

## **Board of Registration of Optometry**

### **General Session Minutes**

Meeting Held by Phone/Video Conference

DATE: November 20, 2024 TIME: 10:00am

**A public meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Optometry (“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 by Phone/Video:**

Rhonda Willinger, OD

Everett Sabree, OD

Julie Hiura, OD

Jeanette Sewell

#### **Board Members Not Present by**

#### **Phone/Video:**

None

#### **DPH Staff Present by Phone/Video:**

Jaqueline Petrillo, Board Counsel

Thomas Burke, Executive Director

Margaret McKenna, Board Staff

Isaac Badner, Board Intern

Meeting called to order at 10:04 AM by Dr. Sabree

#### **Meeting called to order:**

- Roll Call Vote for Attendance

Board chair Dr. Sabree established a quorum via calling attendance: Everett Sabree, Julie Hiura, Jeanette Sewell, and Rhonda Willinger. All members participated remotely via Webex by Cisco.

#### **Board Business:**

- Review of General Session Agenda: November 20, 2024

**Dr. Hiura moved to accept the general session agenda for November 20, 2024. Dr. Willinger seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Dr. Hiura – “yes”.**

- Review of General Session Minutes: September 18, 2024

**Dr. Willinger moved to accept the general session minutes for September 18, 2024 as written. Dr. Hiura seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Dr. Hiura – “abstain”.**

- Review of General Session Minutes: October 16, 2024

**The Board requested that the October 16, 2024 minutes be amended to show that review of the October 16, 2024 agenda was deferred. Dr. Hiura moved to accept the general session minutes for the October 16, 2024 as amended. Dr. Willinger seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “abstain”; Dr. Hiura – “yes”.**

- Delegation of Signature Authority

**Dr. Willinger moved to accept the policy on delegation of signature authority. Dr. Sewell seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Dr. Hiura – “yes”.**

### **Correspondence**

- Accreditation Council on optometric Education – Notification of adopted changes relative to 2025 Professional Optometric Degree (POD) – Read and Filed.
- 2024 ARBO Scope of Practice Chart – Read and Filed.
- Correspondence from Massachusetts Society of Optometrists – Read and Filed.

### **Discussion**

- Y. Lu Application – VOTE

The Board discussed Dr. Lu’s license reactivation application and reviewed the translated license verification from an entity outside of the United States. After discussion, **Dr. Sewell moved to accept Dr. Lu’s application contingent upon a DPH administered translation of the verification statement. Dr. Willinger seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Dr. Hiura – “yes”.**

- Recommendations for URAMP
  - Consent Agreement Monitors for Optometrist
  - Optometry current monitoring requirements and practice restrictions
  - Proposed requirements and practice restrictions

The Board reviewed sample supervisor agreements and reports from other BHPL boards and discussed possible monitoring requirements and return-to-work conditions for optometrists who voluntarily enter URAMP as an alternative to discipline. The Board advised the executive director and board counsel to include specific requirements for monitors and additional work restrictions that relate directly to the practice of optometry. Board counsel noted that URAMP staff will facilitate procedures for monitoring and work restrictions for licensees who are active participants in the program.

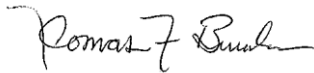
**Adjournment:**

**At 11:25 a.m., Dr. Sewell moved to adjourn the public session meeting. Dr. Willinger seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Dr. Hiura – “yes”.**

**65C Meeting Session:**

**At 11:25 a.m., Dr. Hiura moved to enter into closed session to conduct investigatory conferences pursuant to G.L. c. 112, §65C. Dr. Willinger seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Dr. Hiura – “yes”.**

Respectfully submitted,



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Thomas Burke, Executive Director

Documents used in the public session meeting:

- Agenda for November 20, 2024 Board meeting
- Public session minutes for September 18, 2024
- Public session minutes for October 16, 2024
- Accreditation Council on optometric Education – Notification of adopted changes relative to 2025 Professional Optometric Degree (POD)
- 2024 ARBO Scope of Practice Chart
- Correspondence from Massachusetts Society of Optometrists
- Job Performance Report
- Job Supervisor Acceptance Participant
- Monitoring Instructions for Optometrists
- Nurse Employment Supervisor Report
- URAMP PowerPoint presentation