

BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY

Regular Session Minutes

**October 1, 2014
DHMH
4201 Patterson Avenue #302
Baltimore, MD 21215
12:30 p.m.**

The regular session of the Board of Examiners in Optometry's meeting was held on Wednesday, October 1, 2014. Board members present were, Jo Anne Brilliant, O.D., Andrew Doyle, O.D., Stephen Kwan, O.D., Kisha Field Matthews, Phyllis Strickland, O.D., Frederick J. Walsh, Ph.D. and Brian T. Woolf, O.D. Also present were Ari Elbaum, Board Counsel, Patricia G. Bennett, Board Executive Director, and Kecia Dunham, Administrative Specialist. Kristen Neville, Regulations/Legislative Liaison was also present.

A. Opening of Meeting

Dr. Jo Anne Brilliant, O.D., Board President, opened the regular session of the Board meeting at 12:34 p.m.

B. Minutes

The regular session minutes of the meeting held on May 28, 2014 were reviewed. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as written. The Board's vote was unanimous.

C. Committee Reports

1. Continuing Education - Dr. Woolf

Dr. Woolf reported that there was no information.

2. Credentialing- Dr. Kwan

Dr. Kwan reported that there was no information.

3. QEI Committee– Dr. Brilliant

Dr. Brilliant reported that the next QEI meeting has been rescheduled for Thursday, November 20, 2014. The Committee will begin reviewing records for the TPA Record Review Audit for calendar year 2013.

4. Rehabilitation- Dr. Doyle

Dr. Doyle reported that there was no information.

5. Budget – Dr. Strickland

Dr. Strickland reported that the Special Fund balance that was carried over from FY 2014 is \$157,470.00 and Board's revenue as of September 8, 2014 is \$33,152.00 that gives the Board a Special Fund balance to date for FY 2015 of \$190,622.00. FY 2015 Expenditure Balance as of September 8, 2014 is \$220,189.00.

6. ARBO- Dr. Strickland

Dr. Strickland reported that there was no information.

7. Board Centennial- Dr. Strickland

Dr. Strickland reported on the Centennial Event timeline:

October- Licensees will receive a Commemorative Centennial Edition of the Board's Law and Regulations booklet, a microfiber lens cleaning cloth with the Board's Centennial logo and the third QEI Educational Topic and Exam.

November- MOA Convention- Board Members and staff will man a Board exhibit table at the MOA convention to display the Centennial Governor's citation and other plaques and hand out giveaways to attendees.

December 3, 2014 – The next scheduled Board Meeting will be held and licensees are invited to attend a “Breakfast with the Board” prior to the meeting. The Centennial Committee will officially present the Time Capsule to the Board. The capsule will hold memorabilia from the year’s events and activities.

8. Legislation- Dr. Kwan & Kisha Fields Matthews

Dr. Kwan reported that there was no information.

D. Old Business

Continuing Education- Cultural Competency

Civil Fines- Drs. Doyle and Woolf discussed the draft regulations that were developed by the committee. After Board member deliberation and input by Board Counsel, the Board decided to change the word “individuals” to “persons” where referenced in the new language under .06 Civil Fines. In the current regulation, individual refers to licensees. In the proposed amendment, person applies to those not licensed by the Board. A motion was made and seconded to the changing of the draft regulations. The Board’s vote was unanimous.

New Board Member Orientation- Kristen Neville reported that the next New Member Orientation will be held on Monday, November 17, 2014 at the UMBC Technology Center.

E. Executive Director’s Report – Patricia Bennett

Ms. Bennett reported on the following:

Citizens Advocacy Meeting October 23-24, 2014 – The annual meeting will be held in Baltimore and co-hosted by the Department. Therefore, Secretary Sharfstein has strongly encouraged Board and staff member participation. Several Board Executive Directors and staff from the Attorney General’s office are presenters. Ms. Bennett has registered to attend.

11th Annual Health Disparities Conference – The event will be held on October 29, 2014 in Baltimore at Martin’s West. This annual event focuses on different aspects of health disparities, health equity and cultural competency. Pat Bennett will attend this meeting.

Financial Disclosure – Ms. Bennett advised Board members that all disclosures must be completed online.

Strategic Planning 2015 – Pat Bennett will begin to look at plans for a one-day Board Retreat tentatively in spring/summer 2015.

MOA News – Pat Bennett provided the following information that she received from Jennifer Levy, MOA Executive Director.

1. MOA Convention - Dr. Jo Anne Brilliant, O.D. will receive the Mel Waxman Award for Distinguished Service to the Profession of Optometry for 25+ years and Nina Doyle, O.D. will receive the Optometrist of the Year Award. Board member with the exception of Dr. Walsh and staff will attend the Centennial Reception and Dinner.
2. Telehealth - There is a company in Columbia, MD that has been awarded a grant to develop a portable version of its eye testing technology. There is the possibility for doctors to perform remote eye exams. Opternative is a new company that markets online eye exams.
3. Pharmacy Statute - There have been 2 instances where Professional Pharmacy has not filled scripts from optometrists requiring DEA# from them. Licensed optometrists are not required to obtain DEA#. They are excluded from the list of health practitioners for whom pharmacists can fill scripts.

F. New Business**1. Licenses Issued July 28, 2014- September 25, 2014**

Dr. Brilliant reported that 10 licenses had been issued during the period. Dr. Strickland moved and Dr. Woolf seconded the motion to accept the new licensees. The Board's vote was unanimous.

Dr. Brilliant closed the regular session at 1:30 p.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. Woolf seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kisha Fields Matthews
Board Secretary