

STATE OF NEVADA



Board of Dispensing Opticians

Minutes of Public Meeting: August 12, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

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
Ms. Letten called the meeting to order and called roll at 5:00 p.m. All board members and staff were present.
2. Public comment
There was no public comment.
3. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Approval of previous board meeting minutes
June 10, 2021 Board Meeting
Motion: Ms. Brainard moved to approve the minutes as presented.
Vote: The motion passed unanimously.
4. Announcement of newly licensed Ophthalmic Dispensers:
Ms. Sedran announced the names of opticians licensed since the last meeting.
732 Ma. Guadalupe Cabrales
733 Anthony Phillips
734 Lauren Lopez

5. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Review and decision on Apprenticeship Extension Requests:
Reynoso, Alondra 1532
Discussion: Ms. Sedran said the applicant is eligible for license renewal in 2022 based upon the date her license was issued. The board members determined the applicant would not benefit from an extension because the new timeline would only extend a few days beyond the expiration of the license.
Motion: Ms. Letten moved to deny the request based upon the applicant's license renewal timeline.
Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

6. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Report and recommendations on apprentice education programs by assigned board member; discussion and decision on **Penn Foster** program
Discussion: Mr. Myers confirmed all licensed board members had been given time and opportunity to review the education materials provided by Penn Foster. His opinion is the materials would be sufficient to help an applicant pass the ABO and NCLE Basic Exams and possibly the ABO Advanced Exam, but not the NCLE Advanced Exam. Ms. Sternod and Mr. Roames agreed with this assessment. Ms. Letten agreed and said the board already has a more comprehensive program available through the National Academy of Opticianry; the Penn Foster Program is not appropriate for Nevada apprentices.
Motion: Mr. Myers moved to deny Penn Foster as an apprentice education program.
Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

7. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Report and recommendations on continuing education courses and providers by assigned board member
Discussion: Mr. Roames said he had a conversation with a company called CE Brokers; the company does not provide CE courses but rather acts as a go-between for multiple CE providers. He asked the representative to contact the board office with more information. Ms. Sedran asked if another board member would like to review CE courses when Mr. Roames' term ends. Ms. Letten volunteered and the remaining board members agreed she should be assigned.

8. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Discussion and decision on ABO/NCLE exams and future exam review
Discussion: Ms. Letten said the board office had been working with Jim Morris of the ABO on setting up an exam review. However, there may be a change of board members in October so it is preferable to wait until after any new board members are appointed to schedule the exam review.
Motion: Ms. Letten moved to table this item until the December meeting.
Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

9. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Discussion of proposed changes to NAC Chapter 637
Discussion: Ms. Sedran reviewed changes to the regulations proposed by board members over the past year, including removing redundant or outdated language, defining various terms related to dispensing, clarifying provisions related to management, clarifying application requirements for apprentices and opticians, and reverting the 40-month apprenticeship timeline to simple renewal cycles. The board members did not make any new recommendations or requests.

10. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Financial items
 - a. Review and acceptance of **May and June 2021** financial reports
Motion: Ms. Brainard moved to accept the reports as presented.
Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

- b. Review and approval of proposed FY22 budget

Motion: Ms. Letten moved to approve the proposed budget as presented.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

- c. Discussion and decision on renewal of Certificate of Deposit

Discussion: Ms. Brainard discussed options for renewing the board's Certificate of Deposit. The interest rates are not very favorable at this time and committing to a longer investment period will not make a significant difference to the rate. Ms. Letten agreed with Ms. Brainard's analysis and recommended renewing the current certificate for 12 months at the rate offered by the bank.

Motion: Ms. Brainard moved to renew the certificate for 12 months.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

11. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Executive Director's report

- a. Office and licensing updates

Ms. Sedran reviewed current licensing numbers, which include 39 new apprentices and 6 new opticians for 2021. Apprentice application numbers are up from 2020 when there were 34 new apprentices for the year. Optician numbers are behind those from 2020 when there were 17 new opticians. Several apprentices reported difficulties completing the required CLSA education program in 2021; specifically, they reported very slow response times from the company due to staff shortages. There were five exam takers for the ABO/NCLE Advanced/Practical exams in July and 61 total Advanced/Practical exams taken in 2021.

- b. General updates

Ms. Sedran reviewed the various administrative reports made to other state agencies since the last meeting.

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

Ms. Brainard asked if the board is interviewing potential lobbyists. Ms. Letten said she and Ms. Sedran had discussed hiring a lobbyist to pursue the board's proposed regulation changes; they are looking for the best fit for the board.

Ms. Sternod announced she will not be renewing her term on the board. Ms. Letten said Ms. Sternod had already served several terms on the board and had made enormous contributions to the profession through both her work on the board and her volunteer work with Lions Club. She thanked both Ms. Sternod and Mr. Roames for their service to the board during their terms.

13. Public comment

There was no public comment.

Ms. Letten adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.