

**South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR)**  
**South Carolina Board of Examiners in Optometry**  
**Regular Board Minutes**  
**October 27, 2010**  
**Synergy Business Park**  
**110 Centerview Drive, Kingstree Building, Room 204**  
**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 3:10 p.m.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dr. Robert N. Williams, President  
Dr. Derek Van Veen  
Dr. Thomas E. Tucker  
Dr. Peter V. Candela  
Isaac L. Johnson, Jr., Public Board Member

**BOARD MEMBER NOT PRESENT (Excused):** Dr. William W. Spearman

**VACANT POSITION:** Public Member (One)

**SCLLR STAFF PRESENT:**

Mr. David Love, Office of Investigations and Enforcement  
Ms. Cheryl McNair, Investigator, Office of Investigations and Enforcement  
Angie M. Combs, Administrator  
Janice D. Meetze, Administrative Assistant

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Ms. Jackie Rivers, South Carolina Optometric Association

The agenda for the October 27, 2010 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 by Dr. Candela to accept the June 30, 2010 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Dr. Tucker and passed.

**Investigative Review Committee (IRC) Report:** Mr. Love reported the IRC met on October 13, 2010 and recommended one Letter of Caution for Complaint #2010-3 and dismissals for Complaints #2010-1 and #2010-2. **Motion:** Dr. Candela made a motion to accept the recommendations of the IRC. The motion was seconded by Dr. Van Veen. The motion carried.

**Office of Investigation and Enforcement Report:** Mr. Love reported that for the period 1/1/2010 through 10/14/2010 there were nine cases closed, two cases qualified as do not open cases, and three cases are currently under investigation.

*Mr. Love and Ms. McNair departed the meeting at 3:25 p.m.*

### **REPORTS/INFORMATION**

**Licensee Totals:** Ms. Combs reported there are 764 active licensees; included in that total are 66 licenses classified as active in renewal and technically not yet renewed.

**Renewal 2010/CE Audit:** A random computer-generated CE audit of one-third (1/3) of the licensee database will be conducted at the conclusion of the renewal period.

**Office of General Counsel (OGC):** There are no pending cases residing in OGC at this time.

**Financial Report:** The Financial Report is available upon request.

**Branch Registrations:** Branch office registrations for Dr. Justine Siegers and Dr. Nicole Mendola were presented for approval. **Motion:** Dr. Candela made a motion to approve the two branch registrations. The motion was seconded by Dr. Van Veen. The motion carried.

**State Official License Plates:** For Board members that currently have state official license plates a license sticker will be issued each year instead of a new license plate.

**South Carolina Open Meeting Dates:** It was recently reported that four South Carolina officials were charged in violation of the 1974 open meeting statute by not holding a public meeting, failing to give proper notice of the meeting, and failing to take proper minutes of the meeting. This law is designed to give the public oversight of government and calls for fines of up to \$100 or up to 30 days in jail for a first offense.

**2011 Board Meeting Dates:** The Board concurred with 2011 meeting dates as February 16, May 4, August 3, and November 2. If the Board decides to conduct a meeting during the August SC Optometric Physicians Association Meeting, the August 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting would be cancelled.

**Continuing Education Course Approval – Electronic Health Records (EHR) Courses:** Ms. Combs had a request from a licensee asking whether a course in EHR could be used for South Carolina continuing education purposes. The Board concurred accepting, on a limited basis, this type of CE citing Section 95-4 of the Regulations that allows four hours of the eight limited hours may be for courses that are not limited to the practice of optometry, but which are directly related to health care programs.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

No Unfinished Business to address.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **American Board of Optometry (ABO) Selects Prometric for Board Certification Exam:**

The American Board of Optometry announced that Prometric will be the ABO's partner in developing the new optometry board certification examination, which is slated to begin in June 2011 with testing sites in Charleston, Greenville, Columbia, and Florence.

**American Optometric Society (AOS) Requesting Opinion of Board Certification:** A letter was received from the American Optometric Society (AOS) asking the Board for a formal opinion as to whether or not, and to what extent, doctors of optometry licensed by the Board may represent that they are Board Certified by the American Board of Optometry. Ms. Combs was asked to respond in writing to the AOS advising there has been no official determination on board certification.

### **National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO) – Single Site Administration of Part III:**

The NBEO Board of Directors has announced the conversion of the traditional, twice-yearly Part III Clinical Skills Examination (CSE) administered at each optometry school to a more standardized and comprehensive examination which will be given throughout the year in the NBEO's single-site National Center of Clinical Testing in Optometry (NCCTO). The final multiple-site format CSE will be administered in April 2011 and the new single-site format Clinical Skills Exam will begin in Charlotte, North Carolina in August 2011. The NCCTO will have the capacity to assess 16 candidates per day throughout the year.

### **National Board of Examiners in Optometry – Injection Skills Testing:**

The National Board of Examiners in Optometry provided information concerning the anticipated timetable of the Injection Skills testing as part of Part III Clinical Skills Examination. NBEO will begin reporting official scores to the licensing boards of optometry. The NBEO is seeking the Board's input of future requirements of this examination per a questionnaire. Currently a South Carolina applicant by credentials is required to pass all parts of the National Board Examinations. Ms. Combs was asked to respond to the NBEO survey on behalf of the Board.

**Foreign Prescriptions:** Ms. Combs presented a request regarding the acceptance and filling of a foreign eyeglass prescription. The Board concurred it was up to the discretion of the dispenser to use their professional judgment in filling foreign eyeglass prescriptions.

**Pupillary Distance (PD), Monocular PD, Segment Height:** There are certain measurements required to be included on a prescription; the aforementioned measurements fall within the responsibility and duty of the dispensing professional.

**Mobile Unit Requirements, Limitations / Inquiries:** Optometry Law states that a mobile unit must be limited to visiting and providing services to licensed health care facilities within this state; any use of a mobile unit must conform to the Optometry Practice Act as it is written. The Board discussed establishing a policy specifically for mobile units. Dr. Williams deferred the topic to the next meeting.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2011, 3:00 p.m.

There being no further business or announcements, Dr. Williams adjourned the meeting at 5:35 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.*