

South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR)
Board of Examiners in Optometry
Board Meeting Minutes
February 21, 2018
Synergy Business Park
110 Centerview Drive, Kingtree Building, Room 204
Columbia, South Carolina

Public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the South Carolina Board of Examiners in Optometry, Synergy Business Park, Kingtree Building and provided to all requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with section 30-4-80 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Michelle Cooper, Vice President
Dr. Derek Van Veen
Dr. Thomas E. Tucker
Charles Hill, Public Member
Jesse W. Price, III, Public Member

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dr. Peter Candela
Dr. James Vaught, President

SCLLR STAFF PRESENT:

Stacey Hewson, Esquire, Office of Advice Counsel
April Koon, Board Administrator
Missy L. Jones, Administrative Assistant
For IRC Report:
David Love, Chief Investigator, Office of Investigations and Enforcement
For ODC Report:
Tina Brown, Esquire, Office of Disciplinary Counsel

PRESENT:

Kitty Lindler, Court Reporter, Capital City Reporting LLC

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Cooper called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: A **motion** was made by Dr. Tucker to accept the February 21, 2018, Agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Price and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF ABSENT BOARD MEMBER(S): A **motion** was made by Mr. Hill to approve absences for Dr. Vaught and Dr. Candela. The motion was seconded by Mr. Price and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 11, 2017 MEETING MINUTES: A **motion** was made by Dr. Tucker to accept the October 11, 2017 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Price and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 24, 2018 LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES: A **motion** was made by Dr. Tucker to accept the January 24, 2018 Legislative Subcommittee minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Price and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 30, 2018 SPECIAL CALLED TELECONFERENCE BOARD MEETING MINUTES: A **motion** was made by Dr. Tucker to accept the January 30, 2018 Special Called Teleconference Board Meeting minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Price and carried unanimously.

OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT (OIE) STATISTICAL REPORT: Mr. Love presented the IRC Statistical Report. There were a total of 14 cases from January 1, 2017 to February 7, 2018. One case is actively being investigated. Four cases have been closed. One case is pending Board action. Eight cases were not opened. The Board accepted this as information.

INVESTIGATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE (IRC) REPORT: Mr. Love provided the IRC Report. It was recommended to dismiss case # 2017-10. A **motion** was made by Dr. Van Veen to accept the IRC dismissal recommendations. The motion was seconded by Mr. Price and carried unanimously.

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL (ODC) REPORT: Ms. Brown reported that there were no open cases and one closed case in 2017 in the Office of Disciplinary Counsel. The Board accepted this report as information.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Mrs. Beeson reported there are two main bills that the Office of Communications and Governmental Affairs have been following for the Optometry Board. Both bills pertain to the vision screening requirements for driver's license renewal in South Carolina. Mrs. Beeson reviewed the letter that was submitted to the South Carolina Optometric Physicians Association related to the Board's concerns regarding prior changes to House Bill 4672 which would have eliminated the vision screening requirement. House Bill 4672 was heard in a Subcommittee last week which it was amended to read "The department shall require a vision screening for all persons obtaining an initial license", and it would add back in "And upon license renewal after October 1, 2019." This amendment passed in Subcommittee. House Bill 4672 will go to the House Committee. If it passes in the House Committee, it will go to the Senate for consideration. Senate Bill 979 would add language to license renewal statute stating "When a person 65 years or older renews this license, the license shall expire on the date recommended by the licensed ophthalmologist or optometrist conducting the vision screening required by Section 56-1-220, four or five years from the date the license was issued."

REPORTS / INFORMATION

- **Licensee Totals Report** – S.C. 905 licensed optometrists; 588 practice in S.C.; 317 practice out-of-state
- **Endorsement Applicant Report** – 2 Optometrists were licensed in S.C. from October 6, 2017 through February 6, 2018.
- **Financial Report** - provided and accepted as information
- **Travel Budget** – The Director reviewed travel budgets for all Boards at LLR and allowed the Optometry Board an approved 2018 budget of \$6,000.
- **Statement of Economic Interest Report** – Mrs. Koon reminded the Board the 2018 Statement of Economics are due March 31, 2018.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CE BROKER/OE TRACKER – TRACKING OF OPTOMETRIC CONTINUING

EDUCATION: Mr. Sitterle gave a presentation on tracking continuing education through CE Broker which is in a contractual agreement with LLR to monitor and provide 100% audits for all licensees of LLR. This was accepted by the Board as information.

NEW BUSINESS

APPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBER TO REVIEW ENDORSEMENT APPLICATIONS:

A **motion** was made by Dr. Van Veen to appoint Dr. Candela to review endorsement applications. The motion was seconded by Dr. Tucker and carried unanimously. A **motion** was made by Mr. Hill to rescind the previous motion due to Dr. Candela no longer serving on the Board after his term expires on May 15, 2018. The motion was seconded by Dr. Tucker and carried unanimously. A **motion** was made by Dr. Tucker to appoint Dr. Van Veen to review endorsement applications. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hill and carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS: A **motion** was made by Mr. Price to reappoint Dr. Vaught as the Board's President. The motion was seconded by Dr. Van Veen and carried unanimously. A **motion** was made by Dr. Tucker to reappoint Dr. Cooper as the Board's Vice-President. The motion was seconded by Dr. Van Veen and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF TRAVEL TO ARBO ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 17-20, 2018: A **motion** was made by Dr. Van Veen to approve the Board's President, Dr. Vaught or a substitute should he not be available, and April Koon, Administrator to travel to ARBO Annual Meeting in Colorado on June 17 – 20, 2018. The motion was seconded by Dr. Tucker and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Board meeting is May 30, 2018

ADJOURNMENT

A **motion** was made by Dr. Tucker to adjourn the meeting at 5:05 p.m. The motion was seconded by Dr. Van Veen and carried unanimously.

These minutes are a record of the official actions taken by the Board and a summary of the meeting