

## **Board of Registration of Optometry**

### **Public Session Minutes**

Meeting Held by Phone/Video Conference

DATE: August 19, 2020 TIME: 10:00am

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

Everett Sabree, OD

Rhonda Willinger, OD

Marianne Sarkis, Ph.D.

Jeanette Sewell, OD

Bruce Rakusin, OD

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

Michael Hawley, Executive Director

Lynn Read, Board Counsel

Sheila York, Board Counsel

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

#### **Review of minutes:**

- June 17, 2020

**Dr. Sewell moved to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2020 meeting as written. Dr. Willinger seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sarkis – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Rakusin – “Abstain”**

#### **Report from Executive Director:**

- Mr. Hawley reported that board staff continues to work mainly from home with two staff going in to the office twice a week for processes that require that staff be on-site.

#### **Introduction of New Board Counsel, Lynn Read:**

- Attorney Read has been assigned as counsel for the Optometry Board, replacing Sheila York. Ms. Read briefly introduced herself to the Board.

#### **Report from Board Counsels, Lynn Read & Sheila York:**

- Telehealth Policy: Attorney York reported that the Telehealth Policy adopted by the Board is awaiting administration approval to be posted.
- Healthcare reform bill: Attorney York reported that the administration asked for feedback regarding Board support of the optometry related provisions in Senate bill 2796. She indicated the Board’s support of those provisions. Dr. Zahka of the MSO told the board that the Senate bill passed with no issues. However, the House of Representatives passed H4888, a version of the bill that was stripped of any optometry scope of practice language. Both bills are going to conference committee. MSO will continue to lobby to get the optometry scope of practice language reinserted.
- Pending legal matters: Nothing to report.

#### **Discussion:**

- Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic:
  - MA State reopening and disinfection protocols for optometry offices: The Board held a brief discussion about the availability of various sources of guidance on reopening and disinfection protocols. Some sources are linked on the various state web pages. The Board asked staff to find out whether the board's web pages can be modified to clearly list such sources and, if so, to have request such modifications.
  - Other impacts: Nothing to discuss.

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

None.

**At 10:26 am, Dr. Rakusin moved to adjourn the public meeting and enter investigative session [Closed Session pursuant M.G.L. c. 112, § 65C] to review new cases, after which the Board would not resume the open meeting. 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”.**

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

- |                         |           |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| • OP 2020-000550-it-enf | Dismissed |
| • OP 2020-000103-it-enf | Dismissed |
| • OP 2020-000629-it-enf | Dismissed |
| • Investigative Intake  | Tabled    |

Respectfully submitted,

---

Michael Hawley, Executive Director

Documents used in the open meeting:

- Agenda for August 19, 2019 board meeting
- Minutes of June 17, 2019 board meeting