

BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY

Regular Session Minutes

July 27, 2016
DHMH
4201 Patterson Avenue #105
Baltimore, MD 21215
9:30 a.m.

The regular session of the Board of Examiners in Optometry's meeting was held on Wednesday, July 27, 2016. Board members present were, Andrew Doyle O.D., Mesheca Bunyon O.D., Stephen Kwan, O.D., Brian T. Woolf, O.D., Frederick J. Walsh, Ph.D., and Rona D. Pepper. Also present were Ari Elbaum, Board Counsel, Patricia G. Bennett, Board Administrator, Kecia Dunham, Licensing Coordinator, and Arthura Easter, Staff Assistant. Also in attendance was Phyllis Strickland, O.D., Jennifer Levy and Cheryl Frazier from the MOA and Kristen Neville.

A. Opening of Meeting

Dr. Andrew Doyle, O.D., Board President, opened the regular session of the Board meeting at 9:45 a.m. He welcomed a licensee who attended the meeting –Claudia Blemard, O.D.

Minutes

The regular session minutes of the meeting held on May 25, 2016 were reviewed with corrections. On Page # 2 under **2016 Legislative Session**, add Kristen's last name "Neville". A motion was made by Dr. Walsh and seconded by Dr. Walsh to accept the minutes as with corrections. The Board's vote was unanimous.

C. Committee Reports

1. Continuing Education - Dr. Woolf

Dr. Woolf reported that there was no information to report.

2. Credentialing- Dr. Kwan

Dr. Kwan reported that there was no information to report. This committee reviews and approves continuing education for applicants applying for diagnostic and therapeutic certification.

3. Budget – Dr. Kwan

Dr. Kwan reported that as of June 30, 2016 the Board's expenditures for the fiscal year were \$287,832.00. The Board's Special Fund balance as of June 30, 2016 is \$467,558.00, which includes the fiscal year revenue and the carryover fund balance. After fiscal year 2016 expenditures are subtracted from the special fund balance, the remaining funds will be the beginning balance for fiscal year 2017.

4. QEI – Dr. Doyle

Dr. Doyle reported that the QEI Committee met in April and completed the 2014 Record Review audit. The 2015 Record Review process has begun. Audit letters will be disseminated and the committee members will review records and report at the next meeting, which is scheduled for Thursday, October 20, 2016.

5. Rehabilitation- Dr. Doyle

The committee handles issues related to impaired professionals. Nothing new to report

6. ARBO- Dr. Doyle

Dr. Doyle reported on the Annual ARBO meeting that was held at the Boston Waterfront Westin, Boston, MA. Topics of discussions were:

- National Board of Examiners in Optometry Workshop- which included the history and future of NBEO
- Background Checks
- Continuing Education – COPE Provider Accreditation Process

- Telehealth
- Role of the Regulatory Boards
- North Carolina Dental Board Ruling
- ARBO Board of Directors Elections

Dr. Doyle's summary will be added with the corrected signed minutes.

7. Legislation – Dr. Walsh

Dr. Walsh reported that there was nothing to report.

D. Old Business

Regulations

Regulatory Review – Dr. Woolf, Chair

The committee's charge was the review of the Board regulations. The committee has held several meetings and will complete the report for each regulation reviewed. The reports are due to the Department's Regulations Coordinator by August 15, 2016 and the legislature by October 1, 2016. The next step in the process is the actual drafting of the proposed language and the submission for regulation development and promulgation.

E. Executive Director's Report – Patricia Bennett

Renewal 2016 – There were 484 licenses renewed and a 99% continuing education compliance rate.

Budget FY 17 - The Board's approved expenditure budget for fiscal year 2017 is \$292,604.00

ARBO – Some of the topics discussed by Ms. Bennett included the Anti-Trust issues surrounding the North Carolina Dental Board case and its impact on Boards throughout the country; criminal background checks; the new COPE Provider Accreditation process; Board and licensees' presence on social media sites; Virginia's Department of Health Professions has a Healthcare Workforce Data Center that researches and reports on healthcare workforce on a profession-by-profession basis. Ms. Bennett shared that it is important for Board Presidents to read a script at the beginning of each Board meeting to focus the work of the Board and to reiterate the Board's mission. Ms. Bennett stated that she and Dr. Doyle discussed the feasibility of the Board moving away from approving CE courses and accepting only COPE approved programs. This issue will require further discussion and research, however, both see the value to the Board and licensees. The annual meeting will be held in Washington, DC June 18 – 20, 2017. It would be good for Board members to attend due to the close proximity.

Ms. Bennett stated that the Board would plan a one-day retreat to cover areas such as strategic planning, development of bylaws, mission statement, committees, etc.

F. New Business

1. **New Licenses Issued –** A motion was made and seconded to accept the 32 newly licensed optometrists since the May 25, 2016 meeting. The Board's vote was unanimous.
2. **MOA –** Jennifer Levy, MOA Director, informed the Board that the MOA was revising the required 8 hour steroids course that is required for licensees applying by Partial Waiver. Ms. Levy stated that the course was antiquated and needed to be updated. She asked for the Board's assistance. She will provide the current course curriculum to Dr. Doyle and Dr. Woolf for their review, input and recommendations.

3. Executive Committee

Pat Bennett shared that it would be helpful to have an executive committee to direct and guide the Board during the next 7 years until its sunset in 2023. Drs. Bunyon and Woolf volunteered to serve in addition to Dr. Doyle, President. Pat Bennett will staff the committee and set up a first meeting.

Temporary Licenses

Dr. Bunyon had submitted a copy of a temporary certificate/license that a licensee had received from the West Virginia Board of Optometry for providing voluntary vision screenings. She inquired as to whether the Maryland Board could issue temporary licenses. West Virginia was able to issue the certificate because there is a provision in state law. The Board would have to enact legislation in order to issue temporary licenses.

Dr. Doyle closed the regular session at 10:50 a.m. to move into administrative session in order to comply with specific constitutional, statutory or judicially imposed requirements that prevent public disclosure about a particular proceeding or matter and to discuss the investigation of complaints against specific licensees. Dr. Walsh seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian T. Woolf, O.D.
Board Secretary