

# **Board of Registration of Optometry**

## **Public Session Minutes**

Meeting Held by Phone/Video Conference

DATE: June 30, 2021 TIME: 10:00am

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

Rhonda Willinger, OD

Jeanette Sewell, OD

Everett Sabree, OD

Bruce Rakusin, OD

Marianne Sarkis, Ph.D. Dr. Sarkis arrived at 10:34 a.m.

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

Jennifer Romeo-Porcaro, Board Counsel

Thomas F. Burke, Executive Director

Meeting called to order at 10:04 AM by Dr. Sabree

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

- Teleconference Procedures

Mr. Burke reviewed protocols for meeting via electronic means.

### **Board Business**

- Review of Public Session Minutes: June 16, 2021

Tabled.

### **Discussion:**

- Glaucoma Certification Policy and Application Update

Attorney Romeo-Porcaro reported that the glaucoma certification policy is posted on the Board's website and reviewed changes to the certification application. **Dr. Sewell moved to accept the application for glaucoma certification. 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”.**

- Reciprocity Applicants

The Board discussed amending the policy regarding “**Dual Licensure.**”

**Whereby licensees with a Massachusetts license and another U.S. jurisdiction may qualify for certification under a dual licensure. The Board will review these applications on a case-by-case basis. The Massachusetts licensee must have the following:**

- 1. current and continuous licensure in another U.S. jurisdiction; and,**
- 2. could demonstrate a substantially equivalent scope of practice in that jurisdiction**

Ms. Romeo-Porcaro advised the Board that based on the reading of the statute Massachusetts optometrists licensed in other jurisdictions do not qualify for certification by reciprocity. She noted that criteria for certification in other jurisdictions may conflict with Massachusetts requirements and noted that Massachusetts optometrists should register for the course administered by the Massachusetts Society of Optometrists (“MSO”). Dr. Sewell inquired whether the registration requirements for postgraduate residencies might apply to Massachusetts optometrists who are glaucoma certified in other jurisdictions pursuant to M.G.L. c. 112, § 68C. Dr. Rakusin concurred and proposed that the Board accept a completion certificate as evidence of glaucoma certification in another jurisdiction with a specified cut-off date.

**After discussion, Dr. Sewell moved that optometrists seeking certification with a dual license (Massachusetts and another jurisdiction) who are currently and continuously licensed in the other jurisdiction with a substantially equivalent scope of practice in the treatment of glaucoma be reviewed on a case-by-case basis for certification in Massachusetts. 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”.**

Ms. Romeo-Porcaro noted that the Board policy would be updated to reflect the Board’s vote and the application will be amended. She stated that both documents will be reviewed for final approval.

- Course Registration Deadline

Dr. Zahka of MSO addressed the Board regarding the layout of the course curriculum. He stated that the course modules must be taken in sequence, but acknowledged that participants may “catch up” on course material by taking missing modules online. In response to further questions by the Board, he agreed to move the final registration deadline to August 20, 2021. He confirmed that MSO will provide a full refund to applicants (minus transaction fees) who qualify for an exemption from the course requirement.

- DPA Type Class

The Board agreed that Massachusetts optometrists licensed with “DPA” type-class must obtain “TPA” certification prior to receiving glaucoma certification. DPA optometrists should consult TPA instructions for certification.

- Exam Format Presentation (GC)

Dr. Gary Chu of New England College of Optometry (“NECO”) presented an online review of the testing format for quizzes offered at the conclusion of each course module. Dr. Chu noted that format will consist of multiple choice questions designed to maximize learning. Quizzes will be offered on Saturdays and Sundays according to the course outline. He noted that optometrists will have two hours to complete the final course exam.

**Dr. Sewell moved to accept the exam format. 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”.**

- CE Board Approved Entities

Mr. Burke reported that Harvard Medical School (“HMS”) and New England College of Optometry (“NECO”) have renewed their agreements as approved Continuing Education entities for Massachusetts optometrists. Tufts University School of Medicine declined to renew the agreement and the Board instructed Mr. Burke to provide a written acknowledgment. Dr. Chu offered to send Mr. Burke the contact for Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Science (“MCPHS”).

**Correspondences:**

- DV – Read and filed
- DG – Read and filed
- AP – Read and filed.
- DT – Read and filed.

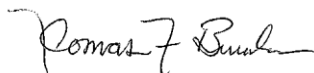
**Open session for topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of meeting:**

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

**Adjournment:**

**At 12:20 p.m., Dr. Willinger moved to adjourn the 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”.**

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas Burke, Executive Director

Documents used in the open meeting:

- Agenda for June 30, 2021 board meeting
- Draft Glaucoma Certification Application
- Correspondence related to Continuing Education Entities & Signed Agreements
- Correspondences