

STATE OF NEVADA



Board of Dispensing Opticians

Minutes of Public Meeting: February 11, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE:

Per the Governor's orders regarding COVID-19 closures, there was no public location provided for this meeting. All interested parties were invited to attend via teleconference.

Board Members Present:

Jennifer Letten, President
Mark Myers, Vice President
Tamara Sternod, Secretary
Marilyn Brainard, Treasurer
Brett Roames, Member

Board Staff Present:

Corinne Sedran, Executive Director
Laena St-Jules, Deputy Attorney General

1. Call to order
Board President Jennifer Letten called the meeting to order and called roll at 5:02 p.m. All board members were in attendance.
2. Public comment
There was no public comment.
3. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Approval of previous board meeting minutes
December 28, 2020 Board Meeting
Motion: Ms. Brainard moved to accept the minutes as presented.
Vote: The motion passed unanimously.
4. Announcement of newly licensed Ophthalmic Dispensers:
Ms. Sedran announced Ms. Akeena Dingson had been issued Dispensing Optician License 729.
5. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Review and discussion of proposed revisions to NAC Chapter 637
Mr. Roames asked about a provision referring to digital measuring devices and asked that the clause be changed to allow opticians discretion over using manual or digital devices. Ms. Sedran confirmed

the draft would be changed accordingly. Any workshops or hearings on the current draft of the regulations will be tabled until after legislative session because the draft will need to be modified if the Board's bill passes.

6. **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION:** Review and discussion of revisions to NRS Chapter 637; updates on bill
Ms. Sedran said she had not received a bill draft from the LCB and would be referring to notes collected at previous meetings for this discussion. She spoke regarding the request for a fingerprinting requirement for licensure, noting other board directors have indicated the wait time can be 45 days or longer to receive fingerprinting results from the Central Repository. This would greatly delay the issuing of licenses and may not be a necessary precaution for apprentices who cannot work without direct supervision. Ms. Sternod suggested applying the fingerprinting requirement only to applicants for an optician license. Ms. Brainard said she is concerned a fingerprinting requirement is not standard for the industry and may present a roadblock to licensure. Ms. Letten agreed with Ms. Sternod's suggestion that a set of fingerprints only be required when a person is applying for an optician license. Ms. Sedran suggested the Board request the LCB amend the draft language to make the requirement discretionary. The board members agreed to the draft amendment. Ms. Brainard said she would like to find out how many other opticianry licensing boards require fingerprints.
7. **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION:** 2021 Legislative Session updates and review of legislative tracking
Ms. Sedran reviewed various bills that may have an impact on the occupational licensing boards, including possible new requirements to collect demographic information on licensees and information on the telehealth and insurance options provided to healthcare recipients.
8. **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION:** Report and recommendations on apprentice education programs by assigned board member; discussion and decision by Board
Mr. Myers said he did not have any items to report at this time. He will forward the materials for the Penn Foster program to Ms. Sternod for review. Ms. Sedran said she was notified the CLSA, which provides contact lens education to Nevada apprentices, is working on releasing an Advanced Volume that will prepare students for the Advanced NCLE Exam. Mr. Roames would like to know whether Penn Foster is planning to add an advanced contact lens element to its program in the future.
9. **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION:** Assignment of board member to review continuing education providers and courses
Mr. Roames volunteered to review continuing education course providers. Ms. Letten said she would like him to review CE courses provided by other states, specifically New York and Florida. Ms. Sedran said she would also need him to review various course approval requests that are submitted by course providers or attendees.
10. **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION:** Financial items
 - a. Review and acceptance of **November and December 2020** financial reports
Motion: Ms. Letten moved to accept the reports as presented.
Vote: The motion passed unanimously.
 - b. Discussion and decision on renewing office lease
Discussion: Ms. Sedran said the Board is scheduled to renew its current lease for office space. The space is working nicely but there is a larger office available in the same building that would allow for easier access to storage. Ms. Letten said the larger space would also offer more privacy because it is removed from the main area of the building where conferences and meetings take place. Ms. Sedran said she would need to measure the space to make sure it would accommodate

the Board's needs before committing to a lease.

Motion: Ms. Letten moved to renew the lease on the current office space; if the larger space is preferable, the Board will reconvene to discuss amending the lease.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

- c. Discussion and decision on pay/benefits adjustments for Executive Director
Ms. Sedran asked to postpone this discussion until the next meeting.

11. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Executive Director's report

- a. Legislative and executive committee updates

Ms. Sedran said she had received an instruction from Nevada Senator Pat Spearman to send a survey to all the Board's licensees asking about their experience with state licensure. The instruction was sent with the attention of the Governor's Office and a notice to contact that office with any questions related to the survey. Ms. Sedran complied with the instruction on the advice of the Board's lobbyist and after speaking with Ms. Letten. Ms. Brainard said she is concerned about Senator Spearman's agenda in sending out the survey and asked what legislative authority she had to give such an instruction. Ms. St-Jules said she would research the law but did not believe Senator Spearman's instruction could be compulsory. Ms. Letten clarified the survey the Board sent out was a link provided by Senator Spearman and the Board did not indicate it was mandatory for licensees to participate. Ms. Sedran said she and Ms. Letten had attended a roundtable discussion hosted by Senator Spearman and the main points of concern surrounding licensure were related to veterans and persons with criminal histories obtaining licenses.

- b. Administrative/state report updates

Ms. Sedran said she had begun to receive fiscal note requests from the Fiscal Division of the LCB regarding recently introduced legislation. She will report back to the Board on any legislation that might have a significant fiscal impact.

- c. General updates

Ms. Sedran gave an update on the post-renewal licensing numbers. The Board retained a large majority of its licensees with 370 optician renewals 99 apprentice renewals. The Board issued 17 new optician licenses and 37 new apprentice licenses in 2020. The apprentice pass rate for the Advanced ABO/NCLE Exams remained constant at around 50% for the year. She would like to focus on increasing the number of out-of-state license transfers in 2021.

12. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Board member comment and future agenda items

Ms. Brainard asked Ms. St-Jules to provide information at the next meeting on whether Senator Spearman can mandate the boards issue a survey to their licensees. Mr. Roames said he would like to revisit the NRS changes. Ms. Sedran asked Mr. Roames to send her any notes or questions he had regarding the bill prior to the next meeting.

13. Public comment

Temma Chaparro, Licensed Optician, spoke regarding Item 6 and the requirement an applicant submit a complete set of fingerprints. She is concerned if the requirement is only applied to applicants for an optician license a person might complete the whole apprenticeship program before discovering he or she is ineligible for an optician license after submitting fingerprints. Ms. Chaparro also identified areas of the Board's website that need to be updated; Ms. Sedran said she would make the updates.

Ms. Letten thanked all attendees and closed the meeting at 6:15 p.m.