

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

August 6, 2025 at 3:00 PM

110 Centerview Drive, Kingstree Building, Low Country 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

Dr. Brad Majors

Dr. Michael Campbell

Mr. Jessie Price

LLR staff present included Ely Grote, Esq., Advice Counsel; Tina Brown, Esq., ODC; Patrice Deas, Board Executive; April Howe, Program Manager I, OIE; Jennifer Stillwell, Assistant Deputy Director, OIE; Bianca Smith, Program Manager I, OIE; Yarikza Alexander, Lead Investigator; Tajuana Hall, Program Coordinator I; Ryan Belton, DOTS.

Robin Reibold served as the Court Reporter for the meeting.

3. Approval of Excused Absences

There were no absences.

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. May 14, 2025

Dr. Michelle Cooper made a motion to approve the minutes for the May 14, 2025, meeting. Dr. Brad Majors seconded the motion and it carried.

6. Administrative Reports

A. OIE Report – For Information Only – Yarikza Alexander, Lead Investigator

Since Jan 1, 2025 – July 30, 2025, OIE has had 10 complaints, 2 active investigations, and 15 closed cases.

B. IRC Report – For Approval – Yarikza Alexander, Lead Investigator

There were 6 recommendations for dismissal, 1 formal complaint, and 1 letter of caution.

Mr. Jesse Price made a motion to approve the recommendations for dismissal. Dr. Michael Campbell seconded the motion and it carried.

Mr. Jesse Price made a motion to approve the recommendations for a formal complaint. Dr. Michael Campbell seconded the motion and it carried.

For the case recommended for letter of caution, Dr. Michelle Cooper made a motion to dismiss the case, instead of a letter of caution. Mr. Jesse Price seconded the motion and it carried.

C. ODC Report – For Information Only – Tina Brown, Esq.

There is 1 case pending.

D. Inspection Report- April Howe/Jennifer Stillwell

The mobile unit inspections were completed on June 11, 2025. Both units passed. The next inspection is scheduled for June of 2026.

7. Board Executive Report – Patrice Deas

A. Finance Report

Patrice Deas reported as of June 30, 2025, the cash balance is \$433,842.03.

B. Total Number of Licensees

Patrice Deas reported there are 1,034 active licensees; 7 pending applications; 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 May 6, 2025, through August 4, 2025, were provided in their Board materials. There was a total of 33 new licenses issued.

D. CE Process with CE Broker

Patrice Deas indicated that CE Broker has the system configured to only give credit within the parameters of the CE guidelines. Of the 40 CE requirement, licensees cannot submit more than 15 online courses, and of the 15, only 10 can be pre-recorded. Dr. Majors currently gives the approvals or denials for courses. The Board discussed potentially sending out information pertaining to the CE Broker process before the next renewal.

8. Report – Dr. Cooper

A. ARBO Conference- June 22-24, 2025

Dr. Cooper expressed to the Board how informative the conference was, including hearing and seeing how other states operate. Dr. Cooper informed the Board that the NBEO will open a new state of the art testing center in Charlotte, NC. In September 2025, they will be having an open house to invite Boards across the country to view the facility. Dr. Cooper noted that a lot of information was given about Board responsibilities and conflicts. The next meeting will be in June of 2026 in Phoenix, Arizona.

9. Approval of travel for SCOPA Meeting - August 21-23, 2025

Dr. Michelle Cooper made a motion to approve the President, and Vice President, to attend the SCOPA Meeting, to present a report on Board activities for the past year to the licensees. Dr. Michael Campbell seconded the motion and it carried.

10. New Business

A. Vehicle Window Tint

The Board reviewed and discussed a prior memorandum regarding vehicle window tint.

Dr. Michelle Cooper made a motion to recommend the memorandum be updated and sent to the licensees. Dr. Brad Majors seconded the motion and it carried.

B. Continuing Education Hours for New Graduates and Initial Licensees

The Board discussed the CE requirements for new graduates and new licensees, as well as engaging in further discussion and consideration of potential revision(s) at the next meeting. There were no motions made or votes taken.

C. Administration of Jurisprudence Exam by NBEO

The current process for administering the SC Jurisprudence Exam was discussed, as well as the possibility of having the exam administered by the NBEO. The Board considered what potential cost might be involved, and how such a change might affect exam takers.

The members of the Board agreed this process should be continued as is. There were no motions made or votes taken.

D. Approval for 2026 Board Meeting Dates

- JANUARY 28, 2026
- MAY 6, 2026
- AUGUST 5, 2026
- NOVEMBER 18, 2026

Dr. Michelle Cooper made a motion to approve the dates for the 2026 Board meetings. Mr. Jesse Price seconded the motion and it carried.

11. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

12. Adjournment

Mr. Jesse Price made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:54 pm. Dr. Michael Campbell seconded the motion and it carried.