

## **Board of Registration in Optometry**

### General Session Minutes

Meeting Held by Phone/Video Conference

DATE: March 18, 2026 TIME: 10:00 a.m.

**A public meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Optometry (“the Board”) was held via Webex.**

#### **Board Members Present by Phone/Video:**

Everett Sabree, OD  
Rhonda Willinger, OD  
Michael Hawley  
Julie Hiura, OD

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

Samuel Leadholm, Board Counsel  
Thomas Burke, Executive Director  
Margaret McKenna, Board Staff

#### **Board Members Not Present by Phone/Video:**

Jeanette Sewell, OD

#### **Administrative Items:**

Meeting called to order at 10:06 a.m. by Dr. Sabree.

- Roll Call vote for attendance

Board chair Dr. Sabree established a quorum by conducting a roll call of board members present: Everett Sabree, Julie Hiura, Rhonda Willinger and Michael Hawley. All members participated by video via Webex.

#### **Board Business:**

- Review of general session agenda: March 18, 2026

**Dr. Hiura moved to accept the general session agenda. Mr. Hawley seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “not present”; Mr. Hawley– “yes”; Dr. Hiura “yes”.**

- Review of general session minutes: December 17, 2025

**Dr. Hiura moved to accept the general session minutes for December 17, 2025. Mr. Hawley seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “not present”; Mr. Hawley– “yes”; Dr. Hiura “yes”.**

- Unified Recovery and Monitoring Program Activity Report, January 2026  
The executive director invited board members to review the Unified Recovery and Monitoring Program (URAMP) quarterly activity report and provide feedback on data issued in the report.

- Revisions to the Unified Recovery and Monitoring Program (URAMP) Operational (Staff Action) Policy, Mark Waksmonski and Julie Showalter – VOTE

URAMP director Mark Waksmonski and program coordinator Julie Showalter presented recent revisions to URAMP’s operational policy 24-02 with an explicative memo detailing the amended sections of the policy. The URAMP director and program coordinator addressed the Board’s questions and concerns regarding changes to the policy.

**Following review, Dr. Willinger moved to affirm the policy revision changes to the URAMP operational policy. Dr. Hiura seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “not present”; Mr. Hawley– “yes”; Dr. Hiura “yes”.**

- Executive director report
  - Approved prescriber training course offering
  - Profession-specific professional support resources
  - NBEO state board exam portal

The director notified the Board of updated prescriber training course offerings on the board website. He invited board members to recommend formal or informal peer support groups, professional recovery networks, or discipline-specific support resources within the optometry profession. The director informed the Board that the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO) launched a new secure platform for sending optometry exam score report data. Board staff will attend a live training on use of the new portal.

### **Correspondence**

- ARBO Annual meeting – Read and filed.
- ARBO Quarterly update – Read and filed.
- ARBO Comments on KY Emergency Regulation – Read and filed.

### **Discussion:**

- Massachusetts Society of Optometrists (MSO) course proposal for optometrists to fulfill prescriber training requirement – VOTE

**Following review of the MSO course proposal, Dr. Hiura moved to approve the course for Massachusetts optometrists to fulfill the prescriber training requirement pursuant to M.G.L c. 94C, s. 18(e). Dr. Willinger seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote:**

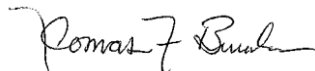
**Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “not present”; Mr. Hawley– “yes”; Dr. Hiura “yes”.**

**Further, Dr. Hiura moved to approve the course for Massachusetts optometrists to fulfill the prescriber training requirement pursuant to M.G.L c. 94C, s. 18(e) retroactive to February 19, 2026. Dr. Willinger seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “not present”; Mr. Hawley– “yes”; Dr. Hiura “yes”.**

**Adjourn:**

**At 10:57 a.m., Mr. Hawley moved to leave the general session and enter into closed session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 112 §65C for investigative conference and, following closed session, not return to general session and adjourn the meeting. Dr. Hiura seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “not present”; Dr. Hiura – “yes”; Michael Hawley “yes”.**

Respectfully submitted,



---

Thomas F. Burke, Executive Director

Documents used in the public session meeting:

- General session agenda for March 18, 2026,
- General session minutes for December 18, 2025
- Quarterly Unified Recovery and Monitoring Program (URAMP) Activity Report dated January 2026.
- Memo and revised policy for the Unified Recovery and Monitoring Program (URAMP) Operational (Staff Action) Policy 24-02.
- Correspondence from the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO) announcing open registration for ARBO’s annual meeting, June 13-14, 2026 in Phoenix, Arizona.
- The Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO) first quarter 2026 update.
- The Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO) comments on the Kentucky Emergency Administrative Regulation 201 KAR 5:021E.
- Course proposal offered by the Massachusetts Society of Optometrists (MSO) to fulfill mandatory prescriber training for optometrists and curriculum vitae for course presenter, Dr. Benjamin Young, OD, FAAO.