

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

November 6, 2025 at 9:00 AM
110 Centerview Drive,
Kingstree Building, Pee Dee Room
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

Call to Order: 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. Members of the public who wish to attend may do so by video. The video link is posted on the agenda.

Call to Order

Mr. Keith Hayes called the meeting of the SC Board of Examiner’s in Opticianry to order at 9:03 am.

1. Approval of Agenda

Grant Brown made a motion to approve the agenda. Ronald Harbert seconded the motion and it carried.

2. Board Mission and Member Statistics – Keith Hayes

Keith Hayes read the Board mission and member statistics.

3. Introduction of Board Members

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

LLR Staff in attendance: Bianca Smith, Program Manager I, Mary League Esq., Advice Counsel; Patrice Deas, Board Executive; Tajuana Hall, Program Coordinator I; Dowan Sulton, DOTS.

Others Present: Andie Taylor, Court Reporter, Joshua Johnson.

4. Approval of Excused Absences

Grant Brown made a motion to not excuse the absence of Daniel Gosnell. Ronald Harbert seconded the motion and it carried.

5. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

a. August 7, 2025

Ronald Harbert made a motion to approve the minutes for the August 7, 2025, meeting. Emily Mikell seconded the motion and it carried.

6. Administrative Report

- a. OIE Report – For Information Only- Yarikza Alexander, Lead Investigator
This report was presented by Bianca Smith. From January 1, 2025, through October 23, 2025, they have received 1 complaint, there are no active investigations, and have closed 1 case.
- b. IRC Report – For Approval - Yarikza Alexander, Lead Investigator
This report was presented by Bianca Smith. There were no cases for approval.
- c. ODC Report – For Information Only – Tina Brown, Esq.
This report was presented by Bianca Smith. There were no cases.

7. Board Executive Report – Patrice Deas

- a. Financial Report
Patrice Deas reported as of September 30, 2025, the cash balance is \$334,222.14.
- b. Total Number of Licensees
Patrice Deas reported there are 541 active opticians; 43 inactive opticians; 251 active contact lens dispensing licensees; 1 inactive contact lens dispensing licensees; 182 registered apprentices.

Patrice Deas informed the Board that an eblast was sent to all apprentices with information pertaining to Continuing Education opportunities and where to find Continuing Education requirements and Continuing Education providers on the Board’s website.

8. New Business

A. Application Hearing

- i. **Initial Application** – Joshua Johnson
Joshua Johnson appeared before the Board to determine if he should be allowed to proceed with licensure as an Optician. He was not represented by counsel, and sworn in by the court reporter.

Joshua Johnson presented his case to the Board and asked that he be considered for licensure.

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

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

The members of the Board asked the Applicant about his previous optician-related duties and experience in Colorado, a state that does not license opticians, and his ABO certification status.

Hollis Inabinet made a motion to go back into executive session for legal advice. Ronald Harbert seconded the motion and it carried.

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

Grant Brown made a motion to approve the application for Joshua Johnson to sit for the Practical Exam. Hollis Inabinet seconded the motion and it carried.

9. Old Business

a. National Optician Apprenticeship Program

Ruby Garcia appeared virtually to provide additional information and to provide answers to any questions the Board members had about the National Optician Apprenticeship Program.

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

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

Hollis Inabinet made a motion to not approve the National Optician Apprenticeship Program in its current form due to elements within the program that are outside of the scope of the Board's authority to review for approval. Grant Brown seconded the motion and it carried. The Board requested that the education component be submitted as a possible formal education program for Board consideration.

10. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

11. Adjournment

Grant Brown made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:36 am. Keith Hayes seconded the motion and it carried.