

SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTICIANRY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 7, 2024 at 9:00 AM
110 Centerview Drive,
Kingstree Building, Pee Dee Room
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

Public Notice of this meeting was properly posted at the Opticianry Board Office, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, and provided to all requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, Section 30-4-80.

Call to Order

Mr. Keith Hayes called the meeting of the SC Board of Examiner’s in Opticianry to order at 9:07 am.

1. Approval of Agenda

Emily Mikell made a motion to approve the agenda. Grant Brown seconded the motion and it carried.

2. Board Mission and Member Statistics – Keith Hayes

Mr. Keith Hayes read the Board mission statement.

3. Introduction of Board Members

Board members participating in the meeting were:

- Keith Hayes
- Grant Brown
- Emily Mikell
- J. Hollis Inabinet
- Daniel Gosnell
- Ronald Harbert

LLR Staff in attendance; April Howe, Lead Investigator; Mary League Esq., Advice Counsel; Donnell Jennings, Asst. Deputy Director, OIE; Patrice Deas, Board Executive; Tajuana Hall, Program Coordinator I; Billie Chambers, DOTS

Others in attendance: Robin Reibold, Court Reporter.

4. Approval of Excused Absences

There were no absences.

5. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

- a. August 8, 2024

Grant Brown made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections for the August 8, 2024 meeting. Daniel Gosnell seconded the motion and it carried.

6. Administrative Report

- a. OIE Report – For Information Only- April Howe, Lead Investigator

April Howe reported from January 1, 2024 to date they have received 3 complaints. There is 1 active investigation, and 2 closed cases.

- b. IRC Report – For Approval – April Howe, Lead Investigator

April Howe reported there was 1 case for dismissal for the Board’s approval. Hollis Inabinet made a motion to approve the case for dismissal. Grant Brown seconded the motion and it carried.

- c. ODC Report – For Information Only - Shelby Sutusky, Esq.

This report was given by April Howe. There are 0 open cases, 0 pending hearings and agreements, 0 pending closure, 0 closed and 0 appeals.

7. Board Executive Report – Patrice Deas

- a. Financial Report

Patrice Deas reported as of July 31, 2024, the cash balance is \$241,163.04.

- b. Total Number of Licensees

Patrice Deas reported there are currently 574 Active opticians; 272 Active contact lens dispensing licensees; 55 Inactive opticians; 24 Inactive contact lens dispensing licensees; and 132 registered apprentices.

8. New Business

A. Application Hearing

Application hearings are recorded by a certified court reporter in the event a verbatim transcript is necessary.

- i. **Application** – Shawn Hutchinson

Shawn Hutchinson was sworn in by the court reporter and then presented his case to the board to be allowed to be licensed as a South Carolina optician. The board heard Mr. Hutchinson’s testimony and reviewed materials he provided.

Hollis Inabinet made a motion to go into executive session for legal advice. Grant Brown seconded the motion and it carried.

Ronald Harbert made a motion to return from executive session and Emily Mikell seconded the motion.

Hollis Inabinet made a motion to approve Mr. Shawn Hutchinson for licensure. Ronald Harbert seconded this motion and it carried.

B. Ruby Garcia- National Opticianry Apprentice Program -Deferred until February meeting.

C. Expert Reviewer- April Howe

April Howe and Donnell Jennings spoke to the Board about the need for expert reviewers. Expert reviewers are individuals who would review complex cases and give expert recommendation regarding whether professional standards were being met. After discussion, the Board members were asked to provide names for consideration.

9. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

10. Adjournment

Grant Brown made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:01 am. Ronald Harbert seconded the motion and it carried.