

STATE OF NEVADA



Board of Dispensing Opticians

Notice of Public Meeting: August 11, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Jennifer Letten, President
Mark Myers, Vice President
Marilyn Brainard, Treasurer
Chris Esparza, Member
Jennifer Brusven, 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 pm.
2. Public comment
Mr. James Morris, General Counsel and Executive Director for the American Board of Opticianry announced he was on the call and available to answer any questions.
3. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Approval of previous board meeting minutes
June 9, 2022 Board Meeting
Motion: Ms. Brainard moved to approve the minutes as presented.
Vote: The motion passed unanimously.
4. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Confirmation of newly licensed Ophthalmic Dispensers:
751 Denise Montoya
752 Eliana Pelaez
Motion: Mr. Myers moved to confirm the newly licensed ophthalmic dispensers.
Vote: The motion passed unanimously.
5. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Review and decision on applications for extension of apprenticeship deadline:
Go, Justin

Discussion: Ms. Brainard said the applicant deserves lenience based upon his circumstances and the fact that he corresponded with the Board throughout his apprenticeship to express challenges related to COVID.

Motion: Ms. Brainard moved to grant the applicant's request for a 12-month extension of his apprenticeship timeline.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

6. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Report and recommendations on Optometry Board legislative initiatives by assigned board member

Ms. Brusven said the Optometry Board hosted a stakeholders' meeting in June, but she was unable to attend in person; the meeting minutes have not yet been posted so she is unable to provide an update at this time.

7. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Report and recommendations on apprentice education programs by assigned board member; assignment of projects

Discussion: Ms. Sedran said the Board has not conducted a review of its pre-approved home-study programs for apprentices since it adopted the ABO and NCLE Exams as its licensing exams. She suggested the Board conduct a routine review of the programs to ensure they provide adequate material and resources for the apprentices to prepare for their exams. She would also like the Board to research the Commission on Opticianry Accreditation (COA) and determine if it should accept all of the COA's accredited programs as meeting its requirements for apprentices.

- a. Re-review of approved apprentice home-study/online education programs

Motion: Ms. Letten moved to assign review of the National Academy of Opticianry (NAO) to Mr. Myers and review of the Contact Lens Society of America (CLSA) program to Ms. Brusven.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

- b. Review of Commission on Opticianry Accreditation (COA)

Motion: Ms. Letten moved to assign Mr. Esparza to review the COA.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

8. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Report and recommendations on continuing education courses and providers by assigned board member

Ms. Letten had no items to report.

9. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Lobbying and legislative updates and initiatives

Ms. Lea Tauchen and Mr. Tray Abney, lobbyists for the Board, gave an overview of the legislative timeline for the next several months: Ms. Tauchen said the 2023 legislative session begins February 6, 2023. The Nevada legislature (LCB) has already received almost 300 bill draft requests (BDRs), so it will be a very busy session. They have been meeting with interim committees, each of which is assigned a certain number of BDRs, and they will be monitoring the bills and flagging anything that may affect the Board or the ophthalmic profession. There are only a couple of months left before the midterm elections; they have been meeting with candidates and will soon have more information on the makeup of the new legislature. Mr. Abney said he has been having discussions with potential bills sponsors; he has reached out to Assembly leadership and will look into obtaining a sponsor on the Health and Human Services Committee.

10. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Discussion on LCB File No. R101-22I

- a. General discussion

Ms. Letten asked the other board members if they were still happy with the draft language previously approved by the Board. The other members agreed the language was acceptable as

presented and there were no further questions or comments.

- b. Discussion of comments and concerns submitted by Warby Parker

Ms. Letten thanked Warby Parker for their comments and will submit them into the record.

11. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Financial items

- a. Review and acceptance of **May and June 2022** financial reports

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

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

- b. Discussion and decision on annual pay/COLA adjustment for executive director

Discussion: Ms. Letten explained this is a standing yearly item to consider a pay increase or cost-of-living adjustment for the executive director; she suggests a 5% increase in pay to commence in October.

Motion: Ms. Letten moved to approve the suggested pay increase.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

12. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Executive Director's report

- a. Office and licensing updates

Ms. Sedran gave an update on the Board's licensing numbers: 11 new apprentice licenses were issued since the last meeting, with a total of 53 new apprentices so far in 2022; the total number of new apprentice licenses in 2021 was 66; 4 new optician licenses were issued since the last meeting, with a total of 14 new opticians so far in 2022; the total number of new optician licenses in 2021 was 12.

- b. General updates

Update on online exam

Ms. Sedran met with the Board's IT team recently to review progress on the exam, and a sample exam should be ready for testing soon. The new exam will allow for electronic distribution and scoring and facilitate the licensing of new opticians. Ms. Brainard said the Board has been very happy with the service and support provided by its IT company and the online licensing programs have been working very well.

13. Board member comment and future agenda items

Ms. Letten asked to add a standing agenda item for receiving updates from a representative for the ABO/NCLE. Ms. Brainard agreed it was an excellent idea to have updates from the ABO going forward, especially going into the next legislative session.

14. Public comment

Mr. James Morris of the ABO said he would be happy to give regular updates at upcoming Board meetings. He is very familiar with the COA, which was discussed earlier in the meeting; the ABO supports that organization financially and they do very good work scrutinizing schools before offering accreditation. The ABO is currently meeting in Lake Tahoe and would like to express its strong support for the Board.

Ms. Ruby Garcia, an Executive Officer for the California State Society for Opticians, said she is very curious about the Board's apprenticeship program because her organization is putting together a similar program. Ms. Sedran said she would be happy to correspond with her on the apprenticeship requirements and she can direct any questions to the Board office.

There was no further public comment. Ms. Letten thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 5:41 pm.