

**South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR)**  
**Board of Examiners in Optometry**  
**Board Minutes**  
**May 7, 2014**  
**Synergy Business Park**  
**110 Centerview Drive, Kingstree Building, Room 105**  
**Columbia, South Carolina**

Public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the Board office and provided to any requesting persons, organizations, or news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the 1976 South Carolina Code, as amended, relating to the Freedom of Information Act.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dr. Thomas E. Tucker, President  
Dr. Derek Van Veen, Vice President  
Dr. Peter V. Candela  
Dr. James E. Vaught  
Dr. William W. Spearman  
Isaac L. Johnson, Jr., Esquire, Public Member

**VACANT POSITION:**

Public Member (One)

**SCLLR STAFF PRESENT:**

Mary Sowell League, Esquire, Office of Advice Counsel  
Angie M. Combs, Administrator  
*For IRC Report:*  
David Love, Chief Investigator, Office of Investigations and Enforcement  
Lori Graham, Investigator, Office of Investigations and Enforcement  
Pleas Faglie, Investigator, Office of Investigations and Enforcement

**PRESENT:**

Kathryn B. Bostrom, Professional Court Reporter  
*For Recovering Professional Program Update:*  
Frank Sheheen, RPP Program Director  
Richard Wilson, Esquire, RPP

**CALL TO ORDER:** Dr. Tucker called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m. and declared a quorum.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** A **motion** was made by Dr. Van Veen to accept the order of the May 7, 2014 Agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF ABSENT BOARD MEMBER(S):** All members present.

**APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 5, 2014 MEETING MINUTES:** A **motion** was made by Mr. Johnson to accept the February 5, 2014 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Dr. Van Veen and carried unanimously.

**OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT (OIE) REPORT:** Mr. Love presented the OIE Statistical Report. The Board accepted this report as information.

**INVESTIGATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE (IRC) REPORT:** Mr. Love provided the IRC Report from the April 29, 2014 meeting. It was recommended to dismiss Case #2013-6 and Case #2013-12. A **motion** was made by Dr. Van Veen to accept the IRC recommendations to dismiss Cases #2013-6, #2013-12. The motion was seconded by Dr. Spearman and carried unanimously. It was recommended to dismiss with a Cease and Desist Order Case #2014-1. A **motion** was made by Dr. Candela to accept the IRC recommendation to dismiss with a Cease and Desist Order Case #2014-1. The motion was seconded by Dr. Van Veen and carried unanimously.

**RECOVERING PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM (RPP) UPDATE** – Mr. Sheheen and Mr. Wilson provided a review to the Board concerning the South Carolina RPP. This is a monitoring program set up to help licensed health professionals with problems related to alcohol and/or other drug issues. The S.C. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation is under contract with the SCRPP. The Board appreciated the review and accepted their report as information.

*Hearing (3:39 p.m. – 3:58 p.m.)*

**HEARING - MOTION FOR RELEASE FROM TERMS AND CONDITIONS** - A hearing was conducted concerning Dr. Paul Kyle Coppola's request to be released from terms and conditions of a July 27, 2006 Order.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** A **motion** was made by Dr. Spearman to go into Executive Session to deliberate the request. The motion was seconded by Dr. Candela and unanimously carried. No actions or votes were taken.

A **motion** was made by Dr. Spearman to come out of Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Johnson and unanimously carried.

A **motion** was made by Dr. Vaught that Dr. Coppola be released from the terms and conditions listed in the July 27, 2006 Order. The motion was seconded by Dr. Van Veen and unanimously carried.

#### **REPORTS / INFORMATION**

Information was provided concerning the following topics:

- Licensee Totals – there are 848 S.C. licensed optometrists; 531 practice in South Carolina.
- Branch Registration – A **motion** was made by Dr. Vaught to approve the Branch Registration Application for Dr. James Grant. The motion was seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried unanimously.
- Financial Report provided and accepted as information.
- Office of General Counsel (OGC) Report – one case is residing in OGC.
- Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO) Annual Meeting – this national meeting will be held in Philadelphia from 06/22-24/2014.
- New Optometry School – University of Pikeville, located in Kentucky, will open the 22<sup>nd</sup> optometry school in the United States.

**Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO) Regional Meeting** – Dr. Tucker attended this meeting; the Board accepted his report as information.

**Continuing Education (CE) Course Approvals** – No courses were presented for approval.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Online Eye Examination** – Discussion ensued.

**S.C. Contact Lens Distribution Facility / Inquiry** – A question was presented asking if a license would be required to distribute contact lenses from a facility located in South Carolina; the contact lenses would be ordered online. Information will be sent informing the inquirer that a license is required and the types of licenses that can cover this activity.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No comments made.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The remaining Board meeting dates for 2014 are August 6 and October 29.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

A **motion** was made by Dr. Spearman, seconded by Dr. VanVeen, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Tucker adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

*These minutes are a record of the official actions taken by the Board and a summary of the meeting provided by Angie M. Combs, Administrator. Minutes are presented to the Board for final approval.*