

Board of Registration of Optometry

General Session Minutes

Meeting Held by Phone/Video Conference

DATE: September 18, 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

DPH Staff Present by Phone/Video:

Jaqueline Petrillo, Board Counsel

Thomas F. Burke, Executive Director

Margaret McKenna, Board Staff

Isaac Badner, Board Intern

Board Members Not Present by

Phone/Video:

Julie Hiura, OD

Meeting called to order at 10:03 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, and Rhonda Willinger. All members participated remotely via Webex by Cisco.

Board Business:

- Review of General Session Agenda: September 18, 2024

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 – “Not Present”.

- Review of General Session Minutes: August 21, 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 – “Not Present”.

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

The Board welcomed former member, Bruce Rakusin, O.D., to receive a citation for his many years of work with the Board. Mr. Burke read the citation into the record: “The

Massachusetts Department of Public Health recognizes Bruce L. Rakusin for his dedication, commitment and twenty-five years of public service to the Board of Registration in Optometry and to the residents of the Commonwealth.” Dr. Rakusin thanked the Board and members of the public in attendance for this recognition.

Discussion

- Review of current optometry monitoring requirements and practice restrictions

The Board reviewed the current monitoring requirements for Massachusetts optometrists who enter into disciplinary consent agreements as well as supervisor reports for other professions at the Bureau of Health Professions Licensure. The optometry requirements for monitoring offer specific guidelines to individuals who consent to oversee the licensed optometrist’s practice according to the terms of the consent agreement, and the supervisory reports provide checklists to ensure the licensee’s compliance with required policies and procedures. Ms. Petrillo noted that the Board may consider placing limitations on access to controlled substances and different levels of return to work that would increase access. Ms. Petrillo advised the Board to offer additional recommendations so that they may be adapted and implemented in the URAMP monitoring program.

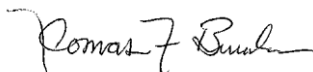
- Recommendations for URAMP requirements and practice restrictions for optometrist

The Board further discussed possible restrictions and return-to-work conditions for optometrists who choose to enter URAMP as an alternative to discipline. After brief discussion, the Board agreed to table the topic so that they may consider possible work conditions at a subsequent meeting.

Adjournment:

At 10:27 a.m., Dr. Sewell moved to adjourn the public session meeting. Dr. Willinger seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Dr. Hiura – “Not Present”.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas Burke, Executive Director

Documents used in the public session meeting:

- Agenda for September 18, 2024 Board meeting
- Public session minutes for August 21, 2024
- Job Performance Report

- Job Supervisor Acceptance Participant
- Monitoring Instructions for Optometrists
- Nurse Employment Supervisor Report
- URAMP PowerPoint presentation