

## BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY

### Regular Session Minutes

March 30, 2016  
DHMH  
4201 Patterson Avenue #110  
Baltimore, MD 21215  
9:30 a.m.

The regular session of the Board of Examiners in Optometry's meeting was held on Wednesday, March 30, 2016. Board members present were, Phyllis Strickland, O.D., Frederick J. Walsh, Ph.D., Brian T. Woolf, O.D., Andrew Doyle O.D., Mesheca Bunyon O.D., and Rona D. Pepper. Also present were Ari Elbaum, Board Counsel, Patricia G. Bennett, Board Executive Director, Kecia Dunham, Licensing Coordinator, and Arthura Easter, Office Secretary. Stephen Kwan, O.D. was not in attendance.

#### A. Opening of Meeting

Dr. Phyllis Strickland, O.D., Board President, opened the regular session of the Board meeting at 9:43 a.m. She welcomed 3 licensees who attended the meeting – Janice Simmons, O.D., Claudia Blemard, O.D. and Sabrina Greenspun-Levitt.

#### Minutes

The regular session minutes of the meeting held on November 18, 2015 were reviewed and the following corrections were made: Under New Business #4 Non Optometric Assistant, "dilation" is misspelled. Dr. Strickland asked for a motion to be made to accept the corrected minutes. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as corrected. The Board's vote was unanimous.

#### C. Committee Reports

##### 1. Continuing Education - Dr. Woolf

Dr. Woolf reported that Dr. Jenine Melko, O.D., a military optometrist, had requested a waiver of the limit placed on the online CE category for her initial therapeutic application. The Board discussed the issue and voted to deny the request because the waiver provision only applies to licensees who are experiencing undue hardship and request a waiver during renewal.

##### 2. Credentialing- Dr. Kwan

Ms. Bennett 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

Ms. Bennett reported that as of March 8, 2016 the Board's remaining expenditure balance is \$86,658.00. Expenditures for the month to date were \$16,302.00. The Board's Special Fund balance as of March 8, 2016 is \$171,802.00.

##### 4. QEI – Dr. Doyle

Dr. Doyle reported that the QEI Committee's next scheduled meeting is April 28, 2016.

##### 5. Rehabilitation- Dr. Doyle

Dr. Doyle indicated that there was no committee report. The committee handles issues related to impaired professionals.

##### 6. ARBO- Dr. Strickland

Dr. Strickland reported the Annual ARBO meeting will be held at the Boston Westin, Boston, MA June 26-28, 2016. The President and Executive Director attend as delegate and alternate representing the Board.

## 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 is the review of the Board regulations. The committee is deciding how best to conduct the review and include topics, issues and content areas that identify trends in the optometry profession. Dr. Woolf reported that an open public meeting was scheduled following the Board meeting.

#### 2016 Legislative Session

Kristen reported that the session ends on 4/11/16. The Governor's Budget passed several bills that will impact the Boards generally. Of particular note is the requirement that Boards keep minutes for 5 years and post them online as well as agendas.

## E. Executive Director's Report – Patricia Bennett

**Board Website Under Construction**– Ms. Bennett reported that all state websites are being updated with a template that has been authorized by Dolt – the state's IT department.

**2016 Online License Renewal** – It is projected that 571 licensees are slated for renewal and 20% (114) will be selected for CE audit. The system will go live on April 29, 2016.

**Board Elections** – Ms. Bennett stated that the Board would hold elections for Board President at the May 2016 meeting. Dr. Strickland's term expires on May 31, 2016.

**Letter from Budget and Management Secretary** - In line with the Governor's thrust to reduce/ eliminate fees, the state Budget Secretary has directed the Boards to not raise or increase any of its fees. Based on this directive, all Boards will eventually deplete their fund balances because current revenue from fees cannot be increased as expenditures increase.

**Online License Application** – The Boards were hopeful that staff from the MHCC would be able to develop an online application system similar to the renewal system. That project is currently on hold.

## F. New Business

1. **New Licenses Issued** – A motion was made by Dr. Bunyon and seconded by Dr. Woolf to accept the newly licensed optometrists since the November 18, 2015 meeting. The Board's vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Ms. Pepper and seconded by Dr. Doyle to adjourn. The Board's vote was unanimous. The regular session of the Board adjourned at 10:59 a.m. to go into Administrative Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian T. Woolf, O.D.  
Board Secretary