

Board of Registration of Optometry

Public Session Minutes

Meeting Held by Phone/Video Conference

DATE: September 15, 2021 TIME: 10:00am

Board Members Present by Phone/Video:

Rhonda Willinger, OD

Jeanette Sewell, OD

Everett Sabree, OD

DPL Staff Present by Phone/Video:

Charles Kilb, Board Counsel

Thomas F. Burke, Executive Director

Board Members Not Present by Phone/Video:

Bruce Rakusin, OD

Marianne Sarkis, Ph.D.

Meeting called to order at 10:05 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: August 18, 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 – “Not Present.”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”.

Compliance Monitoring:

- S. Tittl – Board tabled to review consent agreement and discuss at subsequent meeting.

Discussion:

- Glaucoma Certification Course

Dr. Zahka of the Massachusetts Society of Optometrists (“MSO”) addressed the Board regarding the exam format for the certification course. MSO advised that the current number of 100 questions should be reduced in order to provide adequate time for applicants to respond in a comprehensive manner. MSO requested that the Board consider both a reduction in the number of questions and a revised time frame. MSO noted that some applicants cannot attend the exam on the scheduled calendar date and requested Board advice. The Board instructed MSO to provide alternate testing dates on a case-by-case basis.

After discussion, Dr. Sewell moved to allow MSO to use sixty to seventy exam questions administered in a two-hour time frame. Dr. Willinger seconded. The motion passed on a

roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sarkis – “Not Present.”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Rakusin – “Not Present.”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”.

- Glaucoma Certification Applications

Mr. Burke reported that staff has processed approximately 100 applications for glaucoma certification and notified Massachusetts optometrists of outcome. He presented a draft of the completion certificate for Board review and noted that he is engaged with IT to conduct testing to show glaucoma certification on electronic public licensing database. The Board advised Mr. Burke and Attorney Kilb to seek guidance from the Department of Public Health (“DPH”) before sending certificates to approved Massachusetts optometrists. The Board requested to meet with DPH officials regarding regulatory changes for prescriptions.

Correspondence:

- Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (“ARBO”) – Read and filed.
- AP – Read and filed. Board advised that it is not within in the Board’s power to amend the statute for glaucoma certification in Massachusetts.

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

The Board advised members of the public who are eligible to take the required course administered by the Massachusetts Society of Optometrists to enroll when course is offered next year.

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

At 11:53 a.m., Dr. Sewell moved to enter into Investigative Conference [Closed Session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A § 18D]. Dr. Willinger seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sarkis – “Not Present.”; Dr. Sabree – “yes.”; Dr. Rakusin – “Not Present.”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”.

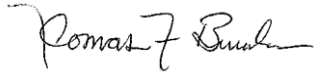
During investigative conference, the Board voted to take the following action:

- 2020-000370-IT-ENF – Dismissed.

Adjournment:

At 12.13 p.m., Dr. Sewell moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Sabree seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sarkis – “Not Present.”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Rakusin – “Not Present.”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas Burke, Executive Director

Documents used in the open meeting:

- Agenda for September 15, 2021 board meeting
- Public Session Minutes for August 18, 2021 Board meeting
- Correspondences