

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

May 14, 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. Melissa Wood

Mr. Charles Hill

Mr. Jessie Price

LLR staff present included Carolyn Sutherland, Esq., Advice Counsel; Shelby Sutusky, Esq., ODC; Patrice Deas, Board Executive; Bianca Smith, Investigator IV; Tajuana Hall, Program Coordinator I; Billie Chambers, DOTS.

Others Present: Robin Reibold, Court Reporter.

3. Approval of Excused Absences

Dr. Michelle Cooper made a motion to approve the absences of Dr. Michael Campbell and Dr. Brad Majors. Dr. Melissa Wood seconded the motion and it carried.

4. Approval of Agenda

Dr. Michelle Cooper made a motion to approve the agenda with remarks added from the President. Mr. Jesse Price seconded the motion and it carried.

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. Board Meeting- January 29, 2025

Dr. Michelle Cooper made a motion to approve the minutes for the January 29, 2025, meeting. Dr. Melissa Wood seconded the motion and it carried.

6. Administrative Reports

A. OIE Report – For Information Only – Bianca Smith, Investigator IV

Since Jan 1, 2025 – May 14, 2025, OIE has had 7 complaints, 3 active investigations, and 6 closed cases.

B. IRC Report – For Approval – Bianca Smith, Investigator IV

There were 6 recommendations for dismissal for approval and 1 letter of caution.

Dr. Michelle Cooper made a motion to approve the recommendations for dismissal. Dr. Melissa Wood seconded the motion and it carried.

Mr. Jesse Price made a motion to approve the recommendations, for a Letter of Caution. Mr. Charles Hill seconded the motion and it carried.

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

This report was given by Patrice Deas. There is 1 open case, 1 pending hearings and agreements. Since January 17, 2025, there were 0 closed cases, and 0 appeals.

7. Board Executive Report – Patrice Deas

A. Finance Report

Patrice Deas reported as of March 31, 2025, the cash balance is \$450,414.54.

B. Total Number of Licensees

Patrice Deas reported there are 1,003 active licensees; 14 pending applications; 6 exam eligible applicants; and 2 active in renewal mobile units.

C. List of Newly Licensed Optometrist

Patrice Deas informed the Board that the names and license numbers of the newly licensed optometrists from January 29th – May 5, 2025, were provided in their board materials. There was a total of 8 new licenses issued.

8. New Business

A. Legislative Update H.4103 - Holly Beeson/ Virginia Wetzel

Virginia Wetzel gave an update on H.4103. No decisions have been made this legislative cycle. Any bills introduced this year still have the chance to be reviewed and approved next year. An update was also provided on H.3021, which is a Regulatory Reform Bill. The bill was reviewed and approved by the House of Representatives unanimously and it did cross over to the Senate but no further actions were taken this legislative cycle.

9. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

10. Adjournment

Mr. Jesse Price made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:24 pm. Dr. Melissa Wood seconded the motion and it carried.