

**South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR)**  
**South Carolina Board of Examiners in Optometry**  
**Regular Board Meeting Minutes**  
**June 11, 2008**  
**Synergy Business Park**  
**110 Centerview Drive, Kingstree Building, Room 111**  
**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. Williams called the meeting to order at 3:09 p.m.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dr. Robert Neal Williams, President  
Dr. Kenneth M. Nash  
Dr. Deborah A. Long  
Dr. Furman Mason Smith  
Isaac L. Johnson, Jr., Esquire, Public Board Member

**BOARD MEMBER NOT PRESENT / Excused:** Dr. David W. Hamill  
There is a Public Board Member position vacant

**IN ATTENDANCE FOR HEARING:**

Joseph F. Bowen, O.D., License #571  
Mrs. Joseph Bowen  
Chris McCoy, MSW, CACP, Recovery Specialist, Recovering Professional Program (RPP)  
Annette B. Gore, Court Reporter

**SCLLR STAFF PRESENT:**

Shirley Robinson, Esquire, Hearing Advisor to the Board, LLR, present for hearing  
Paula Magargle, Esquire, Office of General Counsel, LLR, present for hearing  
Steve Freshley, Investigator, Office of Investigations and Enforcement, present for hearing  
Angie M. Combs, Administrator  
Janice D. Meetze, Administrative Assistant

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

A **motion** was made to accept the March 26, 2008 minutes as written. The motion was seconded and passed.

**PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

Dr. Williams adjourned regular session at 3:12 p.m. to proceed with Hearing Case #2007-1.

**HEARING – CASE #2007-1**

Hearing for Case #2007-1 was recorded and transcribed by Annette B. Gore, Certified Court Reporter. Transcript is available upon request.

*The following is included in the transcription and provided here for information purposes:*

The Board's decision to accept the permanent relinquishment is based upon the severity of Dr. Joseph Bowen's conduct, the fact that he states that he does not intend to comply with the treatment recommended in the evaluation report of the South Carolina Recovering Professional Program, and does not intend to practice optometry in the future.

**Motion:** Mr. Johnson made a motion that the Board accepts Dr. Joseph Bowen's permanent relinquishment of his license as a final resolution of this case and does so because of disciplinary reasons. Dr. Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The Final Order shall take effect immediately upon service of the Order on the Respondent or his attorney.

The Board reconvened in Regular Session at 4:25 p.m.

**REPORTS / INFORMATION**

**Administrative Reports and Information:** Ms. Combs reported licensee totals for each type of license as 681 TPA, 23 DPA, and 21 Basic, for a total of 725 licensed optometrists. In South Carolina there are 6 Basic, 7 DPA, and 452 TPA licenses for a total of 465 licensees. Ms. Combs reminded the Board the TPA certification deadline for licensed South Carolina optometrists is September 30, 2008.

**SC Jurisprudence Examination:** The examination was administered to twenty-one candidates (included four endorsement candidates) immediately preceding today's meeting, June 11, 2008.

**Branch Registration Applications:** A Branch Registration Application was received from Emily P. Curry, O.D. **Motion:** Dr. Williams made a motion to accept the branch registration application of Dr. Emily P. Curry. The motion was seconded by Dr. Nash. The motion carried.

**Continuing Education Course Approval:** Ms. Combs presented a request from a licensee for CE approval for a course offered by the Association of Clinical Research Professionals on how to set up investigational studies. The request was denied.

**Investigate Review Committee (IRC Report) / Case #2008-1:** Allegations that the respondent abandoned patient records. The IRC did not find any violation of the Practice Act; however, a Letter of Caution to properly secure patient records and confidential documents was recommended. The Board concurred with the IRC recommendation to send a Letter of Caution to respondent.

Ms. Combs stated there is a need for a pool of optometrists that are not IRC members to be available to review records, when needed, as part of the investigative process. Suggested names were provided.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Adding OE (Optometric Education) Tracker Number to Licensees' Files:** Ms. Combs reviewed with the Board that ARBO has requested member boards to add a unique six-digit OE Tracker Number to any electronic or paper files used to store licensee information; this would involve programming an additional field into the existing agency database. Ms. Combs questioned the use of the number outside of CE tracking purposes; the Board previously agreed to accept OE Tracker printouts for proof of CE course attendance. **Motion:** Dr. Nash made a motion with the stipulation and/or condition that only if LLR would consent to reprogramming an additional field into the existing agency database free of cost, then the Board would consent to capturing a licensee's OE Tracker number. The motion received a second. The motion carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**2008 License Renewal - Review Process:** Ms. Combs reported that renewal notices will be mailed in August 2008 with User ID and password information to renew online. License renewal fees are \$230.00; branch locations are an additional \$230.00 per location. Renewals are due by October 1, 2008; an additional fee of \$50.00 is charged if renewed between October 2, 2008 and October 31, 2008. After October 31, 2008 the \$100.00 reinstatement fee plus the renewal fee will be due. A random audit letter notifying 1/3 of all licensees to submit proof of obtaining CE will be mailed out November 1, 2008 with a submission deadline of November 15, 2008. A motion was carried at the March 26, 2008 meeting that if a CE audit discovers a requirement not being met, the licensee would be granted until January 1<sup>st</sup> to meet the requirement; a \$50.00 late fee will be charged. The license would lapse January 1<sup>st</sup> if requirements are not met.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next administration of the South Carolina Jurisprudence Examination is scheduled for Wednesday, September 24, 2008, 2:00 p.m., 110 Centerview Drive, Kingstree Building, Room 105, Columbia, South Carolina.

The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting is September 24, 2008, 3:00 p.m., 110 Centerview Drive, Kingstree Building, Room 111, Columbia, South Carolina.

There being no further business or announcements, Dr. Williams adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

Meeting recorded and minutes transcribed by Jan Meetze, Administrative Assistant

Reviewed and respectfully submitted by Angie M. Combs, Administrator