

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

November 20, 2024 at 3:00 PM

110 Centerview Drive, Kingstree Building, Pee Dee Room  
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

**1. Call 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.

Dr. Wayne Cannon called the meeting to order at 3:12 pm.

**2. Introduction of Board Members**

Board members participating in the meeting were:

Dr. Wayne Cannon

Mr. Jesse Price

Mr. Charles Hill

Dr. Michael Campbell

Dr. Brad Majors

Dr. Melissa Wood

LLR staff present included Ely Grote, Esq.; Shelby Sutusky, Esq.; Patrice Deas, Board Executive; April Howe, Lead Investigator; Tajuana Hall, Program Coordinator I; Billie Chambers, DOTS

Others Present: Tina Behles, Court Reporter; Jackie Rivers, SCOPA

**3. Approval of Excused Absences- Dr. Michelle Cooper**

Dr. Melissa Wood made a motion to excuse the absence of Dr. Michelle Cooper. Dr. Brad Majors seconded this motion and it carried.

**4. Approval of Agenda**

Dr. Michael Campbell made a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Melissa Wood seconded the motion and it carried.

**5. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- a. Board Meeting- August 7, 2024
- b. Special Called Meeting - October 25, 2024

Dr. Melissa Wood made a motion to approve the minutes for the August 7, 2024, meeting. Mr. Charles Hill seconded the motion and it carried.

Dr. Melissa Wood made a motion to approve the minutes for the October 25, 2024, special called meeting, with corrections. Dr. Brad Majors seconded this motion and it carried.

## **6. Administrative Reports**

### **A. OIE Report – For Information – April Howe, Lead Investigator**

Since Jan 1, 2024- November 13, 2024, OIE has had 19 complaints, 10 active investigations, 10 closed cases.

### **B. IRC Report – For Approval – April Howe, Lead Investigator**

There was 1 recommendation for dismissal for approval. Mr. Charles Hill made a motion to approve the dismissal. Dr. Brad Majors seconded this motion and it carried.

There was 1 recommendation for Letter of Caution. Mr. Charles Hill made a motion to approve the letter of caution. Dr. Brad Majors seconded the motion and it carried.

### **C. ODC Report – For Information – Shelby Sutusky, Esq.**

There was 1 open case and 2 closed cases since January of 2024.

## **7. Board Executive Report – Patrice Deas**

### **A. Finance Report**

Patrice Deas reported as of September 30, 2024 the cash balance is \$266, 409.43.

### **B. Total Number of Licensees**

Patrice Deas reported as of November 20, 2024, there are 453 active licensees; 636 active in renewal; 2 Pending applications; 2 exam eligible applicants; 4 inactive licensees; and 2 mobile units.

### **C. List of Newly Licensed Optometrists**

Patrice Deas informed the Board that the names and license numbers of the new licensees from August 8, 2024 – November 20, 2024, were provided to them in their Board materials. There were 14 licenses issued.

## **8. Request to Modify Prior Order: 2021-8 & 2021-11 [CLOSED]**

Mr. Charles Hill made a motion to go into closed session. Dr. Michael Campbell seconded the motion and it carried.

The respondent appeared and presented a request pertaining to modification of the Board's prior order.

Mr. Charles Hill made a motion to go into executive session for legal advice. Dr. Melissa Wood seconded the motion and it carried.

Mr. Jesse Price made a motion to come out of executive session for legal advice. Dr. Michael Campbell seconded the motion and it carried.

Mr. Charles Hill made a motion to rescind and expunge the order. Dr. Michael Campbell seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Mr. Jesse Price opposed the motion.

## **9. New Business**

### **A. Expert Reviewer- April Howe**

April Howe presented to the board the need for expert reviewers and gave an overview of why there was a need for expert reviewers. She explained what parameters would make someone a good candidate, such as no disciplinary history and has been in the field for 10 years or more. April Howe asked the Board members for names of individuals that could function as expert reviewers for the board. There is already 1 expert reviewer, but there is a need for 2 more. Information for these individuals would be given to Patrice Deas, Board Executive.

Dr. Cannon stated he would speak to some colleagues about becoming expert reviewers for the board.

## **10. Board Member Training**

April Howe, Lead Investigator and Shelby Sutusky, Esq. presented training to the board members regarding the disciplinary process. Ely Grote, Advice Counsel, also provided training to the board members, including an overview of relevant laws and Board member duties and responsibilities.

## **11. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

## **12. Adjournment**

Dr. Michael Campbell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:02 pm. Dr. Cannon seconded the motion and it carried.