

## **Board of Registration of Optometry**

### **General Session Minutes**

Meeting Held by Phone/Video Conference

DATE: May 21, 2025 TIME: 10:00am

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

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

Rhonda Willinger, OD

Julie Hiura, OD

Jeanette Sewell, OD

Michael Hawley

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

Meghan Bresnahan, Board Counsel

Thomas F. Burke, Executive Director

Margaret McKenna, Board Staff

Lisa Park, Board Intern

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

Everett Sabree, OD

Meeting called to order at 10:03 AM by Dr. Willinger

#### **Meeting called to order:**

- Roll Call Vote for Attendance

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

#### **Board Business:**

- Review of General Session Agenda: May 21, 2025

**Dr. Sewell moved to accept the general session agenda for May 21, 2025. Mr. Hawley seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “not present”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Dr. Hiura – “yes”; Michael Hawley “yes”.**

- Review of General Session Minutes: March 19, 2025

**Dr. Hiura moved to accept the general session minutes for March 19, 2025 as written. Mr. Hawley seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “not present”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Dr. Hiura – “yes”; Michael Hawley “yes”.**

- Onboarding for Board Members

The executive director welcomed new members to the Board and reviewed the regulations of the Bureau of Health Professions Licensure.

### **Correspondence:**

- Massachusetts Society of Optometrists – Opioid course offering **Read and filed.**
- Accreditation Council on Optometric Education – Recent Accreditation actions and decisions **Read and filed.**
- Kentucky College of Optometry – Expanded Therapeutic Procedures Certification **Read and filed.**

### **Discussion:**

- Massachusetts Society of Optometrists glaucoma course proposal

The Board met with Ms. Lindsay DeSantis, executive director of the Massachusetts Society of Optometrists (MSO), and Dr. Gary Chu, Vice President of Professional Affairs at the New England College of Optometry (NECO), to discuss proposed changes to the MSO directed glaucoma course. The Board raised questions about the 20-hour supervised clinical education component and whether there will be an option to complete the clinical component “in-person” as well as by remote participation. The Board inquired how case reviews will be handled if there is only one participant in the course. The Board requested an updated course proposal and agreed to defer further discussion until the subsequent meeting.

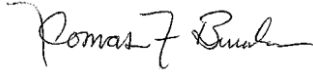
### **Adjournment:**

**At 10:42 a.m., Dr. Hiura moved to adjourn the public session meeting. Dr. Sewell seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “not present”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Dr. Hiura – “yes”; Michael Hawley “yes”.**

### **Executive Meeting Session:**

**At 10:44 a.m., Mr. Hawley moved to enter Executive Session as authorized pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(1) for the purpose of discussing the reputation, character, physical condition, or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual. Specifically, evaluate the Good Moral Character as required for registration for a pending applicant. Dr. Sewell seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “not present”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Dr. Hiura – “yes”; Mr. Hawley – “yes”.**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas F. Burke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T' and 'B'.

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Thomas F. Burke, Executive Director

Documents used in the public session meeting:

- Agenda for May 21, 2025 board meeting
- General session minutes for March 19, 2025 board meeting
- Massachusetts Society of Optometrists Opioid course for Massachusetts optometrists
- Recent accreditation actions from the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education
- Notice of Expanded Therapeutic Procedures Certification course sponsored by the Kentucky College of Optometry
- Onboarding presentation for board members