

Board of Registration of Optometry

Public Session Minutes

Meeting Held by Conference Call

DATE: May 20, 2020 TIME: 10:00am

Board Members Present by Phone/Video:

Everett Sabree, OD

Rhonda Willinger, OD

Bruce Rakusin, OD

Marianne Sarkis, Ph.D.

Jeanette Sewell, OD

DPL Staff Present by Phone/Video:

Michael Hawley, Executive Director

Sheila York, Board Counsel

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

Review of minutes:

- March 25, 2020

Dr. Sewell moved to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2020 meeting as written. Dr. Willinger seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Rakusin – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sarkis – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”.

- April 15, 2020

Dr. Sewell moved to approve the public session and executive session minutes of the April 15, 2020 meeting as written. Dr. Willinger seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Rakusin – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sarkis – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”.

Report from Executive Director:

- ARBO Annual Report - Mr. Hawley reported that, in consultation with the Dr. Sabree, he compiled and submitted an Annual Report requested by ARBO
- Application and Jurisprudence Exam update – Mr. Hawley reported that the test centers used for the Board’s jurisprudence exam have begun to reopen and applicants are being scheduled to sit for the exam.

Report from Board Counsel:

- Attorney York reported that, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, revisions are being made to the healthcare reform bill.

Discussion:

- Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic:

The Board held a brief discussion about the reopening of offices in light of the phased reopening as well as various sources of guidance on reopening.

Open Session for topics not reasonably anticipated by the chair within 48 hours of the meeting:

The Board reviewed a request from the Massachusetts Society of Optometrists (“MSO”) for approval of CE course.

Dr. Rakusin moved to approve the MSO request to approve the course entitled Glaucoma Surgery 2020: The Old and the New for CE credit. Dr. Sewell seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Rakusin – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sarkis – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”.

At 10:44 am, Dr. Sewell moved to adjourn the public meeting and enter investigative session [Closed Session pursuant M.G.L. c. 112, § 65C] to review the following new cases: 2019-000163-it-enf, and OP 2020-000103-it-enf. Dr. Rakusin seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Rakusin – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sarkis – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”.

During the closed session, the board took the following actions:

- OP 2020-000103-it-enf Tabled.
- OP 2019-000163-it-enf Dismissed.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Hawley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Michael Hawley, Executive Director

Documents used in the open meeting:

- Agenda for May 20, 2019 board meeting
- Minutes of March 25, 2020 board meeting

- Minutes of April 15, 2020 board meeting
- ARBO Questions for 2019 Annual Report, dated 4/7/2020
- Board 2019 report to ARBO
- Memo from ARBO announcing cancellation of Annual meeting, dated April 17, 2020
- OP Request from MSO for CE approval, received 5/18/2020
- OP CV of instructor for MSO CE course, received 5/18/2020
- OP Course Outline Glaucoma Surgery 2020, received 5/18/2020

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