

Board of Registration of Optometry

Public Session Minutes

Meeting Held by Phone/Video Conference

DATE: August 21, 2024 TIME: 10:00am

A public meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Optometry (“the Board”) was held via Videoconference and Conference Call pursuant to section 40 of chapter 2 of the acts of 2023, signed into law on March 29, 2023.

Board Members Present by Phone/Video:

Rhonda Willinger, OD

Everett Sabree, OD

Jeanette Sewell, OD

Julie Hiura, OD

Board Members Not Present by

Phone/Video:

None

DPH Staff Present by Phone/Video:

Jaqueline Petrillo, Board Counsel

Thomas F. Burke, Executive Director

Lauren McShane, Chief Investigator

Margaret McKenna, Board Staff

Isaac Badner, Board Intern

Jonathan Dillon, Director of Policy

Lauren Nelson, Deputy Director

Edmond Taglieri, Pharmacist, Nursing Home Administrator

Mark Waksmonski, SARP Coordinator, Board of Registration in Nursing

Gillian Coffey, Health Communications Manager

Sophia Emidy, Regulatory Affairs Intern

Meeting called to order at 10:09 AM by Dr. Sabree

Meeting called to order:

- Roll Call Vote for Attendance

Board chair Dr. Sabree established a quorum via calling attendance: Everett Sabree, Jeanette Sewell, Rhonda Willinger, and Julie Hiura. All members participated remotely via Webex by Cisco.

Board Business:

- Review of Public Session Agenda: August 21, 2024

Prior to the vote, Counsel advised the Board that the discussion topic on the glaucoma certification upgrade application is deferred. **Dr. Sewell moved to accept the public session agenda as amended. Dr. Willinger seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Dr. Hiura – “yes”.**

- Review of Public Session Minutes: June 12, 2024

Dr. Sewell moved to approve the public session minutes as written. Dr. Willinger seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Dr. Hiura – “yes”.

- Presentation on URAMP, alternative-to-discipline monitoring program for all licensed health professionals in Massachusetts.

Jonathan Dillon, Director of Policy, and other advisory committee members met with the Board to discuss implementation of the Unified Recovery and Monitoring Program (URAMP) at the Bureau of Health Professions Licensure (BHPL). Mr. Dillon explained how URAMP allows licensed professionals, when referred by licensing boards, to voluntarily enter the program as an alternative to discipline through a supervised monitoring program as they address substance use disorder (SUD) and/or mental health care recovery goals. URAMP monitors the individual’s compliance with recovery and restoration activities so that licensed professionals who successfully complete the program may return to their professional practice. Upon rollout of the program, URAMP will be available to licensees of all 21 BHPL boards. Mr. Dillon asked the board members to consider specific return-to-practice conditions they would recommend for their licensees and encouraged them to discuss suitable practice conditions at subsequent board meetings.

- Department of Public Health recognition – Dr. Bruce Rakusin O.D.

Tabled.

Correspondence:

- NBEO – Part III (PEPS)

Read and filed.

- NBEO Part III for licenses lapsed of more than five years

The Board reviewed a correspondence from the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO) on the procedure for individual licensed optometrists who may be required to take an examination for license reactivation purposes. Read and filed.

Discussion

- Policy on telemedicine in optometry

Mr. Burke notified the Board that the policy remains under review. The policy will be presented to the Board after all necessary approval is received.

- Glaucoma certification upgrade application

Deferred.

Adjournment:

At 11:17 a.m., Dr. Sewell moved to adjourn the public session meeting. Dr. Hiura seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Dr. Hiura – “yes”.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas Burke, Executive Director

Documents used in the public session meeting:

- Agenda for August 21, 2024 board meeting
- Public session minutes for June 12, 2024
- Unified Recovery and Monitoring Program (URAMP) PowerPoint presentation
- NBEO response to Part III exam as proficiency for optometrists in lapsed status
- Part III PEPS additional information FV