

Board of Registration in Optometry

General Session Minutes

Meeting Held by Phone/Video Conference

DATE: May 26, 2026 TIME: 11:30 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:

Rhonda Willinger, OD
Jeanette Sewell, OD
Julie Hiura, OD
Michael Hawley

DPH Staff Present by Phone/Video:

Samuel Leadholm, Board Counsel
Thomas Burke, Executive Director
Jonathan Dillon, Director of Policy
Lauren Nelson, Deputy Director
Gillian Coffey, Health Communications Mgr.
Margaret McKenna, Board Staff

Board Members Not Present by Phone/Video:

Everett Sabree, OD

Administrative Items:

Meeting called to order at 11:31 a.m. by Dr. Willinger

- Roll Call vote for attendance

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

Board Business:

- Review of general session agenda: May 26, 2026

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

- Review of general session minutes: March 18, 2026

Dr. Hiura moved to accept the general session minutes for March 18, 2026. Mr. Hawley seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Mr. Hawley– “yes”; Dr. Hiura “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “not present”.

- DPH 140 CMR 2.00 on requirements applicable to all health care providers licensed by boards within the Department of Public Health – VOTE

Director of Policy Jonathan Dillon offered a brief presentation on proposed regulation 140 CMR 2.00. The regulation would prohibit Massachusetts licensed health care providers from reporting medical debt to consumer reporting agencies and require health care providers in the Commonwealth to include a provision in contracts with debt collectors that prohibits debt collectors from reporting debt to consumer reporting agencies. Mr. Dillon requested board approval of the regulation to progress to public comment period.

Following the presentation, Dr. Sewell moved to approve DPH 140 CMR 2.00 to progress to public comment period. Dr. Hiura seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Mr. Hawley– “yes”; Dr. Hiura “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “not present”.

Discussion:

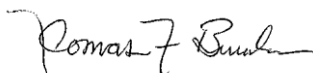
- Massachusetts Society of Optometrists course proposal for optometrists to fulfill continuing education hours requirement – VOTE

Following review, 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. Sewell seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Mr. Hawley– “yes”; Dr. Hiura “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “not present”.

Adjourn:

At 11:49 a.m., Dr. Hiura moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Sewell seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Mr. Hawley– “yes”; Dr. Hiura “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “not present”.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas F. Burke, Executive Director

Documents used in the public session meeting:

- General session agenda for May 26, 2026
- General session minutes for March 18, 2026
- DPH 140 CMR 2.00 – draft regulation (pre-comment)
- PowerPoint presentation of 140 CMR 2.00
- DPH Medical Debt Regulations – board cover memo (pre-comment)
- Course application for *Starting Dry Eye and Aesthetics in Your Practice* with course description and objectives submitted by the Massachusetts Society of Optometrists (MSO) to fulfill continuing education requirement for Massachusetts optometrists
- Course outline for *Starting Dry Eye and Aesthetics in Your Practice* submitted by the Massachusetts Society of Optometrists (MSO) to fulfill continuing education requirement for Massachusetts optometrists
- Resume for course presenter, Dr. Sabrina Gaan, O.D.