SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 5, 2026 at 3:00 PM
Via WebEx

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 3:09 pm.

2. **Introduction of Board Members**
   Board Members participating in the meeting were:
   Dr. Wayne Cannon, President
   Dr. Brad Majors, Vice President
   Dr. Michael Campbell
   Dr. Melissa Wood
   Dr. Steven Wearden
   Mr. Jessie Price
   Ms. Kathy Gilbert

   LLR staff present included Ely Grote, Esq., Advice Counsel; Kate Landess, Esq., ODC; Yarikza Alexander, Lead Investigator; Natasha Mitchell, OIE; Patrice Deas, Board Executive; Tajuana Hall, Program Coordinator; Billie Chambers, DOTS.

   Cindy Patterson served as Court Reporter for the meeting.

3. **Approval of Excused Absences**
   There were no absences.

4. **Approval of Agenda**
   Dr. Brad Majors made a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Melissa Wood seconded the motion and it carried.

5. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
   a. Board Meeting- May 6, 2026
      Dr. Michael Campbell made a motion to approve the minutes for the May 6, 2026, meeting. Ms. Kathy Gilbert seconded the motion and it carried.

6. **Administrative Reports**
   A. OIE Report – For Information Only – Yarikza Alexander, Lead Investigator
      Since Jan 1, 2026 – July 30, 2026, OIE has had 24 complaints, 10 active investigations, and closed 14 cases.

B. **IRC Report – For Approval –** Yarikza Alexander, Lead Investigator
There was no IRC Report for this meeting.

C. **ODC Report – For Information Only –** Kate Landess, Esq.
As of July 31, 2026, there are 4 open cases, 4 cases pending hearing and agreements, 0 pending closure, 0 cases closed, and 0 appeals.

D. **Inspection Report-** April Howe/Jennifer Stillwell
April Howe reported that an additional mobile unit was added over the last year, and three mobile unit inspections were completed.

7. **Board Executive Report –** Patrice Deas
   A. **Finance Report**
   Patrice Deas reported as of May 31, 2026, the cash balance is 348,781.24.

   B. **Total Number of Licensees**
   Patrice Deas reported there are 1,097 active licensees**;** 4 pending applications; and 3 active 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, May 1,2026, through July 31, 2026, were provided in their Board materials. There was a total of 29 new licenses issued.

8. **ARBO Conference Report – Dr. Brad Majors**
Dr. Majors indicated the conference was informative and well attended. Representatives from the NBEO and other state boards were present. Dr. Cannon also echoed Dr. Major's remarks.

9. **Approval to Travel**
   A. **ARBO Conference- June 13-14, 2027- Boston, Massachusetts**
   Dr. Melissa Wood made a motion to approve two Board members and the Board Executive to attend the ARBO Meeting in Boston in June. Dr. Michael Campbell seconded the motion and it carried.

10. **Adjournment**
Dr. Michael Campbell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:24 pm. Dr. Melissa Wood seconded the motion and it carried.