February 5, 2025
- Draft public meeting minutes from January 8, 2025
- Initial Application for M. Minor (protected personal data redacted)
- Initial Application for M. Benton (protected personal data redacted)
- Dispensing Opticians – Apprentice as Manager Responses from States
- Apprenticeship Policy Board Discussion
- Interpretation of 235 CMR 4.04(6)