

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

January 29, 2025 at 3:00 PM

110 Centerview Drive, Kingstree Building, Midlands 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 3:00 pm.

2. Introduction of Board Members

Board members participating in the meeting were:

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

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

Others Present: Robin Reibold, Court Reporter; Kathy Gilbert.

3. Approval of Excused Absences

There were no absences.

4. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Jesse Price made a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Michelle Cooper seconded the motion and it carried.

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. Board Meeting- November 20, 2024
Dr. Michelle Cooper made a motion to approve the minutes for the November 20, 2024, meeting. Dr. Brad Majors seconded the motion and it carried.

6. Administrative Reports

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

Since Jan 1, 2024 – Jan 14, 2025, OIE has had 22 complaints, 9 active investigations, and 13 closed cases.

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

There were 3 recommendations for dismissal for approval.

For case 2023-23 Dr. Michelle Cooper made a motion to approve the dismissal. Mr. Jesse Price seconded the motion and it carried.

For case 2024-1 Dr. Michelle Cooper made a motion to approve the dismissal. Mr. Jesse Price seconded the motion and it carried.

For case 2024-20 Dr. Michelle Cooper made a motion to approve the dismissal. Mr. Jesse Price seconded the motion and it carried.

C. ODC Report – For Information Only – Shelby Sutusky, Esq.

As of January 16, 2025, there is 1 open case, 0 closed since the last meeting, and 2 closed cases since January of 2024.

7. Board Executive Report – Patrice Deas

A. Finance Report

Patrice Deas reported as of December 31, 2024 the cash balance is \$451,750.97.

B. Total Number of Licensees

Patrice Deas reported there are 982 active licensees; 106 active in renewal; 2 Pending applications; 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 newly licensed optometrists from November 21, 2024- January 27, 2025 were provided to them in their Board materials. There were 4 new licenses issued.

D. Statement of Economic Interest

Patrice Deas informed the Board they must electronically file a statement of Economic Interest with the SC State Ethics Commission annually no later than by March 30 at noon.

8. Approval of Expert Reviewers

a. Dr. James Taylor

Dr. Michelle Cooper made a motion to approve Dr. James Taylor as an expert reviewer. Mr. Jesse Price seconded the motion and it carried.

b. Dr. Janet Wilson

Dr. Michelle Cooper made a motion to approve Dr. Janet Wilson as an expert reviewer. Dr. Melissa Wood seconded the motion and it carried.

c. Dr. Matthew Daniels

Dr. Michelle Cooper made a motion to approve Dr. Matthew Daniels as an expert reviewer. Dr. Brad Majors seconded the motion and it carried.

9. ARBO Conference – Minneapolis, Minnesota - June 22-24, 2025

Dr. Michelle Cooper made a motion to have 2 staff members and 2 Board members attend the ARBO Conference in Minneapolis in June. Dr. Brad Majors seconded the motion and it carried.

10. Election of Officers

Dr. Brad Majors made a motion to vote to retain Dr. Wayne Cannon as President, and Dr. Michelle Cooper as Vice President. Mr. Jesse Price seconded the motion and it carried.

Dr. Wayne Cannon informed the Board of the appointed Liaisons.

Appointment of Liaisons

Communications Liaison– President – Wayne Cannon

Applications for Licensure Liaison - Dr. Michael Campbell

Legislation Liaison - Dr. Melissa Wood

Continuing Education Liaison - Dr. Brad Majors

Financial Liaison - Public Members - Mr. Jesse Price, Mr. Charles Hill

New Members, ARBO, NBEO Liaison – Vice President- Dr. Michelle Cooper

Kathy Gilbert was introduced to the Board by Dr. Wayne Cannon, as a potential to take one of the seats for public member once the current terms expire.

11. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

12. Adjournment

Mr. Charles Hill made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:23 pm. Dr. Michelle Cooper seconded the motion and it carried.