

**South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
Board of Examiners in Optometry
Board Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2022 at 3:00 pm**

Public Notice of this meeting was properly posted at the Optometry Board Office, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, and provided to all requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, Section 30-4-80.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Michelle Cooper, President
Dr. Jeremy Anderson, Vice President
Dr. Wayne Cannon
Dr. Brad Majors
Dr. Deborah Long
Mr. William Price
Mr. Charles Hill

SCLLR STAFF PRESENT:

Megan Flannery, Esq., Office of Advice Counsel
Shelby Sutusky, Office of Disciplinary Counsel
Meredith Buttler, Administrator
Mark Sanders, Office of Investigations and Enforcement
Jacquelyn White, Program Coordinator

PRESENT

Robin Reibold, Court Reporter

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Michelle Cooper, President called the meeting to order at 2:58 pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: To approve the agenda.
Cannon/Long/Approved.

INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

Members of the board introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF EXCUSED ABSENCES

No members absent.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Motion: To approve December 1, 2021 Board Meeting minutes.
Cannon/Long/Approved.

PRESIDENT’S REMARKS:

Dr. Cooper thanked everyone for being here and giving of their time.

STAFF REPORT:

Administrator Report

Ms. Buttler reported to date, the Board has 1,016 active licensees, 9 pending applications, 5 exam eligible applicants, and 2 mobile unit registrations. Since the last meeting 5 licenses have been issued.

The Board’s current cash balance as of December 31, 2021 is \$184,495.20.

The State Ethics Commission has sent out notice that the Statement of Economic Interest is due by noon, March 30, 2022. Ms. White has sent out the financial reports for 2021. If members received travel reimbursement in 2021 but did not receive a report, please contact Ms. White. If members did not receive travel reimbursement in 2021, then a report from the Board office will not be sent and members can report \$0. Questions and concerns about navigation of the reporting software should be directed to the State Ethics Commission as the Board office does not have access to the system.

Ms. Buttler reported H.4837, filed Thursday, would amend the Optometry practice act to establish requirements for mobile units. The bill would allow mobile units to visit and provide services on the site of a Title I public school to the students attending the school, provided the services must be rendered as part of a not-for-profit program.

Office of Investigation and Enforcement Statistical Report

Mr. Sanders reported from November 1, 2021 to January 18, 2022 there are 0 active cases, 1 closed case and 1 complaint received.

Office of Investigation and Enforcement IRC Report

Mr. Mark Sanders reported the IRC recommends 1 case for dismissal.

Motion: To accept one case for dismissal.

Cannon/Majors/Approved.

Office of Disciplinary Counsel Report

Ms. Sutusky, Esq. reported there are 2 open cases, 2 pending hearings and agreements and 0 cases closed since last meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Board Liaison Proposal

Dr. Cooper referred everyone to Dr. Cannon. Dr. Cannon proposed to assign board members to act as liaisons for concerns and questions.

Communication – Dr. Cooper

Licensure and Application – Dr. Anderson

Legislative – Dr. Long

Continuing Education – Dr. Majors

Elections – Dr. Cannon
Financial – Public Members

Motion: To accept liaison proposal.
Cannon/Anderson/approved.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Portable Practice Work Group Proposal

Dr. Cooper reported for the work group. After some research, there is a little confusion between mobile and portable units. Mobile means there would be a mobile van and portable units means an optometrist would carry their equipment outside an office setting into a facility such as a nursing home or prison.

Ms. Buttler and Ms. Flannery expressed concerns regarding upcoming regulation for office facilities and how it may affect the portable practices. To assist the work group, Ms. Buttler pull the Dental and Barber regulations concerning their mobile and portable units and reach out to the Long Term Health Care Board members to see if they have optometrists coming into their facilities and if so, do they mind providing their names. Additionally, ARBO will be contacted to request any guidance on the matter they may have. Ms. Buttler will get some names of optometrists to participate on the work group. Dr. Cooper proposed Dr. Cannon to lead the group and he accepted.

b. Work Group Request: Jurisprudence Examination

Ms. Buttler asked for a work group to look over the jurisprudence exam to check if the exam is current and correct. Drs. Anderson, Majors and Long agreed to participate on the work group.

Motion: To approve formation of the work group.
Long/Majors/Approved.

c. Committee Request Code of Ethics

Ms. Buttler reported the Agency requested for all boards to either review their code of ethics or to examine the need to adopt one. At this time, the Board does not have a code of ethics. Ms. Flannery stated the Board's statutes stipulates the Board "shall" adopt a Code of Ethics. The item was tabled until the next meeting to allow the Board additional time to review the references.

d. Approval of CE Broker Tracking System and Activation Plan

Ms. Buttler provided the Board with a preliminary plan for CE Broker implementation. Licensees will be encouraged to activate their free account by December 31, 2022. It is the goal to transition to mandatory utilization by the 2026 renewal.

e. Military Spouse Licensure Procedures

In review of the statutory allowances Ms. Buttler requested the Boards consideration to amend document requirement to assist in expedition of military spouse applications.

Motion: Keep the military spouse application process as is.
Cannon/Hill/Approved.

- f. Travel Request: ARBO Annual Meeting on June 12-14, 2022 in Chicago, IL
Motion: To approve travel for two members and staff to attend the 2022 ARBO Meeting.
Anderson/Price/Approved.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Ms. Buttler opened the floor for nomination for Board President.

Motion: To nominate Dr. Cooper for President.
Anderson/Long

Ms. Buttler requested additional nominations. No further nominations were submitted and Dr. Cooper confirmed her acceptance. Following a vote by the Board, Dr. Cooper was approved as President.

Dr. Cooper opened the floor for nomination for Board Vice President.

Motion: To nominate Dr. Majors as Vice President
Cooper/Cannon

Dr. Cooper requested additional nominations. No further nominations were submitted and Dr. Majors confirmed his acceptance. Following a vote by the Board, Dr. Majors was approved as Vice President.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ANNOUNCEMENT

The next upcoming Board Meeting is scheduled for May 25, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To adjourn.
Cannon/Anderson/Approved.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm.