

Board of Registration of Optometry

Public Session Minutes

Meeting Held by Phone/Video Conference

DATE: May 19, 2021 TIME: 10:00am

Board Members Present by Phone/Video:

Rhonda Willinger, OD

Jeanette Sewell, OD

Bruce Rakusin, OD

DPL Staff Present by Phone/Video:

Jennifer Romeo-Porcaro, Board Counsel

Thomas F. Burke, Executive Director

Esther Laine, Deputy Commissioner of
Boards

Board Members Not Present

Everett Sabree, OD

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 10:07 AM by Dr. Willinger

Meeting called to order:

- Teleconference Procedure

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

Board Business

- Review of Minutes: April 21, 2021

Dr. Sewell moved to approve and amend the April 21, 2021 minutes, under discussion topic, "Review of Course Goals, Objectives and Curriculum", sentence two, to read "Specifically, the Board requested the addition of oral anti-infectives in module 10 and advised MSO to alter the title of "Practice Management" in module 10 to reflect better the incorporation of oral anti-infectives into the curriculum." Dr. Willinger seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – "yes"; Dr. Sarkis – "Not Present."; Dr. Sabree – "Not Present."; Dr. Rakusin – "yes" Dr. Sewell – "yes".

Discussion:

- POLICY: Therapeutic Pharmaceutical Agents and Glaucoma Certification (TPA + GC)

Attorney Romeo-Porcaro presented a revised version of the policy for the Board's discussion. She directed the Board to changes in Section 2, "Methods of Obtaining Certification" to distinguish requirements between licensed Massachusetts Optometrists and new applications for initial licensure: licensed Optometrists will submit evidence of completion of course and exam requirements and applicants for initial licensure will submit

evidence of graduation from an accredited school or college of Optometry and completion of exam requirements. Additionally, Optometrists who apply for licensure through endorsement from jurisdictions with equivalent scope of practice in both glaucoma and oral therapeutic agents may submit a letter of good standing for Board review. Applicants seeking licensure through endorsement shall fall under 246 CMR 2.01(2) (b).

After further discussion, Dr. Sewell moved to approve the policy. Dr. Rakusin seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sarkis – “Not Present.”; Dr. Sabree – “Not Present.”; Dr. Rakusin – “yes” Dr. Sewell – “yes”.

- Course Outline and Exam

Dr. Zahka of the Massachusetts Society of Optometrists (“MSO”) presented a course outline to the Board with revised title to module ten of the didactic course, as requested. In response to questions from the Board, Dr. Zahka reported that the anticipated date of the didactic course is July 31, 2021, with the exam scheduled to occur on October 13-17, 2021. Clinical education would begin in late November.

After discussion, Dr. Sewell moved to approve the forty-hour didactic course. Dr. Rakusin seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sarkis – “Not Present.”; Dr. Sabree – “Not Present.”; Dr. Rakusin – “yes” Dr. Sewell – “yes”.

- 20 hours of supervised clinical education

Upon review of the format for supervised clinical education. It was noted that Optometrists may complete with in-person supervision or in a virtual format designed and monitored by MSO. Board counsel asked MSO how it plans to track the education of Optometrists who choose independent supervision outside the MSO setting. In response, Dr. Zahka requested guidance from the Board on the specific documentation needed to provide documentation.

After discussion, Dr. Willinger moved to delegate Dr. Rakusin to work with Board counsel in developing documentation provided by MSO. Dr. Sewell seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sarkis – “Not Present.”; Dr. Sabree – “Not Present.”; Dr. Rakusin – “yes” Dr. Sewell – “yes”.

- Application Review – Tabled.

Correspondence:

- WZ – Read and filed. Board counsel requested that the Board revisit the topic of presenting a joint statement with MSO on policy and curriculum.
- AP – Read and filed.
- Additional Correspondences – Read and filed.

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

- Dr. Wayne Zahka requested that the Board consider future discussion on regulations for Optometrists to dispense medications to treat presbyopia in the Optometrist's office.
- Dr. David Schurgin requested an update on Board-approved entities for continuing education. Mr. Burke will report at the June meeting.

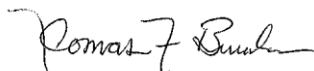
Executive Session [Closed session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21] to discuss reputation or character rather than professional competence:

At 11:04 a.m., Dr. Swell moved to exit open session and enter executive session pursuant to G. L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(1) to review reputation or character rather than professional competence, and then and the Open Meeting would not resume. Dr. Willinger seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sarkis – “Not Present.”; Dr. Sabree – “Not Present.”; Dr. Rakusin – “yes” Dr. Sewell – “yes”.

Adjournment:

At 11:35 a.m., Dr. Sewell moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Rakusin seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sarkis – “Not Present.”; Dr. Sabree – “Not Present.”; Dr. Rakusin – “yes” Dr. Sewell – “yes”.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas Burke, Executive Director

Documents used in the open meeting:

- Agenda for May 19, 2021 board meeting
- Draft Minutes of April 21, 2021 board meeting
- Draft Policy/Advisory on Topical and Oral Therapeutic Pharmaceutical Agents and Glaucoma Certification (TPA+GC)
- Draft Certification Course for Glaucoma and Orals
- Draft Glaucoma Certification Application
- Correspondences