

South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (SCLLR)
South Carolina Board of Examiners in Optometry
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
March 11, 2009
Synergy Business Park
110 Centerview Drive, Kingstree Building, Room 105
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. Nash called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Robert Neal Williams, President
Dr. Kenneth M. Nash, Vice President
Dr. William W. Spearman
Isaac L. Johnson, Jr., Public Board Member

SCLLR STAFF PRESENT:

David Love, Chief of Office of Investigations and Enforcement
George Patterson, Investigator, Office of Investigations and Enforcement
Cheryl McNair, Investigator, Office of Investigations and Enforcement
Yarikza Alexander, Investigator, Office of Investigations and Enforcement
Angie M. Combs, Administrator
Janice D. Meetze, Administrative Assistant

The Agenda for the March 11, 2009 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.

A **motion** was made to accept the December 4, 2008 minutes as written. The motion was seconded and passed.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Dr. Nash convened the meeting in Dr. Williams' temporary absence and reserved Dr. Williams' remarks to be within the business of the meeting upon his anticipated arrival.

INVESTIGATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE (IRC) REPORT

Mr. David Love, Chief of Investigations and Enforcement, stated five complaints came before the Investigative Review Committee (IRC) held on March 4, 2009 for disposition. A synopsis of cases #2007-4, #2007-5, #2008-2, #2008-4, and #2008-7 was presented by the respective investigator assigned to each case. **Motion:** Dr. Spearman made a motion to accept the recommendations of the IRC on cases #2007-4 / dismiss with a Letter of Caution, #2007-5 / dismiss, #2008-2 /dismiss, #2008-4 / dismiss, and #2008-7 / dismiss. The motion was seconded by Dr. Nash. The motion carried.

Dr. Williams arrived at the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

Mr. Love, Mr. Patterson, Ms. McNair, and Ms. Alexander departed the meeting at 3:22 p.m.

REPORTS / INFORMATION

Licensee Total: Ms. Combs reported there are currently 684 South Carolina licensed optometrists.

The S.C. Jurisprudence Examination: As reported at the December 4, 2008 meeting, the S.C. Jurisprudence Examination became available online in January 2009 and has been administered to five candidates to date.

Branch Registrations: A branch office application was reviewed for Dr. Rahul Gupta #1376. **Motion:** A motion was made to approve the application for a branch office location.

Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO) 90th Annual Meeting: ARBO's Annual Meeting is being held in National Harbor, Maryland (Washington, D.C. area) June 21-23, 2009. Dr. Williams is anticipating attending and requested Ms. Combs to attend as well, citing that several states send their Executive Director/Administrator and a board member. Ms. Combs will request approval from LLR to attend.

Statement of Economic Interests Form: Ms. Combs stated it was time to file 2009 Statement of Economic Interests form with the South Carolina State Ethics Commission by the April 15, 2009 deadline. Filing may be done electronically or forms may be downloaded at the Web site address <http://ethics.sc.gov>.

Board Member Election and Appointment Update: A Board member election had been held to fill two vacant seats on the Board; Dr. Derek Van Veen, Dr. Thomas Tucker, and Dr. Frank Forgnoni names have been submitted, with election results, to the Governor for a decision on appointments.

December Board Meeting Date Change: Ms. Combs stated the December Board meeting date has been changed to December 10, 2009.

ARBO Regional Meeting Report: Dr. Williams attended the ARBO Regional Meeting and gave a synopsis of the topics covered.

- A standard online optometry school application is being developed.
- Three new schools of optometry have been added in the United States.
- A new time format for the National Boards has been instituted.
- The TMOD will be embedded in Part II and no longer be a stand-alone test; it will be administered for the last time in August 2009 in Chicago, Illinois.
- The Advanced Competence in Medical Optometry (ACMO) Examination was developed at the request of the National Association of VA O ptometrists and is administered by the NBEO.
- There is an ongoing need for COPE CE course reviewers.
- There are approximately 40,000 active optometrists in the United States; over 31,000 have information connected with the Optometric Education (OE) Tracker and 19,000 are registered and using the OE Tracker for the purposes of re-licensure.

Continuing Education Course Approval: Ms. Combs received a CE approval request for Vision Summit 2009. The Board gave approval for four hours of continuing education in the unlimited general optometry category

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Branch Location Fees: Ms. Combs stated that the Agency is currently reviewing licensing fees; the matter was deferred until more information becomes available.

NEW BUSINESS

H.3303 Optometry Legislation Board Position & Education / Examination Requirements:

Motion: Dr. Spearman made a motion that the Board supports H.3303 and that it is within the scope of practice of optometry; upon passage and implementation, the Board would ensure that proper guidelines are in place for certification to ensure the safety of citizens of the State of South Carolina. Dr. Nash seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Johnson departed the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

National Board Certification for Optometrists: Optometry's Joint Board Certification Project Team consists of representatives from the American Academy of Optometry, American Optometric Association, Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry, American Schools and Colleges of Optometry, National Board of Examiners in Optometry, and the American Optometric Student Association. This group has worked on a board certification process for optometrists and will begin presenting it to leaders in the profession. Board certification will be discussed at the National ARBO meeting.

Optos Optomap Retinal Screener / Dilated Fundus Examination: A discussion was held concerning a statement made that using the Optos Optomap Retinal Screener was a substitute for a dilated fundus examination. The Board reaffirmed its position that a minimum eye examination includes performing internal ophthalmoscopic examination through a dilated pupil, including evaluation of optic nerve head, macular, and peripheral retina.

Contact Lens Rx Refill Control – Inquiry: Ms. Combs received an inquiry expressing concern that contact lens prescriptions can be presented multiple times by patients to accumulate a supply of lenses. The Board expressed its concern and reiterated the importance of patient education concerning regular eye examination; this type of practice can not be controlled by the Board.

Latisse – Inquiry: Ms. Combs received an inquiry regarding optometrists prescribing Latisse. Dr. Spearman volunteered to check into the matter further and report back to the Board at the June meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Board meeting is scheduled for June 10, 2009, 3:00 p.m., Kingstree Building, Room 105, Columbia, South Carolina.

There being no further business or announcements, Dr. Williams adjourned the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

*Meeting recorded and minutes transcribed by Janice D. Meetze, Administrative Assistant.
Minutes reviewed and edited by Angie Combs, Administrator.
Minutes presented to the Board for final approval.*