

STATE OF NEVADA



Board of Dispensing Opticians

Notice of Public Meeting:

December 9, 2021 at 5:00 p.m

There was no physical location provided for this meeting. All interested parties were invited to attend via teleconference.

Board Members Present:

Jennifer Letten, President
Mark Myers, Vice President
Marilyn Brainard, Treasurer

Board Staff Present:

Corinne Sedran, Executive Director
Greg Ott, Chief Deputy Attorney General

1. Call to order
Ms. Letten called the meeting to order and called roll at 5:05 p.m.
2. Public comment
There was no public comment.
3. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Approval of previous board meeting minutes
October 14, 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 and congratulated the newly licensed ophthalmic dispensers.
737 Kelli Uren
738 Wendy Miller
739 Jared Kawamata
5. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Report and recommendations on continuing education courses and providers by assigned board member
 - a. **CE Broker**
Ms. Letten said she and Ms. Sedran had received a program demonstration from representatives of CE Broker. She asked Ms. Sedran to thank them for their time and said it is a good program. However, the free version of the program is fairly basic, and the licensees would each need to

pay for an upgraded version, which costs between \$29 and \$99 per year, to receive the full benefits of the service. The Board's current renewal form already provides the service offered by the free version of the program, which is CE course tracking and notification of compliance.

Ms. Sedran said she and Ms. Letten had been provided with a test account for the program, but did not realize until after the CE Broker presentation that the test version was not the free version. Ms. Sedran also met with the IT team that services the Board's online system to review the costs of redesigning the current renewal forms and removing the CE course tracking function. It would cost several thousand dollars to recode the system to remove these features. The CE Broker contract also requires the Board to adopt the program as its CE credit monitoring software, meaning the licensees would not have a choice whether or not to use the program, and would each have to sign up for an account. The Board would not have any discretion over the design or cost of the program going forward, and the company is domiciled in another state. The Board's current program is simple and allows the staff and licensees to track and review CE course history in one location. Most of the Board's licensees hold only one professional license and do not require additional for-pay programs to track their CE credits.

Mr. Myers asked what the CE Broker program provides for the yearly fee. Ms. Sedran said the paid version allows licensees to track their CE credits, notifies them as to whether they have met the Board's requirements for the year, and will provide links to available CE courses for course providers who agree to use the program. Mr. Myers asked whether the program actually provides CE instruction, or if it simply coordinates outside CE courses. Ms. Sedran explained CE Broker does not itself provide any CE courses, but will link to available courses and then keep track of completed courses for the user.

Ms. Brainard said the Board should keep things as simple and user-friendly for its licensees as possible, and should not adopt a program that could result in extra fees for the licensees. She would like to vote on the issue now, rather than receiving further presentations from CE Broker.

Motion: Ms. Letten moved to deny approval of the CE Broker program as the Board's CE credit monitoring software.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Letten said items 3b - 3d on the agenda are informational only because all three providers have their CE courses approved by the ABO/NCLE or COPE. She would like the names of these providers added to the website so licensees know they can utilize these courses for license renewal purposes.

- b. **Contact Lens Global Symposium**
- c. **Contact Lens Spectrum**
- d. **SECO International**

6. **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION:** Report and recommendations on updates to database/website/online services

Discussion: Ms. Sedran said she had obtained a quote from Reno Techs, the company that maintains the Board's licensing software, of between \$5000 and \$9000 for the addition of an online Laws and Ethics Exam that would eliminate the need for mail-in exams. The process of sending and scoring the current exam by mail can add two weeks or more to the process of issuing a license. The online version would allow the licensee to log in to a user account to access the exam, and the exam would be scored automatically upon submission. Mr. Myers said he is in favor of streamlining the licensing

process. Ms. Letten said it is a reasonable quote given the scope of the project and it would be a nonissue for the Board's budget. It would be very helpful in expediting the licensing process, along the lines of the ABO and CLSA going to online grading. Ms. Brainard said the Board's money market account can provide backup funds if the Board goes over its current budget.

Motion: Ms. Letten moved to approve the project for the amount quoted provided by Reno Techs.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

7. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Discussion of proposed changes to NAC Chapter 637
There was no discussion at this time.

8. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Financial items

a. Review and acceptance of **September and October 2021** financial reports

Motion: Ms. Brainard moved to accept the reports as presented.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

b. Review and acceptance of FY21 Balance Sheet

Ms. Sedran explained the boards are required to submit either a balance sheet or full financial audit, depending upon their level of income, to the LCB and Governor's Office at the end of each year. Ms. Brainard said the balance sheet gives a very clear-cut view of the Board's current assets.

Motion: Ms. Letten moved to accept the balance sheet as presented.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

9. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Executive Director's report

a. Office and licensing updates

Ms. Sedran said the board currently licenses 151 apprentices, including 62 licenses issued in 2021, and 389 opticians, including 11 new licenses issued in 2021. She said it is difficult to make any generalities about exam scores because there have been so few test takers for the Advanced and Practical Exams over the past few months, but the pass rate for the Advanced Exams still hovers around 50% and the Practical Exams around 70%.

b. General updates

Ms. Sedran said license renewals will be opening December 15th and she will be sending out notices to all the licensees via email.

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

Ms. Brainard said some states are looking at shutting down professional licensing altogether; there are many examples of how different states have dealt with eliminating licensing boards. It is important to keep this issue on the radar.

Mr. Myers pointed out there is currently no way for the Board to grant any sort of blanket COVID-extension for the 40-month apprenticeship deadline or the education enrollment deadline. The apprentices need to remember to send in a form if they want an extension. Ms. Sedran said the Board's regulations prevent a blanket extension; each individual apprentice must submit a request and supporting documentation at least 90-days prior to their 40-month deadline. Ms. Letten said the individual apprentices need to be responsible for maintaining their completion timelines and should reach out to the Board if they have any questions about their requirements.

11. Public comment

There was no public comment. Ms. Letten thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 6:04 p.m.