

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

February 19, 2026 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.

Call to Order

Mr. Keith Hayes called the meeting of the SC Board of Examiner’s in Opticianry to order at 9:08 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

Board members participating in the meeting were:

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

LLR Staff in attendance: Mary League Esq., Advice Counsel; Kate Landess Esq., ODC; Patrice Deas, Board Executive; Theresa Brown, Program Director; Tajuana Hall, Program Coordinator I; Billie Chambers, DOTS.

Others Present: Robin Reibold, Court Reporter, Kengi McGahee, Sandra Jimison.

4. Approval of Excused Absences

There were no absences.

5. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

- a. November 6, 2025

Emily Mikell made a motion to approve the minutes for the November 6, 2025, meeting. Grant Brown seconded the motion and it carried.

6. Administrative Report

- a. OIE Report – For Information Only- Yarikza Alexander, Lead Investigator
This report was presented by Patrice Deas. From January 1, 2026 to February 17, 2026 there were 0 complaints received, 1 active investigation, and no closed cases.
- b. IRC Report – For Approval - Yarikza Alexander, Lead Investigator
This report was presented by Patrice Deas. There were no cases for approval.
- c. ODC Report – For Information Only – Kate Landess, Esq.
There were no cases.

7. Board Executive Report – Patrice Deas

- a. Financial Report
Patrice Deas reported as of January 31, 2026, the cash balance is \$354,720.35.
- b. Total Number of Licensees
Patrice Deas reported there are 550 active opticians; 53 inactive opticians; 257 active contact lens dispensing licensees; 2 inactive contact lens dispensing licensees; 182 registered apprentices.
- c. Statement of Economic Interest
Patrice Deas reminded the Board to electronically file a Statement of Economic Interest with the SC Ethics Commission by noon on March 30th.

8. New Business

A. Application Hearing

i. **Initial Application** – Kengi McGahee

Kengi McGahee appeared before the Board and presented her case to be considered for licensure as an Optician. She was not represented by counsel, and sworn in by the court reporter.

Emily Mikell 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 come out of executive session. Emily Mikell seconded the motion and it carried.

Grant Brown made a motion for Ms. McGahee to complete a 1-year apprenticeship and complete 4 hours of continuing education and no formal education will be required. Hollis Inabinet seconded the motion and it carried.

ii. **Reinstatement Application** – Sandra Jimison

Sandra Jimison appeared before the Board and presented her case to be considered for reinstatement of licensure. She was not represented by counsel, and sworn in by the court reporter.

Emily Mikell recused herself from the application hearing.

Hollis Inabinet made a motion to go into executive session for legal advice. Ronald Harbert 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.

Hollis Inabinet made a motion to reinstate the license upon completion of 20 hours of continuing education, of which 5 have already been completed and accepted. Ronald Harbert seconded the motion and it carried.

9. Old Business

a. National Optician Apprenticeship Program- Ruby Garcia

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

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

Hollis Inabinet made a motion for Grant Brown to be appointed to review the education materials to ensure they meet the expectations and standards for the education requirements, and to reconsider using another word than apprenticeship as it may be misleading. Ronald Harbert seconded the motion and it carried.

10. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

11. Adjournment

Ronald Harbert made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:37 am. Hollis Inabinet seconded the motion and it carried.