

Board of Registration of Dispensing Opticians

Public Session Minutes

Date: August 4, 2021 Time: 10:00 a.m.

A regularly scheduled open public meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Dispensing Opticians (“the Board”) was held via Videoconference and Conference Call due to the Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, § 20.

Board Members Present:

David Fogg
Deanna Kurlowecz, Board Chair
Marty Bregman
Gary Peters

Staff Present:

Kristina Gasson, Board Counsel
Thomas F. Burke, Associate Exec. Director

Meeting called To Order:

- Ms. Kurlowecz called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.
- Exit and Evacuation procedures were tabled.

Review Meeting Minutes:

- Public Meeting Minutes from June 2, 2021: **Tabled**

Board Business:

- **Report from Executive Director, Thomas Burke**
Mr. Burke introduced Kristina Gasson as Board Counsel for this meeting. He announced that Jennifer Romeo-Porcaro left the agency and will no longer serve as Board Counsel.

Application Review

At 10:04 a.m., the Board met with five applicants for licensure and reviewed three applications. Below is a list of the candidates for review and the motion and roll call vote for each:

Patricia Trafton – After review of Ms. Trafton’s application, Ms. Kurlowecz moved to table until the September meeting on the condition that the applicant clarify her training hours and provide additional documentation. Mr. Fogg seconded. Motion passed by a roll call vote: Ms. Kurlowecz: “Yes”, Mr. Fogg: “Yes”, Mr. Bregman: “Yes”, Mr. Peters: “Yes.”

Makayla Crager – After review of Ms. Crager’s application, Ms. Kurlowecz moved to approve her for licensure. Mr. Peters seconded. Motion passed by a roll call vote: Ms. Kurlowecz: “Yes”, Mr. Fogg: “Yes”, Mr. Bregman: “Yes”, Mr. Peters: “Yes.”

Johnny Prieto – After review of Mr. Prieto’s application, Ms. Kurlowecz moved to table until the September meeting on the condition that the applicant clarify his training hours and provide additional documentation. Mr. Peters seconded. Motion

passed by a roll call vote: Ms. Kurlowecz: “Yes”, Mr. Fogg: “Yes”, Mr. Bregman: “Yes”, Mr. Peters: “Yes.”

Jennifer Corna – **After review of Ms. Corna’s application, Mr. Fogg moved to approve her for licensure. Mr. Peters seconded. Motion passed by a roll call vote: Ms. Kurlowecz: “Yes”, Mr. Fogg: “Yes”, Mr. Bregman: “Yes”, Mr. Peters: “Yes.”**

Thao Nguyen – **After review of Mr. Nguyen’s application, Mr. Fogg moved to approve him for licensure. Mr. Peters seconded. Motion passed by a roll call vote: Ms. Kurlowecz: “Yes”, Mr. Fogg: “Yes”, Mr. Bregman: “Yes”, Mr. Peters: “Yes.”**

Discussion:

- **Reinstatement for Individuals whose licenses were revoked due to default** – Ms. Rebecca Maurer met with the Board to request reinstatement of her license from default revocation based on a 2012 continuing education violation. The Board determined that Ms. Maurer completed seventy-two hours of continuing education in ABO and NCLE courses.

Mr. Fogg moved to allow Ms. Maurer to reinstate her license. Mr. Peters seconded. Motion passed by a roll call vote: Ms. Kurlowecz: “Yes”, Mr. Fogg: “Yes”, Mr. Bregman: “Yes”, Mr. Peters: “Yes.”

- **Legislation to move Board to Department of Public Health** – Mr. Burke notified the Board that the passage of Article 87 legislation became effective on July 19, 2021. As a result, the Board of Registration of Dispensing Opticians and twelve other licensing Boards will transfer resources and staff to the Department of Public Health over the next eighteen months. In addition, the agency name has changed to the Division of Occupational Licensure (“DOL”).
- **Consumer Fact Sheet Revisions** – Tabled.
- **Division of Apprentice Standards Meetings and Policies** – Mr. Burke reported that Board staff will continue to accept checks or money orders from newly registered opticians per the apprentice registration agreement. He noted that the agency is working to create an electronic payment option. He stated that Board staff will send apprentice certificates to newly registered apprentice opticians. Mr. Burke will provide an update to the Board on apprentice extensions at a subsequent meeting.

At 12:05 p.m. Ms. Kurlowecz moved to recess the meeting for a fifteen minute break Mr. Bregman seconded. Motion passed by a roll call vote: Ms. Kurlowecz: “Yes”, Mr. Fogg: “Yes”, Mr. Bregman: “Yes”, Mr. Peters: “Yes.”

The meeting resumed at 12:20 p.m.

- **Corporate Updates** – Mr. Peters addressed the Board on the need to educate corporate employees on the Board’s regulations and requirements. He stated that corporate entities might be invited to meet with Board members to discuss adherence to Board regulations, particularly on the scope of practice for dispensing opticians. The Board members agreed that meeting with corporate employees would improve understanding, create stronger bonds, and, as a result, attract more opticians to the profession. Mr. Peters noted that he will provide an update on this topic at a subsequent meeting.
- **CMR 5.02** – Tabled.

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

At 12:55 p.m., Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mr. Peters, to adjourn the public meeting and to enter into closed session to conduct investigatory conferences, pursuant to G.L. c. 112, §65C, and at the conclusion of the closed session, not return to the public meeting. Motion passed by a roll call vote: Ms. Kurlowecz: “Yes”, Mr. Fogg: “Yes”, Mr. Bregman: “Yes”, Mr. Peters: “Yes.”

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

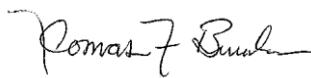
During the closed session, the Board voted to take the following action:

- 2021-000569-IT-ENF – Closed, no action.

Adjournment:

- **At 1:32 p.m., Mr. Fogg moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Kurlowecz seconded. Motion passed by a roll call vote: Ms. Kurlowecz: “Yes”, Mr. Fogg: “Yes”, Mr. Bregman: “Yes”, Mr. Peters: “Yes.”**

Respectfully Submitted,



Thomas F. Burke
Executive Director

Documents used in the open meeting:

- Agenda for DO Board Meeting of August 4, 2021
- License Reinstatement application for R. Maurer
- Report on Approved Licensed Opticians
- Applications for P. Trafton, M. Crager, J. Prieto, J. Corna, and T. Nguyen
- Draft Consumer Fact Sheet