

**SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTICIANRY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

May 22, 2025 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 9:12 am.

1. Approval of Agenda

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

2. Board Mission and Member Statistics – Keith Hayes

The mission statement and member statistics were read after the administrative reports.

3. Introduction of Board Members

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

LLR Staff in attendance: Ashley Bailey McNair, Investigator IV; Yarikza Alexander, Lead Investigator; Mary League Esq., Advice Counsel; Patrice Deas, Board Executive; Tajuana Hall, Program Coordinator I; Ryan Belton, DOTS.

Others Present: Robin Reibold, Court Reporter.

4. Approval of Excused Absences

Daniel Gosnell

J. Hollis Inabinet made a motion to excuse the absence of Daniel Gosnell. Grant Brown seconded the motion and it carried.

5. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

- a. February 20, 2025

Grant Brown made a motion to approve the minutes for the February 20, 2025, meeting. Emily Mikell seconded the motion and it carried.

6. Administrative Report

- a. OIE Report – For Information Only- Amelia Leeks, Program Manager I

This report was presented by Ashley Bailey McNair. There were no cases.

- b. IRC Report – For Approval - Amelia Leeks, Program Manager I

This report was presented by Ashley Bailey McNair. From January 1, 2025 - May 8, 2025, there were 0 complaints, and 1 active investigation.

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

This report was presented by Patrice Deas. There are 0 open cases as of February 20, 2025, 0 closed cases since November 5 2024, and 0 closed since January 1, 2024.

7. Board Executive Report – Patrice Deas

- a. Financial Report

Patrice Deas reported as of April 30, 2025, the cash balance is \$231,722.32.

- b. Total Number of Licensees

Patrice Deas reported there are currently 593 Active Opticians; 283 Active Contact Lens Dispensing licensees; 54 Inactive Optician licensees; 23 Inactive Contact Lens Dispensing licensees and 160 Registered apprentices.

- c. Updates

- Optical Training Institute

Optical Training Institute wrote a letter with a brief update on the Optician Development Program (ODP). There are currently (30) thirty active apprentices enrolled in the program in SC., with high engagement, consistent log-ins, and course work progression. ODP is approved in (10) ten states and is now available in Spanish.

- I.O. Tech

Laura Frezza wrote a letter to the board pertaining to the NDA and the importance of having this before the program is made available for review. Board chair, Keith Hayes stated he would not be signing an NDA for the board, and that Ms. Frezza could potentially withdraw her offer.

Keith Hayes made a motion to go into executive session for legal advice. Emily Mikell seconded the motion and it carried.

Grant Brown made a motion to come out of executive session. Ronald Harbert seconded the motion and it carried.

There were no votes made on I.O. Tech.

- National Optician Apprenticeship Program- Ruby Garcia

The members of the Board would like additional information with more detail on each of the requirements of the program.

8. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

9. Adjournment

Grant Brown made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:58 am. Ronald Harbert seconded the motion and it carried.