

Board of Registration of Optometry

Public Session Minutes

Meeting Held by Phone/Video Conference

DATE: July 14, 2021 TIME: 10:00am

Board Members Present by Phone/Video:

Rhonda Willinger, OD

Jeanette Sewell, OD

Everett Sabree, OD

Bruce Rakusin, OD

DPL Staff Present by Phone/Video:

Jennifer Romeo-Porcaro, Board Counsel

Thomas F. Burke, Executive Director

Board Members Not Present

Marianne Sarkis, Ph.D.

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

Dr. Sewell moved to accept the minutes as written. Dr. Willinger seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sarkis – “Not Present.”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Rakusin – “Abstain.”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”.

- Review of Public Session Minutes: June 30, 2021

Dr. Sewell moved to accept the minutes as written. Dr. Willinger seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sarkis – “Not Present.”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Rakusin – “Abstain.”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”.

Discussion:

- Glaucoma Certification Policy and Application Update

Attorney Romeo-Porcaro reported that the option for glaucoma certification by “dual licensure” received final approval. Mr. Burke reported that the application will be updated to reflect the dual licensure option. Ms. Romeo-Porcaro stated the requirements for dual licensure applies to Massachusetts licensees who hold current and continuous licensure in another U.S. jurisdiction;

and could demonstrate a substantially equivalent scope of practice in that jurisdiction. Applications will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

- Dual Licensure

Dr. Sewell moved to delegate Dr. Rakusin to review “dual licensure” applications on a case-by case basis. Dr. Willinger seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sarkis – “Not Present.”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Rakusin – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”.

- Reciprocity

In discussion, the Board agreed that applicants for certification by reciprocity or endorsement must hold licensure in a jurisdiction outside of Massachusetts to meet eligibility requirements per 246 CMR 2.01(2)(b). Pursuant to M.G.L. c 112, § 68C(c), the Board noted that optometrists seeking licensure in Massachusetts and certification by endorsement must demonstrate equivalent didactic and supervised clinical education and equivalent scope of practice in both glaucoma and TPA with authority to treat in that jurisdiction.

After discussion, Dr. Rakusin moved to delegate Dr. Willinger to review applications by reciprocity on a case-by-case basis. Dr. Sewell seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sarkis – “Not Present.”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Rakusin – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”.

- Residency

The Board discussed the substance of the affidavit for optometrists who completed a postgraduate residency program before June 30, 2011 in ocular disease. Dr. Sewell suggested that in the affidavit the Residency Director or Supervisor should attest that, during his or her residency, the optometrist received the equivalent of 40 hours didactic and 20 hours clinical training in treatment of glaucoma and use of oral medications. Activities such as case discussions, reviewing treatment options, researching medications (looking up side effects, indications and contraindications), literature reviews and accessing appropriate clinical references would meet the didactic criteria. Residents must demonstrate that they actively managed at least 20 clinical cases with clinical supervision to meet the 20 hour clinical portion.

The Board agreed that residents applying for glaucoma certification who completed a residency program before June 30, 2011 but not in ocular disease should be reviewed by the entire Board of Optometry.

- New Applicants

The Board noted that applicants for licensure must submit a completed application, official transcript, and NBEO score reports for Parts I, II, III, and TMOD.

- Massachusetts Optometrists

Dr. Zahka of the Massachusetts Society of Optometrists (“MSO”) reported that approximately five hundred Massachusetts optometrists have registered for the Glaucoma and Orals Certification course. Mr. Burke agreed to provide the names of optometrists who are eligible for certification by dual licensure and exempt from taking the course.

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

In response to the Board’s questions regarding eligibility for certification, Board counsel advised that only Massachusetts optometrists that hold TPA type class are eligible to take the MSO course for glaucoma certification.

Dr. Rakusin moved that Massachusetts optometrists and optometrists in other jurisdictions must be TPA certified prior to taking the Massachusetts glaucoma certification course. Dr. Swell seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sarkis – “Not Present.”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Rakusin – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”.

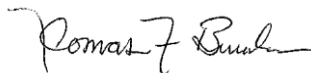
Cases, Investigative Conference, Settlement Offers [Closed session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 112 §65C]:

Tabled.

Adjournment:

At 10:55 a.m., Dr. Rakusin moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Sewell seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sarkis – “Not Present.”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Rakusin – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas Burke, Executive Director

Documents used in the open meeting:

- Agenda for July 14, 2021 board meeting

- Public Session Minutes for June 16, 2021 and June 30, 2021 Board meetings
- Glaucoma Certification Application
- Glaucoma Policy