

Board of Registration of Optometry

Public Session Minutes

Meeting Held by Phone/Video Conference

DATE: March 17, 2021 TIME: 10:00am

Board Members Present by Phone/Video:

Everett Sabree, OD
Rhonda Willinger, OD
Bruce Rakusin, OD
Jeanette Sewell, OD

DPL Staff Present by Phone/Video:

Jennifer Romeo-Porcaro, Board Counsel
Thomas F. Burke, Associate Executive Dir.

Board Members Not Present by Phone/Video:

Marianne Sarkis, Ph.D.

Pursuant to Governor Charles D. Baker's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, s. 20, dated March 12, 2020, all board members and staff appeared by videoconference.

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

Meeting called to order:

- Teleconference Procedure

Dr. Sabree welcomed members of the public. Mr. Burke reminded members and attendants of closed session to follow the public meeting.

Review of minutes:

- February 17, 2021
Dr. Rakusin moved to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2021 meeting. Dr. Sewell seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Rakusin – “yes” Dr. Sewell – “yes”.

Discussion:

- POLICY/ADVISORY: Topical and Oral Therapeutic Pharmaceutical Agents and Glaucoma Certification (TPA+GC)

The Board reviewed the revised draft policy/advisory for glaucoma certification of Optometrists in Massachusetts according to the following topics: methods of obtaining certifications, postgraduate residency programs, reciprocity, continuing education, and mandatory referral of patients.

- Methods of Obtaining Certification

The Board reviewed a waiver of the educational and exam requirements for optometrists licensed in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts who earned their degrees from an accredited school or college of optometry on and after May 31,

2016. Because Optometrists typically graduate prior to May 31, the Board took the following action:

Dr. Sewell moved to amend the date that the waiver of the certification requirements for recent graduates would be effective to May 1, 2016. Dr. Willinger seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Rakusin – “yes” Dr. Sewell – “yes”.

- Postgraduate Residency Programs

The Board agreed that licensed optometrists must complete an ACOE accredited residency program in ocular disease on or after June 30, 2011 to qualify for glaucoma certification in Massachusetts. The Board affirmed that optometrists who completed a residency program prior to June 30, 2011 or optometrists who did not complete a residency program in ocular disease be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine eligibility.

- Reciprocity

In review, the Board emphasized the need for applicants from other jurisdictions to meet the equivalent scope of practice and demonstrate adequate training in both topical and oral therapeutic pharmaceutical agents to qualify for reciprocal certification. After discussion, the Board instructed staff to add: “The Board may accept a letter of good standing from a jurisdiction with a substantially equivalent scope of practice in both glaucoma and oral therapeutic agents as a satisfactory requirement under this section. The applicant must be in good standing in that jurisdiction.” Further, the Board instructed staff to request an updated list of state requirements for glaucoma treatment to assist in determining eligibility for reciprocity. As a result of the change to the reciprocity requirements, the Board took the following action:

Dr. Sewell moved to accept the amendments to the section of the Policy on reciprocal licensure. Dr. Willinger seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Rakusin – “yes” Dr. Sewell – “yes”.

- Continuing Education course components

The Board agreed that the required three (3) hours of continuing education must meet criteria for COPE approved courses in glaucoma education.

- Mandatory Referral of Patients to Physicians or Other Qualified Providers

No comment.

Dr. Sewell moved to approve the POLICY/ADVISORY: Topical and Oral Therapeutic Pharmaceutical Agents and Glaucoma Certification (TPA+GC) as amended. Dr. Rakusin seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Rakusin – “yes” Dr. Sewell – “yes”.

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

- Educational Courses

The Board inquired about the criteria set forth in the statute regarding qualification for accreditation for course offerings. After brief discussion and public comment, the Board took the following action:

Dr. Sabree moved to table the discussion and review at subsequent Board meeting to occur March 31, 2021. Dr. Sewell seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Rakusin – “yes” Dr. Sewell – “yes”.

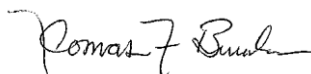
Cases, Investigative Conference, Settlement Offers [Closed session pursuant to G.L. c. 112 §65C]:

At 11:38 a.m., Dr. Sewell moved to enter into Investigative Conference [Closed Session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A § 18D]. Dr. Rakusin seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Rakusin – “yes” Dr. Sewell – “yes”.

During investigative conference, the Board voted to take the following action:

- 2020-001054-IT-ENF – closed, no action.
- **At 12:03 p.m., Dr. Rakusin moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Willinger seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Rakusin – “yes” Dr. Sewell – “yes”.**

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas Burke, Associate Executive Director

Documents used in the open meeting:

- Agenda for March 17, 2021 board meeting
- Draft Minutes of February 17, 2021 board meeting
- Draft Policy/Advisory on Topical and Oral Therapeutic Pharmaceutical Agents and Glaucoma Certification (TPA+GC)