

Board of Registration of Dispensing Opticians  
1000 Washington St. Room 1C  
Date: December 4, 2019 Time: 10:00 a.m.

Public Meeting Minutes

**Board Members Present:**

Gary Peters  
David Fogg  
Deanna Kurlowecz  
Marty Bregman

**Staff Present:**

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

**Members of the Public Present:**

Blair Wong  
James Russo  
Ashlie Perkins, Division of Apprentice Standards  
Camille Pensavalli, Division of Apprentice Standards  
Dibby Bartlett  
Randall Smith  
Shawn Blades  
Carmen M. Rivera  
Gina M. Cruz  
Catherine Hart  
Brittany McNally

**Meeting called To Order:**

- Mr. Peters called the meeting to order at 10:16 a.m.
- Mr. Burke reviewed exit procedures in the case of an emergency.

**Review Meeting Minutes:**

- Minutes of November 6, 2019 Meeting: David Fogg requested that the Division of Apprentice Standards designation ("DAS") be added to representatives at board meetings. **Mr. Fogg moved to accept the public minutes as amended. Ms. Kurlowecz seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Board Business:**

- **Report from Executive Director, Michael Hawley**  
Mr. Hawley proposed that the Board meet prior to the regularly scheduled meeting in February in order to conduct an interview with an exam vendor. After discussion, the board agreed to meet on January 8, 2020 and invite an exam provider to present a proposal on upgrading the Massachusetts Practical Exam. Mr. Hawley reminded the Board that licensees and applicants may contact the Board via the dedicated electronic mailbox [dispensing.opticians@mass.gov](mailto:dispensing.opticians@mass.gov). He noted that the new contact system has improved efficiency and response time. Mr. Hawley noted that dispensing optician applications and renewals would be managed exclusively online beginning in the new

calendar year. Finally, Mr. Hawley reported that the agency has created new telephone numbers for the Board and Board staff.

#### **Apprentice Extension Requests:**

- **Brittany McNally** – Ms. McNally appeared before the board to request an extension of her apprenticeship which began in 2014. Ms. McNally has passed the ABO but still has not passed the NCLE. Ms. McNally has not taken the NCLE at this time. . Her sponsor, Mr. Stephen Perryman, Ms. McNally's sponsor/mentor, provided a letter of support for Ms. McNally to continue her work as an apprentice optician. This is Ms. McNally's first request for an apprenticeship extension.

**Mr. Fogg moved to grant Ms. McNally a six month (or two-test cycles) extension of her apprenticeship on the condition that she take the NCLE every time it is available. Ms. Kurlowecz seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

- **Gina M. Cruz** – Mr. David Fogg recused himself from this discussion. Ms. Cruz appeared before the Board to request permission that she be able to begin a new apprenticeship through the Division of Apprentice Standards. Ms. Cruz's apprenticeship expired in 2000 and she states that she been teaching for many years. She has not taken either the ABO or the NCLE exams.

**After discussion, Mr. Bregman moved to allow Ms. Cruz to begin a new apprenticeship from scratch. Mr. Peters seconded. Motion passed unanimously among Board members present.**

#### **Board Discussion:**

- **ABO Practical Exam Presentation** – Mr. Randall Smith met with the Board to review the ABO proposal for a newly designed practical examination. With the aid of Mr. Jim Morris (via telephone), Mr. Smith explored the exam format and features with the Board members on electronic tablet devices as they would appear to applicants taking the exam. Mr. Morris and Mr. Smith noted that the new exam would consist of thirty questions and be one hour in length. In response to questions by the Board, Mr. Morris stated that the exam would be administered by Prometric testing and be available to applicants four times a year. The registration cost for the practical exam would be \$75.00. After further review, the Board thanked Mr. Smith and Mr. Morris for their presentation. Mr. Smith acknowledged that he and Mr. Morris would be willing to meet with the Board for further review upon request.
- **Reinstatement for Individuals whose licenses were revoked due to default** – Tabled.

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

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

**At 12:13 p.m., Ms. Kurlowecz moved to enter into Investigative Conference to discuss pending cases. [Closed session pursuant to G.L. c. 112 §65C]. Mr. Peters seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

At the end of the closed session, the open meeting resumed.

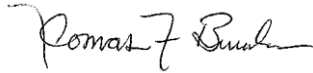
During the closed session, the Board voted to take the following actions:

- DO-2019-000776-IT-ENF – referred to office of prosecutions.
- DO-2019-001302-IT-ENF – Dismissed with Advisory.

**Adjournment:**

**At 12:57 p.m., Ms. Kurlowecz moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Bregman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,



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Thomas F. Burke  
Associate Executive Director

**Documents used in the open meeting:**

- Agenda for DO Board Meeting of December 4, 2019
- Dispensing Optician Consumer Fact Sheet
- Minutes of November 6, 2019 board meeting
- Apprentice Extension Request Letter and Profile