SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTICIANRY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 6, 2026 at 9:00 AM
110 Centerview Drive
Kingstree Building, Upstate 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 9:14 am.

1. **Approval of Agenda**

   Ronald Harbert made a motion to approve the agenda. Grant Brown 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

   LLR Staff in attendance: Mary League, Esq., Advice Counsel; Kate Landess Esq., ODC; Bianca Smith, Program Manager; Patrice Deas, Board Executive; Tajuana Hall, Program Coordinator I; Yasir Jenkins, DOTS.

   Others Present: Cindy Patterson, Court Reporter.

4. **Approval of Excused Absences**

   Ronald Harbert made a motion to excuse the absence of Kerri Spivey and Hollis Inabinet. Grant Brown seconded the motion and it carried.

5. **Approval of Board Meeting Minutes**
   a. May 21, 2026
   Grant Brown made a motion to approve the minutes for the May 21, 2026, 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, 2026, to July 30, 2026, there was 1 complaint received, 1 active investigation, and no closed cases.

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 – Kate Landess, Esq.
As of July 31, 2026, there were no cases.

7. Board Executive Report – Patrice Deas

a. Financial Report
Patrice Deas reported as of May 31, 2026, the cash balance is $346, 902.22.

b. Total Number of Licensees
Patrice Deas reported there are 587 active opticians; 271 active contact lens dispensing opticians; 51 inactive opticians; 2 inactive contact lens dispensing opticians; 203 registered apprentices.

8. New Business

A. Application Hearing

i. **Re-exam Application** – Rachel Peariso
Rachel Peariso appeared before the Board and presented her case to be considered for approval to re-take the Practical Exam for a third time**.**

Emily Mikell made a motion to go 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.

Emily Mikell made a motion to approve Ms. Peariso to retake the Practical Exam. Grant Brown seconded the motion and it carried.

ii. **Reinstatement Application-** Cherie McDonald
Cherie McDonald appeared before the Board and presented her case to be considered for reinstatement of licensure.

Grant Brown made a motion to go 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 accept the current hours and payment through 2025 to reinstate the license. Ronald Harbert seconded the motion and it carried.

9. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

10. Adjournment

Emily Mikell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:32 am. Ronald Harbert seconded the motion and it carried.