

Board of Registration of Dispensing Opticians
1000 Washington Street 1st Floor Room 1C, Boston, MA 02118
Date: February 7, 2018 Time: 10:00 a.m.

Public Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present:

William Carleton
Gary Peters
Lawrence Clayman

Staff Present:

Michael Hawley, Exec. Director
James O'Connor, Board Counsel
Thomas F. Burke, Assoc. Exec Director

Members of the Public Present:

Lorraine O'Connor
Andrea Panigalli
Ivan D. Quiroz

Anthony Ruscio
Brendan Adelizzi

10:00AM: Meeting called To Order:

- Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Mr. Carleton.
- Mr. Carleton reviewed exit procedures in the case of an emergency.

Review Meeting Minutes:

- December 6, 2017 minutes: **Tabled.**

Board Business:

- Report from Executive Director, Michael Hawley
 - Mr. Hawley reported continuing issues with changes to the Board web site. Mr. Hawley also reported that on line renewals and application submissions seem to be working properly. Mr. Hawley further reported that the Next practical exam will be held on April 6th and 7th.

Apprenticeship Extension Requests:

- **Anthony Ruscio** – Mr. Ruscio appeared before the board to request an extension of his apprenticeship. Mr. Ruscio has passed the ABO but still has not passed the NCLE. He has taken it twice. Mr. Ruscio has begun shadowing an optometrist and taking practice exams. This is Mr. Ruscio's first extension request. **Mr. Clayman moved to extend Mr. Ruscio's apprenticeship for 6 months as long as he continues to take the NCLE each time it is offered. Mr. Peters seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

- **Brandon Adelizzi** – Mr. Adelizzi appeared before the board to request an extension of his apprenticeship. Mr. Adelizzi has passed the ABO but still has not passed the NCLE. He has taken it twice. Mr Adelizzi is taking preparatory classes to assist in preparing for the NCLE. Mr. Adelizzi also referred to medical reasons for his difficulty with the NCLE, but opted to have the discussion in public, rather than executive session. This is Mr. Adelizzi’s first extension request. **Mr. Peters moved to extend Mr. Adelizzi’s apprenticeship for 1 year as long as he continues to take the NCLE each time it is offered. Mr. Clayman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Ivan Quiroz** – Mr. Quiroz appeared before the board to request an extension of his apprenticeship. Mr. Quiroz has passed the ABO but has not yet taken the NCLE. Mr. Quiroz reported administrative (difficulty arranging to take the exam) and personal problems getting the exam taken. He indicates that he is now ready and plans to take the exam on February 21. This is Mr. Quiroz’s first extension request. **Mr. Clayman moved to extend Mr. Quiroz’s apprenticeship for 6 months as long as he continues to take the NCLE each time it is offered. Mr. Peters seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Andrea Panagalli** – Mr. Panagalli appeared before the board because he was under the impression that he needed to request an extension of his apprenticeship. However, the apprenticeship is not scheduled to end until November of 2018. Mr. Panagalli has passed the ABO, the NCLE and the Massachusetts Practical Exam and he has submitted an application for licensure. However Mr. Panagalli has not submitted all of the documentation required for licensure. Specifically, he has not submitted a signed apprentice certificate and he has not submitted documentation of his apprentice hours signed by his sponsor(s). Once those documents are submitted, the Board will review Mr. Panagalli’s application. Board staff will send a memo to Ms. O’Connor of DAS to confirm Mr. Panagalli’s status. No board action is required at this time.

Discussion:

- Pupillary Distance and Medical Records – The Board discussed the question of whether a DO is required to give a customer pupillary distance measurements on request and whether this is part of the medical records. The Board indicated that, while prescriptions provided by optometrists or ophthalmologists should include pupillary distance and Opticians would be required to let the customer keep a copy of the prescription, opticians also do their own measurements and these measurements are very specific to the frames being purchased and would be of no value and possible harm to the customer. Thus in the Board’s opinion the measurements are not part of the Dispensing Optician’s medical record and need not be provided to the customer.
- OTC Readers – The Board’s statutes allow for the sale of simple magnifier glasses over the counter and with no requirement for a DO licensed. However, it has come to the Board’s attention that some establishments are selling spectacles

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

Arising out of the extension requests, the Board discussed the idea of requiring sponsors to appear at the board meeting when apprentices appear to request extensions. Board staff indicated that they would invite the sponsors to attend but there was discussion about whether it would be fair to penalize the apprentice by delaying review of the extension requests if the sponsor cannot attend the meeting.

Also arising out the extension requests, the board expressed frustration with the difficulties experience by apprentices in preparing for the NCLE exam as evidenced by the number of apprentices who have had difficulty passing the exam. The Board would like to provide links on the board web site to any preparatory programs available to apprentices.

12:00 p.m. Adjournment:

Mr. Peters moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Clayman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Hawley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael Hawley
Executive Director

Documents used in the open meeting:

- Agenda for DO Board Meeting of February 7th, 2018
- Apprenticeship Extension Requests and Apprentice Profiles of A. Ruscio, B. Adelizzi, I. Quiroz, and A. Panagalli