

South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR)
Board of Examiners in Optometry
Board Meeting Minutes
October 2, 2019 3:00P.M., Room 204
Synergy Business Park
110 Centerview Drive, Kingtree Building, Room
Columbia, South Carolina

Public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the South Carolina Board of Examiners in Optometry, Synergy Business Park, Kingtree Building and on the board website and provided to all requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with section 30-4-80 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Michelle Cooper, President
Dr. Derek Van Veen
Dr. James Vaught
Dr. Jeremy P. Anderson
Mr. Jesse Price

SCLLR STAFF PRESENT

Stacey Hewson, Esquire, Office of Advice Counsel
Meredith Buttler, Administrator
Patricia Lutz, Administrative Assistant

ALSO PRESENT

Kathryn J. Lindler, Court Reporter
Jennie Beaudine, Servants for Sight
Dr. Craig O'Dell, Servants for Sight
Dr. Wayne Cannon
Jackie River
Anna Balderson

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Cooper called the meeting to order at 3:01 P.M.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: To approve the agenda.
Vaught/Price/approved.

APPROVAL OF ABSENT BOARD MEMBER

Dr. Cooper welcomed new board member, Dr. Jeremy Anderson.

Motion: To approve the absence of Mr. Charles Hill due to attendance at a funeral.
Vaught/Van Veen/approved.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

None at this time.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion: To approve the minutes from the May 13, 2019 meeting.
Vaught/Price/approved.

STAFF REPORTS

Administrator's Report

Ms. Buttler reported, to date the Board has 934 active licensees with 2 pending applications. Since the last Board meeting on May 13, 2019, the Board has issued 34 licenses and 1 reinstatement. From May 8, 2019, to September 24, 2019, three license by endorsement applications have been approved, all having practiced as therapeutic optometrists and passed equivalent examinations. The Board's current fiscal balance as of August 31, 2019, is \$43,436.65.

CE Broker is in the finalizing and testing stage of the process and Board staff hopes to make an announcement in the next few months. There will be a period of time licensees will be given to activate their free account with CE Broker prior to it being mandatory. Board staff and CE Broker reached out to OE Tracker to inquire about data transfers between the systems and they declined. CE Broker is developing the ability for licensees to upload their OE Tracker report to CE Broker and receive credit for the courses.

Ms. Buttler attended the ARBO meeting in St. Louis in June. She reported that the conference was very enlightening. The main topics addressed at the meeting were tele-medicine and NBEO/ARBO relationship. The next ARBO meeting will be held in Alexandria, VA on June 21-23, 2020.

Office of Investigations and Enforcement Report

On behalf of the OIE team, Ms. Buttler stated there was no report at this time.

Office of Disciplinary Counsel Report

On behalf of the ODC team, Ms. Buttler stated there was no report at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Servants for Sight Proposal

Dr. Craig O'Dell and Ms. Jennie Beaudine represented Servants for Sights, a non-profit mobile vision screening service that partners with area practices. The mobile unit provides services at free medical clinics in the upstate. Qualified applicants for the program must meet the requirements of not having insurance/Medicare/Medicaid and have a family income of 200% below the poverty level. Following application, there is vision screening and retinal photographing for qualified applicants, then the information is reviewed by a licensed optometrist and direct referrals are issued to participating physicians. Participating providers are asked over a nine month period to provide a full eye exam, prescription for glasses, cataract surgery, and/or diabetic retinopathy treatment free of charge. Servants for Sight operate as a non-profit, do not take any payments from Medicare/Medicaid/insurance, and reimburse the participating physicians for the supplies and anesthesia utilized during the treatment of the program participants. Board members Dr. Cooper and Dr. Vaught questioned Ms. Beaudine and Dr. O'Dell regarding procedure for applicants having a retinal photograph taken but are not referred out. Dr. O'Dell stated that not all applicants who are photographed are referred out. Due to limited resources, only the most severe cases are referred out to the participating physicians. Dr. Vaught warned that the applicants may believe that they do not need follow up care when in fact they do.

Motion: To allow go into executive session to seek legal advice.

Vaught/Price/approved

Motion: To come out of executive session.

Vaught/Price/approved

The Board expressed that the Servant's for Sight was a wonderful program and that the mobile unit will need to be registered with the Board. Ms. Buttler is to follow up with the application and requirements. The Board reminded Ms. Beaudine and Dr. O'Dell that the mobile unit may only be used for acute vision screenings and that if they wish to continue to provide retinal photographs, a license OD or MD must be on the premises.

b. Fee Inclusion in Chapter 10

Ms. Holly Beason addressed the Board with the option to publish the Board fees in State regulations, Chapter 10. Ms. Beason shared that most boards have their fees published in Chapter 10 for the purpose of transparency and enforcement. In moving towards best practices of transparency and accountability, Ms. Butler had asked Ms. Beason to attend the meeting and present the option to the Board. Previously in 2014, the Board was approached with the option to publish the fees in Chapter 10 but declined. The Board members expressed concern at having to go through the legislative process should they wish to make a change to the fees in the future.

Motion: To decline publish the fees to Chapter 10.

Van Veen/Anderson/approved

c. Approval of the 2020 Board Meeting Dates

Motion: To approve the 2020 Board Meeting Dates.

Vaught/Anderson/approved

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dr. Wayne Cannon expressed his concern and questioned the Board and staff as to why it is taking so long to get the vacant board seats filled. Ms. Buttler stated that she had met several times with the agency's liaison with the Governor's office regarding various board seat positions and they are working on it. Dr. Cannon suggested that a more expeditious process be implemented.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Board meeting is February 5, 2020 in room 204.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

Vaught/Price/approved.

The meeting adjourned at 4:24 P.M.