

Board of Registration of Optometry

General Session Minutes

Meeting Held by Phone/Video Conference

DATE: December 18, 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

DPH Staff Present by Phone/Video:

Jaqueline Petrillo, Board Counsel

Thomas Burke, Executive Director

Margaret McKenna, Board Staff

Isaac Badner, Board Intern

Board Members Not Present by

Phone/Video:

None

Meeting called to order at 10:03 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: December 18, 2024

Dr. Sewell 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”.

Dr. Sabree left the meeting at 10:05 AM.

- Review of General Session Minutes: November 20, 2024

Dr. Hiura moved to accept the general session minutes for September 18, 2024 as written. Dr. Sewell seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “not present”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Dr. Hiura – “yes”.

Correspondence

- Recent accreditation actions and decisions of the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) – Read and Filed

Dr. Sabree returned to the meeting at 10:21 AM.

Discussion

- Y. Lu Application – VOTE

At the November 20, 2024, meeting the board moved to accept Dr. Lu's application contingent on a DPH administered translation of the verification statement. The Board reviewed the DPH administered translation of the verification statement. After discussion the board agreed the translation was satisfactory. No vote was taken.

- Review of staff processing procedures for glaucoma certification

The Board reviewed the current procedure for approving applicants and licensees for TPA+GC certification. Applicants and licensees who apply for certification by dual licensure, reciprocity, or completion of a post-graduate residency in ocular eye disease after June 30, 2011 are currently reviewed by a Board member. After discussion, the Board directed counsel to draft a staff action policy to delegate review to board staff. The Board instructed staff to continue sending applications to the Board for review.

- Optometry criminal history and attestation questions – VOTE

The Board reviewed one attestation statement that appears in initial and renewal applications. Board counsel read the statement to the Board: "I am aware that under Massachusetts law, optometrists can only work in licensed or licensed exempt facilities." Board counsel noted that there is no regulatory requirement to license optometry facilities or offices in Massachusetts and advised that the question be removed. **After discussion, Dr. Hiura motioned to remove the question from the criminal history and attestation questions on the application. Dr. Willinger seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – "yes"; Dr. Sabree – "yes"; Dr. Sewell – "yes"; Dr. Hiura – "yes".**

- Review proposed recommendations for URAMP requirement and practice restrictions for optometry – VOTE

The Board reviewed the recommendations discussed at the November 20, 2024 meeting. The draft provides URAMP specific work restrictions and conditions for return-to-work conditions and supervision requirements. **After discussion, Dr. Hiura moved to approve the recommendations and send to URAMP. Dr. Sewell seconded. The motion passed on**

a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Dr. Hiura – “yes”.

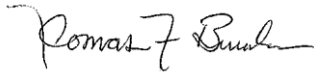
Adjournment:

At 10:45 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 10:45 a.m., Dr. Hiura moved to enter into closed session to conduct investigatory conferences pursuant to G.L. c. 112, §65C. Dr. Sewell seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Dr. Hiura – “yes”.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas Burke, Executive Director

Documents used in the public session meeting:

- Agenda for December 18, 2024 Board meeting
- Public session minutes for November 20, 2024
- Recent Accreditation Actions and Decisions ACOE 2024
- Y. Lu Reactivation Application
- Glaucoma Certification Application Review Procedures
- Optometry Criminal History Attestation Questions
- Optometry Board Recommendations for URAMP