

**South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR)**  
**South Carolina Board of Examiners in Optometry**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**February 2, 2005**  
**Synergy Business Park**  
**110 Centerview Drive, Kingtree Building, Room 108**  
**Columbia, South Carolina**

Public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the Board office and provided to any requesting persons, organizations, or news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the 1976 South Carolina Code, as amended, relating to the Freedom of Information Act. A quorum was present at all times. Dr. Parfitt called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dr. Vaughn D. Parfitt, President  
Dr. Timothy P. Burrell, Vice President  
Dr. Kenneth M. Nash  
Dr. David W. Hamill  
Dr. Robert Neal Williams

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Ms. Pauline N. DeBerry, Public Board Member  
Mr. Isaac L. Johnson, Jr., Public Board Member

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Dr. William H. Davis – Present for Hearing / sequestered  
Dr. J. B. Rivers – Present for Hearing / sequestered  
Ms. Claire Holley, South Carolina Optometric Association – arrived after hearing  
Dr. Deborah Long, South Carolina Optometric Association – arrived after hearing

**SCLLR STAFF PRESENT:**

Sharon Dantzler, Office of General Counsel, LLR – arrived after hearing  
Angie M. Combs, Administrator  
Janice D. Meetze, Administrative Specialist  
Louis Rosen, Legal Advisor to the Board – present for hearing

The Agenda for the February 2, 2005 Regular Board Meeting was presented for review and approval.

A **motion** was made to accept the order of the Agenda. The motion was seconded and passed.

**HEARING – CASE 2004-01**

The Board conducted the Hearing of Case 2004-01. See Transcript of Proceeding taken by Eric B. Gore, Court Reporter.

**Reconvene In Public Session – 3:40 p.m.**

A **motion** was made to accept the December 2, 2004 minutes as mailed. The motion was seconded and accepted.

A **motion** was made to accept the December 3, 2004 minutes as mailed. The motion was seconded and accepted.

### **REPORTS**

**Administrative Reports and Information:** Ms. Combs reported licensee totals for each type of license as 495 TPA, 62 DPA, and 56 Basic, for a total of 613 licensed optometrists. In South Carolina there are 16 Basic, 12 DPA, and 376 TPA licenses for a total of 404 licensees.

Seventeen candidates passed the January 12, 2005 S.C. Jurisprudence Examination; twelve candidates have been licensed to date.

There were no branch office registration applications to report.

Copies of the Board's Financial Report and Complaint Status were provided and accepted for informational purposes.

**Continuing Education Course Approval:** Dr. Nash reported that Dr. Ted Newman, board member of Hartsville Hospital, requested course approval for M.D. recertification. Further information would be requested from Dr. Newman; the matter was deferred to the next meeting.

Dr. William Jenkins requested continuing education credit for hours sponsored by the Optometric Retina Association. The Board classifies this sponsor in the limited hours group. Dr. Jenkins to be notified of the Board's decision.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Upgrade Process Review:** Ms. Combs requested clarification of the TPA upgrade process, i.e., the current law requires passage of the National Board TMOD (Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease) Examination. Some states did not have the TMOD when TPA laws were passed making it possible to practice as TPA Certified without having taken the TMOD. South Carolina Law currently requires passage of the TMOD for initial licensure; the current endorsement policy also requires passage of the TMOD for licensure. Dr. Hamill recommended that the Board check TMOD requirements in other states; Ms. Combs will research this. With the possibility of the Practice Act legislation becoming Law in the near future this matter was deferred until the July 13, 2005 meeting.

**Endorsement Candidates Examination Requirement:** In light of pending legislation this matter was deferred until the July 13, 2005 meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**New Legislation Introduced:** The *Optometry Practice Act* rewrite, H.3249 and S.268, is currently going through the legislative process. The proposed Practice Act brings the Optometric Practice Act into compliance with the Engine as directed by the legislature, provides that a Bachelor of Arts or Science degree is required for licensure, establishes licensure by endorsement, requires that by September 30, 2008 all S.C. licensed optometrists must be licensed as therapeutically certified optometrists, establishes biennial license renewal, removes constitutional conflicts and overly restrictive language, removes redundancies in licensing requirements, and adds definitions.

The *Contact Lens Bill*, H.3250 and S.267, provides for limitations on the dispensing of ophthalmic lenses without a valid prescription from a licensed dispenser, provides minimum requirements for the issuance of a prescription, provides for a civil penalty for a violation with enforcement by the Department of Consumer Affairs.

**Background Checks:** The Board discussed the possibility of requiring that both credentialed and licensure by endorsement candidates provide criminal background checks with their initial applications. Ms. Dantzler advised that the requirement of a South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) background check could be added to the application; however, for out-of-state applicants where there is not a centralized record keeping system, FBI reports would not be generated unless there is specific statutory language. Ms. Dantzler stated that the issue is being addressed in the Engine re-write discussions; Dr. Parfitt stated for the record that the Board concurred with adding such language.

**ARBO's (Association of Regulatory Board of Optometry) OE (Optometric Education) Tracker:** ARBO has announced the OE TRACKER to assist member-licensing agencies in regulating the practice of optometry for the public welfare. Every optometrist in the country is receiving a complimentary OE TRACKER card that contains an individual OE number, which will be used to track and document continuing education courses. ARBO anticipates that national, regional, state, and local optometric education meetings will report attendance to the OE Tracker database.

**Statement Of Economic Interests Forms:** The Board members were reminded to submit their Statement of Economic Interest forms to the State Ethics Commission by April 15, 2005.

Dr. Parfitt recognized Ms. Claire Holley, Executive Director, S.C. Optometric Association (SCOA) and Dr. Deborah Long, Immediate Past President, SCOA. Ms. Holley addressed the Board members emphasizing the importance of their involvement in legislative matters. Board members presence at legislative meetings along with establishing a line of communication through phone calls, email, and letters to Senators and Representatives are effective ways to be involved in getting legislation passed.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- S.C. Jurisprudence Examination will be administered Wednesday, July 13, 2005 at 2:00 p.m., Kingtree Building, Room 105, Columbia, S.C.
- The next General Board Meeting will be held July 13, 2005 at 3:00 p.m., Kingtree Building, Room 111, Columbia, S.C.
- There being no further business or announcements, Dr. Parfitt adjourned the February 2, 2005 meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angie M. Combs  
Administrator