

**SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
May 24, 2023 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 MEMBER PRESENT:**

Dr. Wayne Cannon, President  
Dr. Michelle Cooper, Vice President  
Dr. Brad Majors  
Mr. William Price  
Dr. Melissa Wood  
Dr. Michael Campbell  
Mr. Charles Hill

**SCLLR STAFF PRESENT:**

Mary League, Office of Advice Counsel  
Marcie Greene, Office of Disciplinary Counsel  
Tracy Adams, Administrator  
Jacquelyn White, Program Coordinator

**PRESENT:**

Tina Behles, Court Reporter  
Dr. McKethan Gaddy, Eye Health America  
Dean Grigg  
Dr. Brittany Love

**CALL TO ORDER:** Dr. Cannon, President called the meeting to order at 2:57 pm.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion:** To approve the agenda.  
Cooper/Price/Approved.

**BOARD MISSION AND MEMBER STATISTICS**

Dr. Cannon read the Board's mission.

At this time there are no vacant seats. There is one expired seat: 1 public member seats. Interested individuals wishing to serve as a public member may submit a cover letter and resume to the SC Office of Boards and Commissions. Per SC Code of Law 40-37-10(B), terms of the members are for four years and until their successors are appointed and qualify.

**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 January 18, 2023 Board Meeting minutes.  
Cooper/Price/Approved.

**Motion:** To approve March 28, 2023 WebEx Board Meeting minutes.  
Cooper/Campbell/Approved.

### **STAFF REPORTS**

#### Office of Investigations and Enforcement (OIE) Statistical Report

Ms. Adams reported on behalf of Mr. Sanders from January 20, 2023 through May 1, 2023. Currently, there are (4) active cases, (8) closed cases and (6) complaints received.

#### Investigative Review Committee (IRC)

Ms. Adams reported on behalf of Mr. Sanders. Currently, there no recommendations to report.

#### Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) Report

Ms. Sutusky, Esq. reported since January 1, 2023, there are (3) open cases, (3) pending hearings and agreements, (0) pending closures, (0) closed cases, (0) appeals, (0) cases closed and (1) case closed.

### **APPLICATION HEARING**

**Motion:** To enter closed session.  
Cooper/Wood/Approved.

a. McKethan Gaddy, O.D.

Dr. Gaddy appeared before the Board for a CE exemption request. He was represented by counsel, Dean Gregg, Esq. He was sworn in. Application hearings are recorded by a certified court reporter in the event a verbatim transcript is necessary.

**Motion:** To enter an executive session for legal advice.  
Cooper/Majors/Approved.

**Motion:** To return to closed session.  
Cooper/Majors/Approved.

**Motion:** To accept the request for online live continuing education courses.  
Cooper/Majors/Approved.

**Motion:** To enter open session.  
Cooper/Price/Approved.

b. Brittany Love, O.D.

Dr. Love appeared before the Board for a Reinstatement request. She was not represented by counsel and was sworn in. Application hearings are recorded by a certified court reporter in the event a verbatim transcript is necessary.

**Motion:** To enter an executive session for legal advice.  
Cooper/Majors/Approved.

**Motion:** To return to closed session.  
Cooper/Price/Approved.

**Motion:** To submit 40 Continuing Education hours, 10 hours to be completed online.  
Cooper/Price/Approved.

## **REPORTS**

### **Administrator's Report**

Ms. Adams reported to date, the Board has (969) active licensees, (12) pending applications, (8) exam eligible and (1) mobile unit registrations. Since the last meeting (15) licenses have been issued and (3) reinstatements.

CE Broker reported that there are 1,197 total licensees listed in CE Broker and 745 licensees have registered their account. It was recommended that notification to be sent to those not registered with CE Broker.

The Board's current cash balance as of April 30, 2023 is \$342,045.75.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### a. **Bill 3605**

Ms. League, Esq. gave a brief overview of the Bill 3605 to everyone. The Bill affects three processes of licensing and investigation at LLR across all the Boards.

- i. The first one doesn't apply to this Board, it only applies to the licenses that does not requires a Bachelor's Degree or higher.
- ii. Complaint Process: The respondent is now informed of who the complainant is, unless there is "Good Cause" as to maintaining the confidentiality of the complainant. The Board is to vote on the Board member that will make the decision as to "Good Cause".

**Motion:** To designate the Board chair to determine "Good Cause" as the identity of the complainant.

Cooper/Majors/Approved.

- iii. A Board may not deny a license to an applicant solely because of a prior criminal conviction, unless the criminal conviction directly relates to the duties, responsibilities, or fitness of the occupation or profession for which the applicant is seeking a license.

### b. **Consideration of Consent Agreements**

**Motion:** To table the discussion of consent agreements until the next meeting  
Cooper/Majors/Approved.

### c. **Review of NBEO (3) Parts & TMOD**

An applicant must take all 3 parts and the TMOD and pass to become licensed in South Carolina.

i. Review/Clarification of Application & Endorsement Forms

Ms. Adams asked for clarification on what is needed for staff to approve before an applicant comes before the Board.

d. Canadian Optometry Board Exam

Dr. Majors is not sure if the scope of practice is the same as here in the United States.

**Motion:** To accept as information.

Majors/Cooper/Approved.

e. FARB

**Motion:** To approve for Ms. Adams' request to attend the FARB conference.

Cooper/Price/Approved.

**OLD BUSINESS**

a. Legislation Updates

As of Friday, May 26, 2023, the legislation will be updated. An Eblast will be sent out.

b. Administrator Pay Update

Meredith Buttler is receiving her pay through Real Estate.

c. Update on CE Broker Work Shop

Ms. Adams is working along with CE Broker to schedule some trainings.

d. Update on Conference

Scholarships has been received by Dr. Cannon and Dr. Cooper to attend RBO Conference.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

The next meeting is scheduled for August 16, 2023.

Dr. Cannon asked to have the meeting rescheduled due to the SCOPA Annual being held in Hilton Head, August 17 – 19, 2023. Ms. Adams will look at the calendar for meeting room availability. An email with potential dates will be sent out.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:** To adjourn.

Cooper/Price/Approved.

The Board Meeting adjourned at 4:44 pm.