

**South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
Board of Examiners in Optometry
Board Meeting Minutes
February 5, 2020 3:00P.M., Room 105
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, Vice President
Dr. James Vaught
Dr. Jeremy P. Anderson
Mr. Jesse Price
Mr. Charles Hill

SCLLR STAFF PRESENT

Stacey Hewson, Esquire, Office of Advice Counsel
Meredith Buttler, Administrator
Wendy Taylor, Program Coordinator

ALSO PRESENT

Tina Behles, Court Reporter
Dr. Wayne Cannon
Jackie River
Anna Balderson
Earl Loftis

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Cooper called the meeting to order at 3:04 P.M.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF ABSENT BOARD MEMBER

No Board Members were absent

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion: To approve the minutes from the October 2, 2019 meeting.
Vaught/Price/approved.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

None at this time.

STAFF REPORTS

Administrator's Report

Ms. Buttler reported, to date the Board has 945 active licensees with 4 pending applications and 8 exam eligible applications. Since the last Board meeting on October 2, 2019, the Board has issued 10 licenses. The Board's current fiscal balance as of December 31, 2019, is \$12,997.79.

Ms. Buttler reminded Board members the Statement of Economic Interest report is due to the Ethics Commission by noon on March 30, 2020. Members are to contact the Board office should they need another copy of their fiscal report from LLR.

Ms. Buttler reported everything has been approved for CE Broker rollout. Notification will be sent to licensees shortly encouraging them to activate their free account. The utilization of CE Broker will not be mandatory for the 2020 renewal cycle but will be required for the 2022 renewal cycle. Renewal notices will be sent out and renewals opened on September 30, 2020. Preceding the renewal opening, an email verification will be sent to all active licensees.

Office of Investigations and Enforcement Report

On behalf of the OIE team, Ms. Buttler reported the 10 cases were received in 2019. A total of 13 cases were closed during 2019. There was no IRC Report to present to the Board.

Office of Disciplinary Counsel Report

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

NEW BUSINESS

a. Legislative Report – House Bill 4661

Dr. Cooper shared with the Board House Bill 4661, proposing to add an Optometry Volunteer License to the Board's practice act. The bill was shared with the Board for information.

b. Legislative Report – Senate Bill 1044

Ms. Hewson shared with the Board, Senate Bill 1044, proposing to expand the Optometry Mobile Units statutes to allow for visiting and providing services to Title I public schools. The bill was shared with the Board for information.

Motion: To enter into executive session for legal advice.
Vaught/Price/approved

Motion: To return to public session.
Price/Van Veen/approved

c. Board Clarification: S.C. Regulations 95-5

The Board office received a request for clarification regarding the Licensure by Endorsement stipulation of "active practice for the twelve (12) month period immediately preceding application." Ms. Buttler requested clarification from the Board as to whether the active practice included part time or intermittent work and international volunteer work or if it was strictly full-time employment. After discussion, the Board determined such cases would have to be handled on a case by case basis, with the Board President first reviewing to determine if it needs to come before the Board for review. Documentation would need to be provided with the application for review of work.

d. Attorney General Opinion

Ms. Hewson shared with the Board the Attorney General's Opinion response to Vision to Learn providing services at schools via mobile unit. The Board President reaffirmed the current standards of care regarding the requirements of an eye exam which includes dilation.

e. Minimum Eye Examination Policy: Optomap Technology

Dr. Van Veen stated the Optomap Technology is not add in the practice act or regulations and it is the Board's policy that minimum eye examination includes dilation.

f. Travel Approval for 2020 ARBO Southern Regional Meeting

Motion: To approve travel for two board members to the 2020 ARBO Southern Regional Meeting on March 7, 2020.

Vaught/Hill/approved

g. Travel Approval for 2020 ARBO Annual Meeting

Motion: To approve travel for two board members and administrator to the 2020 ARBO Annual Meeting on June 21-23, 2020.

Vaught/Anderson/approved

h. Board Seat Elections: Online Voting Portal

Ms. Buttler shared with the Board the Online Voting Portal. As the board has two seats expiring in 2020, Ms. Buttler requested utilizing the online portal should the Board receive multiple nominations for the open seats. After discussion the Board stipulated that following the mailed Notice of Election, licensees will have three weeks to submit Election Petitions and two weeks to vote.

Motion: To approve use of the online voting portal for the Optometry Board seat elections.

Vaught/Price/approved

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Motion: To nominate Dr. Michelle Cooper for President and Dr. Jeremy Anderson for Vice President.

Vaught/Price/approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dr. Wayne Cannon requested clarification as to whether the opioid course requirement had to be taken in South Carolina. Dr. Cooper stated it was not required the course be taken in South Carolina and if anyone had questions, they can contact Ms. Buttler for course review.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Board meeting is May 6, 2020 in room 105.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

Vaught/Anderson/approved.

The meeting adjourned at 4:54 P.M.