

Board of Registration of Optometry

Public Session Minutes

Meeting Held by Phone/Video Conference

DATE: March 31, 2021 TIME: 9:30am

Board Members Present by Phone/Video:

Everett Sabree, OD
Rhonda Willinger, OD
Bruce Rakusin, OD
Jeanette Sewell, OD
Marianne Sarkis, Ph.D.

DPL Staff Present by Phone/Video:

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

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 9:39 AM by Dr. Sabree

Meeting called to order:

- Teleconference Procedure

Dr. Sabree welcomed members of the public. Dr. Sabree instructed all present that questions must be directed to Board chair.

Review of minutes:

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

Discussion:

- POLICY/ADVISORY: Topical and Oral Therapeutic Pharmaceutical Agents and Glaucoma Certification (TPA+GC)
 - Finalize education and exam requirements
- Section 2: Methods of Obtaining Certification

Attorney Romeo-Porcaro notified the Board that section two, “Methods of Obtaining Certification” was revised to remove the waiver of education and exam requirements for Optometrists who graduated after May 1, 2016 because the statute is silent on a specific look back date. The Board questioned whether the policy might include language to accept a degree in Optometry in lieu of the education requirement. Attorney Romeo-Porcaro added that the Policy did not obtain final approval, as of this date. **After discussion, Dr. Rakusin moved to delegate Dr. Sabree to work with Attorney Romeo-Porcaro on revision of this section of the policy. Dr. Sewell seconded. The**

motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sarkis – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Rakusin – “yes” Dr. Sewell – “yes”.

- Section 4: Reciprocity

Dr. Sewell moved to accept revised language of section four of the policy. Dr. Willinger seconded the motion. **The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sarkis – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Rakusin – “yes” Dr. Sewell – “yes”.**

- Section 3: Education and Exam Requirements

It was noted that the Massachusetts Society of Optometry (“MSO”) was to administer the Glaucoma and Orals certification course (didactic and clinical). The Executive Director of MSO, Dr. Wayne Zahka, stated that he would send the course outline to Board staff so that the Board may review at its next meeting. The course would comprise of ten (10) modules of four (4) hour components spanning a period of instruction and exam of no less than ninety days. The exam framework would be “case based” and delivered online with a required quiz at the conclusion of each module. The quizzes would be completed online and asynchronous with the final assessment score. The Board requested that MSO investigate what kind of documentation would be used to confirm completion of clinical training. After further discussion, the Board took the following action:

Dr. Sewell moved to include a forty-hour online didactic course.. Dr. Rakusin seconded the motion. **The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sarkis – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Rakusin – “yes” Dr. Sewell – “yes”.**

Dr. Rakusin moved that a score of “70” constitutes a passing exam score. Dr. Willinger seconded the motion. **The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sarkis – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Rakusin – “yes” Dr. Sewell – “yes”.**

In response to a question from the public, Dr. Zahka stated that the courses offered for certification will receive COPE approval. He noted that each examination will received continuing education credit.

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

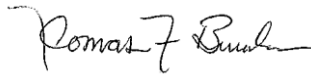
At 10:20 a.m., Dr. Rakusin moved to adjourn the public meeting, and to enter into Investigative Conference [Closed Session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A § 18D], and the open meeting would not resume. Dr. Sarkis seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sarkis – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Rakusin – “yes” Dr. Sewell – “yes”.

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

- Investigatory Intake – closed no action. Board instructed counsel to send letter.

At 11:00 a.m., Dr. Sewell moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Willinger seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sarkis – “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 31, 2021 board meeting
- Draft Minutes of March 17, 2021 board meeting
- Draft Policy/Advisory on Topical and Oral Therapeutic Pharmaceutical Agents and Glaucoma Certification (TPA+GC)
- Draft Application for Glaucoma Certification