

## **Board of Registration of Optometry**

### **General Session Minutes**

Meeting Held by Phone/Video Conference

DATE: March 19, 2025 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, OD  
Michael Hawley

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

Jaqueline Petrillo, Board Counsel  
Meghan Bresnahan, Board Counsel  
Thomas Burke, Executive Director  
Margaret McKenna, Board Staff  
Lisa Park, Board Intern  
Jonathan Dillon, Director of Policy  
Edmond Taglieri, PSUD Program Director  
and Nursing Home Administrator  
Mark Waksmonski, SARP Coordinator,  
Board of Registration in Nursing

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

None

Meeting called to order at 10:02 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, Rhonda Willinger and Michael Hawley. All members participated remotely via Webex by Cisco.

#### **Board Business:**

- Review of General Session Agenda: March 19, 2025

Board Counsel Jacqueline Petrillo made one addition to the agenda; she requested board counsel staffing be added under board business.

**Dr. Sewell moved to accept the general session agenda for March 19, 2025 with noted addition. Dr. Willinger seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Dr. Hiura – “yes”; Michael Hawley “yes”.**

- Review of General Session Minutes: January 15, 2025

**Dr. Hiura moved to accept the general session minutes for January 15, 2025 as written. Dr. Willinger seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Dr. Hiura – “yes”; Michael Hawley “yes”.**

- Presentation on the Unified Recovery and Monitory Program (URAMP)
  - Proposed practice and supervision criteria
  - Staff action policy for operational management

Ed Taglieri presented the Unified Recovery and Monitoring Program (URAMP) Operational Policy 24-08. The policy establishes standards for optometrists to enter into a non-disciplinary consent agreement with the Board for URAMP participation. **Dr. Sewell moved to approve the operational policy 24-08 staff action. Dr. Willinger seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Dr. Hiura – “yes”; Michael Hawley “yes”.**

Mr. Taglieri presented an outline of generic practice restrictions and supervisor qualifications for participants in URAMP. He noted that at subsequent meetings the Board may choose to adapt work restrictions and supervisor qualifications to align more closely with the practice of optometry. **Dr. Hiura moved to approve and authorize the generic practice restrictions supervisor qualifications. Dr. Willinger seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Dr. Hiura – “yes”; Michael Hawley “yes”.**

- Hybrid Meetings for Board Members

Board counsel reviewed procedures for remote participation at board meetings per 940 CMR 29.10. If amendments to the Open Meeting Law in place since March 2020 are not extended, the Board may no longer conduct meetings with all board members participating remotely. Counsel advised the Board to authorize the use of hybrid participation in meetings to allow for limited remote participation by those board members not necessary for quorum.

**Dr. Sabree moved to authorize hybrid participation by the Board of Registration in Optometry in any and all public meetings pursuant to 240 CMR 29.10. Mr. Hawley seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Dr. Hiura – “yes”; Michael Hawley “yes”.**

- Board Counsel Staffing

Ms. Petrillo introduced Attorney Meghan Bresnahan to the Optometry Board as incoming board counsel for future meetings. The Board welcomed Ms. Bresnahan and thanked Ms. Petrillo for her work as board counsel.

## **Correspondence**

- ARBO Statement Regarding Part II Exam Score Error

Read and filed.

- E. Scharff

Board Staff reviewed a petition from Dr. Scharff to remove probationary status. The Board reviewed the licensee's consent agreement and current license status.

**After review and discussion, Dr. Sewell moved to terminate the probation and return the license status to active. Dr. Hiura seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Dr. Hiura – “yes”; Michael Hawley “yes”.**

## **Discussion**

- National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) Self Queries

The Board discussed the use of the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) self-query form as part of the licensure application process. The NPDB stores information on disciplinary action by a licensee in any jurisdiction where the licensee has practiced. The self-query for initial and reactivation applicants would inform staff of any adverse actions in other jurisdictions by healthcare professionals seeking licensure in Massachusetts.

**Dr. Sewell moved to approve the inclusion of the NPDB self-query to the license application process, subject to legal review regarding next steps to implement the process. Dr. Willinger seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Dr. Hiura – “yes”; Michael Hawley “yes”.**

- Massachusetts Society of Optometrists glaucoma course proposal and schedule

The Board reviewed the amended glaucoma course proposal from the Massachusetts Society of Optometrists (MSO). The Board instructed staff to invite the MSO executive director to meet with the Board to discuss their concerns with the clinical and group discussion course components. The matter was deferred until a subsequent meeting.

- K. Keeley Application
  - New York State Optometry Board enhanced scope of practice
  - NERCOATS examination for licenses optometrists

The Board reviewed the licensure application for Dr. K. Keeley. The Board discussed whether Dr. Keeley's NERCOATS exam meets the requirements for licensure in

Massachusetts. The Board also reviewed and discussed Dr. Keeley's expanded scope of practice in the state of New York because of her successful completion of the New York State Certification Course for Prescribing Oral Therapeutic Pharmaceutical Agents. After further discussion, the Board determined Dr. Keeley met the application requirements for licensure in Massachusetts as well as the TPA+GC requirements by reciprocity. No vote was taken.

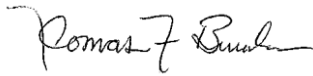
**Adjournment:**

**At 11:10 a.m., Dr. Hiura 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”; Mr. Hawley – “yes”.**

**65C Meeting Session:**

**At 11:10 a.m., Dr. Sewell moved to enter into closed session to conduct investigatory conferences pursuant to G.L. c. 112, §65C. Mr. Hawley seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Dr. Hiura – “yes”; Mr. Hawley – “yes”.**

Respectfully submitted,



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Thomas Burke, Executive Director

Documents used in the public session meeting:

- Agenda for March 19, 2025 Board meeting
- General session minutes for January 15, 2025
- URAMP Generic Practice and Supervision Criteria
- URAMP Operational Policy 24-08 Staff Action Policy
- ARBO Statement Re. Part II Scores
- Licensee E. Scharff Petition
- Massachusetts Society of Optometrists proposed glaucoma certification course
- New York glaucoma certification course
- Licensure Application - K. Keeley