

**SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

May 15, 2024 at 3:00 PM

1. Meeting Called to Order

- a. 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. Members of the public who wish to attend may do so by video. The video link is posted on the agenda.

2. Introduction of Board Members

Dr. Wayne Cannon, President called the meeting of the SC Board of Examiners in Optometry to order at 3:01 pm. Other board members participating in the meeting were:

- Dr. Michelle Cooper, Vice President
- Dr. Brad Majors
- Dr. Melissa Wood
- Mr. Charles Hill
- Mr. Jesse Price

LLR staff present included: Mary League, Esq., Advice Counsel; Patrice S. Deas, Board Executive; Theresa Brown, Program Director; Jacquelyn White, Program Coordinator I; Ervin Bond, OIE; Jennifer Stillwell, Chief Inspector; Billie Chambers, DOT.

Others in attendance: Andrea Taylor, Court Reporter.

3. Approval of Excused Absences

Dr. Michelle Cooper made a motion to approve the absence of Dr. Michael Campbell. Mr. Charles Hill seconded the motion and it carried.

4. Approval of Agenda

Dr. Michelle Cooper made a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Brad Majors seconded the motion and it carried.

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. Board Meeting – January 24, 2024
Mr. Jesse Price made a motion to approve the minutes for the January 24, 2024, Board meeting. Dr. Melissa Wood seconded the motion and it carried.

- b. Special Called Meeting – March 5, 2024
Mr. Jesse Price made a motion to approve the minutes for the March 5, 2024, Special Called meeting. Dr. Melissa Wood seconded the motion and it carried.

6. Administrative Reports

A. OIE Report –Ervin Bond – This report was for information purposes only and was given by Mr. Ervin Bond. January 1, 2024 through May 1, 2024, they have received a total of 33 cases, 8 active investigations and 7 cases closed.

B. IRC Report – For Approval – Ervin Bond – There is 1 case that is being submitted for approval. The committee recommended 1 case for formal complaint.

Dr. Michelle Cooper made a motion to approve the case for formal complaint.
Dr. Brad Majors seconded the motion and it carried.

C. ODC Report – Shelby Sutusky, Esq. – This report was for information purposes only and was given by Ms. Shelby Sutusky, Esq. There 0 open cases, 0 pending hearings and agreements, 0 pending closure, 2 closed, 0 appeals, 2 closed since January 20, 2024, and 2 closed since January 1, 2024.

7. Board Executive Report – Patrice Deas

A. Cash Balance

Ms. Patrice Deas reported the cash balance as of March 31, 2024, for the Optometry Board is \$299,451.70.

B. Total Number of Licensees

The total number of licensees are as follow; 1027 active licensees, 13 pending applications, 2 exam eligible applicants, 4 inactive licensees, 2 mobile units, and since January 24, 2024 through May 14, 2024, there have been 16 licenses issued and 1 reinstated.

C. Compliance Report

Dr. C. Earle Loftis – All terms have been completed and he is in good standing.

Dr. Brenda McGregor – Appeared before the last Board meeting and has decided not to pursue licensure.

On May 13, 2024, the House Bill H4333 was approved and signed by the Governor. The bill permits mobile optometry units to operate during the summer at a site of an organization serving children from low-income communities. If approved by the local community foundation serving the region. The Bill further specifies that the licensed optometrist through a mobile unit who is providing service during the summer at the approved site is not subject to disciplinary

action on the basis that the licensed optometrist prescript glasses without dilating the patient’s eyes at the site.

D. ARBO Conference – Status

The ARBO conference has been approved. Dr. Wayne Cannon, Dr. Michelle Cooper, and Ms. Patrice Deas will be attending the conference. The conference will be held June 17 – 19, 2024 in Nashville, Tennessee.

8. New Business

A. License Pocket Cards

Dr. Brad Majors made a motion to issue the standard certificates without the pocket cards, knowing the pocket cards are available online at no charge. Dr. Michelle Cooper seconded the motion and it carried.

B. Exam Site Visit in August – Charlotte, NC

Dr. Michelle Cooper made a motion that 2 board members at a time visit the Exam Site between the month of August 2024 and the end of the year. Mr. Jesse Price seconded the motion and it carried.

C. Mobile Unit Annual Fees

Dr. Michelle Cooper made a motion mobile units will be assessed \$175.00 initial application fee, \$175.00 renewal annual fee. If they failed to renew in a timely manner by the due date, they will incur a \$155 penalty fee plus \$175 renewal fee for a total \$330.00. Dr. Brad Majors seconded the motion and it carried.

D. Board Member on Mobile Unit Inspection Team

Ms. Jennifer Stillwell is the Chief Inspector for the mobile units. There’s only 2 mobile optometry units in the state. The company is Vision to Learn out of Charleston.

Dr. Wayne Cannon made a motion to have a board member accompany the inspector during the inspection of the mobile optometry units. Dr. Brad Majors seconded the motion and it carried.

Ms. Jennifer Stillwell inspects the units following the guidelines of the checklist. The form was approved in 2022. Ms. Stillwell views the forms to make sure all the information is provided. She doesn’t view patients’ charts. The units are inspected annually.

Dr. Michelle Cooper recommended to address the required equipment for mobile units at the next Board meeting.

At the next inspection, Ms. Patrice Deas will be contacted and a Board member will be assigned.

E. Required DEA Licensing CE – Dr. Wayne Cannon

Dr. Michelle Cooper made a motion if a licensee takes the federal required 8 CE DEA hours that 2 of those hours can to be used toward their DEA hours for South Carolina. Dr. Melissa Wood seconded the motion and it carried.

F. Clarification of CE Approval Process – Dr. Brad Majors

Continuing education hours sponsored by a local society doesn't need to be approved. Independent groups have to submit for approval to offer continuing education hours.

9. Discussion

A. Telemedicine

Ms. Mary League, Esq., Advice Counsel provide information regarding the North Carolina regulations of optometry telemedicine, and differences between South Carolina and North Carolina statutes and regulations pertaining to the practice of optometry.

Dr. Wayne Cannon asked that consideration of Board member review of applications for initial licensure be put on the next meeting's agenda.

10. Public Comments

No public comments.

11. Adjournment

Mr. Charles Hill made a motion to adjourn at 3:46 p.m. Mr. Jesse Price seconded the motion and it carried.