

Board of Registration of Optometry

Public Session Minutes

1000 Washington 1st Floor Room 1C, Boston, MA 02118

DATE: March 21, 2018 TIME: 10:00am

Board Members Present:

Everett Sabree, OD
Bruce Rakusin, OD
Rhonda Willinger, OD

DPL Staff:

Michael Hawley, Executive Director
Sheila York, Board Counsel
Thomas Burke, Assoc. Executive Director

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

Evacuation Procedure:

Mr. Hawley discussed safety procedures in the event of emergency.

Review Minutes:

Minutes of December 20, 2017 meeting reviewed and one minor typographical error amended.

Dr Rakusin moved to accept the minutes as amended. Dr Willinger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Appointment of New Board Member, Jeanette Sewell:

Although Dr. Sewell was unable to attend this month's meeting, the Board welcomed her and looks forward to working with her.

Report from Executive Director:

1. Applications appear to be being processed properly and transmitted by PCS.
2. New licensees were incorrectly informed by congratulatory letter from PCS that they were not responsible for CEs in the year they were licensed. However that stipulation only applies to new licensees who receive the new license in their year of graduation from optometry school. Thus, a person who graduated from optometry school in 2017 but received his/her license in 2018 would be responsible for the 2018 CE requirement. The Board will not expect a licensee who can document that he/she received notification from PCS that the licensee did not need to take CEs in his or her first year of licensure to comply with the CE requirement for that year. The Executive Director and Board Counsel will make revisions to the letter and direct PCS to start sending the revised letter.

Report from Board Counsel:

- Reciprocity/Endorsement evaluations and process

- Email from Jessica Lopez regarding examination requirements in 1985. The Board discussed the following:
 - If person licensed in Puerto Rico in 1985 has not taken all currently required exams and seeks licensure via reciprocity, she needs to demonstrate, among other things, that qualifications in PR in 1985 were equivalent or exceeded those in MA. What exams were required in MA in 1985?
 - In 1985 graduate seeking initial licensure at base level in MA would have to pass Parts 1 and 2 of the NBEO (National Board of Examiners in Optometry) Exam and a state-administered practical examination.
 - Thus, if current PR applicant seeks only to obtain base level reciprocity she would need to show that in 1985 she passed Part I, Part II of NBEO and a practical examination equivalent to the examination required by Massachusetts. If also seeking DPA or TPA certification, she would need to meet additional requirements.
 - Eventually, the Massachusetts clinical examination was replaced by NERCOATS, which was a regionally-accepted practical exam known as Northeast Regional Clinical Optometric Assessment Testing Service. It has since been replaced by NBEO Part 3, which is a national practical exam.
 - The MA Board would need to know what were the requirements in Puerto Rico when she was licensed in 1985? Find out requirements for her license.
 - Also, applicant would need to demonstrate that PR affords similar reciprocity privileges to a MA optometrist licensed in 1985. Board Counsel will respond.
- Legislative update - no news

Discussion:

ARBO request for information for North Carolina Board – Chalazion versus pleomorphic adenoma

- Read and filed – no response.

Wall Certificates:

- Ryan Racette, OD

Open Session for topics not reasonably anticipated: none

Closed Session per M.G.L. c. 112, section 65C:

10:45pm, Dr. Sabree moved to enter into closed session to discuss the following investigative matter: 2018-000064-it-enf and consider changes to investigation forms and procedures. Dr. Willinger seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

After the closed session, the open meeting resumed.

During the closed session the Board voted to take the following actions:

- 2018-000064-it-enf – Forward to the office of prosecutions
- Approved new investigation forms and procedures with revisions.

Executive Session- Review of Examination Questions [(Closed Session Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) to comply with G.L. c. 4, s. 7 para. 26(1)]

Dr Rakusin moved to enter executive session to review questions from the Board's jurisprudence exam. [(Closed Session Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) to comply with G.L. c. 4, s. 7 para. 26(1)]. Dr. Willinger seconded the motion. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Rakusin: "Yes"; Dr. Willinger: "Yes"; Dr. Sabree: "Yes."

The Chair anticipated that executive session would last approximately 40 minutes and that there are no additional public topics on the agenda.

After the executive session, the open meeting resumed.

Motion to adjourn made by Dr Rakusin seconded by Dr Sabree motion passed at 12:40pm

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Hawley, Executive Director

Documents used in the open meeting:

- Agenda for March 21, 2018 board meeting
- Draft Minutes of December 20, 2017 board meeting
- ARBO request for information for North Carolina Board
- Wall certificate for Ryan Racette, OD.