

STATE OF NEVADA



Board of Dispensing Opticians

Minutes of Public Meeting: February 20, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Jennifer Letten, President
Jennifer Seymour, Vice President
Priscilla Acosta, Board Member
Maria Landin, Board Member

Board Staff Present:

Corinne Sedran, Executive Director
Colleen Platt, Board Counsel
Joseph Ostunio, Deputy Attorney General
Daniel Giudici, Board Lobbyist

1. Call to order
Ms. Letten called the meeting to order and called roll at 5:02 p.m. Board members Cristobal Esparza and Priscilla Acosta were not in attendance.
2. Public comment
There was no public comment.
3. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Approval of previous board meeting minutes
December 12, 2024 Board Meeting
Motion: Ms. Letten moved to approve the minutes as presented.
Vote: The motion passed unanimously.
4. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Confirmation of newly licensed Dispensing Opticians
 - a. **832 Monica Bain**
 - b. **833 Michael Rabina**
 - c. **834 Ivan Ledesma**
 - d. **835 Emil Gliponeo**
 - e. **836 Amy Dang**
Motion: Ms. Seymour moved to confirm the licensure of the new opticians.
Vote: The motion passed unanimously.
5. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Review and possible decision on pending applications to renew a license. The Board may convene in closed session to receive information regarding applicants, which may involve considering the character, alleged misconduct, professional competence or

physical or mental health of the applicant (NRS 241.030). All deliberation and action will occur in an open session.

Taboada, Israel

Discussion: Ms. Platt proposed the Board enter into an agreement with Mr. Taboada to renew his license with terms and stipulations; Ms. Platt outlined the proposed terms for the Board. Mr. Taboada's attorney, Tanner Harris, represented him at the meeting. Mr. Harris objected to the proposal that Mr. Taboada's license would be summarily suspended upon noncompliance with the other terms of the agreement. Ms. Platt said she would clarify in the agreement that the Board would suspend the license only after sending a notice of default to Mr. Taboada and allowing him 30 days to cure. Ms. Letten recommended the Board approve the agreement with the proposed clarification. Mr. Tanner agreed on behalf of his client.

Motion: Ms. Letten moved to approve the agreement, as clarified during discussion.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

6. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Discussion and decision on authorizing the Executive Director to execute a new contract for legal services on behalf of the Board

Discussion: Ms. Sedran asked the Board for authorization to contract with Ms. Colleen Platt for any legal assistance the Board may need. Ms. Platt was in attendance and gave an overview of her experience, which includes working for both the Nevada Legislative Counsel Bureau and Nevada Attorney General's Office before opening her own practice. She currently serves as independent counsel for several Nevada boards.

Motion: Ms. Letten moved to authorize the executive director to execute a new contract for legal services on behalf of the Board.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

7. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Updates regarding the Office of Nevada Boards, Commissions and Councils Standards, created pursuant to NRS 232.8413; discussion and decision on Board's official response to **SB 78** (Board Consolidation Bill) and related matters, including responses by other agencies

Discussion: Mr. Daniel Giudici, lobbyist for the Board, was in attendance to provide updates. He said no hearings have yet been scheduled for SB 78, however, there has been a lot of discussion amongst the lobbyists for the boards and various legislative commissions. He has not seen a lot of support for the bill so far. In the end, there will probably be some compromise; some of the services currently provided by the boards may be bundled together and provided instead through the Governor's Office.

Business and Industry (B&I) is already implementing various new policies and sending out regular notices to the boards. They have also asked the board lobbyists to meet with them next week. Mr. Giudici anticipates they will ask the lobbyists to go through their office when working on any issues with the boards, which may present a conflict of interest. Ms. Seymour asked whether the Board would still have direction over its own lobbying efforts. Mr. Giudici said the boards were not given much notice or context for the meeting, so he does not yet know what the discussion will cover, but he will keep the Board apprised of any new information. Ms. Sedran said the Board may always call an additional meeting if further discussion or immediate action is necessary.

Ms. Sedran said B&I has revised its proposal to combine the Board of Opticians with five other boards, and is now proposing to combine it only with the Board of Optometry. She would like the Board to take an official stance on the current version of SB 78. Ms. Letten said she is opposed to

the bill and gave a formal statement of opposition: Merging the boards would diminish the specialized oversight necessary to uphold professional standards for both professions and ensure the highest level of care for patients and consumers. Opticians are highly trained in the fitting and dispensing of medical devices, while optometrists focus on diagnosing and treating eye conditions. Combining the boards risks regulatory confusion, weakens the representation of opticians in their own profession, and would have a negative impact on public safety. Each profession deserves a board that understands its unique responsibilities and challenges. She urges the Board and the public to oppose SB 78.

Ms. Platt advised that the Board should take a vote on its position on SB 78 if it wants to formally respond to the bill.

Motion: Ms. Seymour moved to formally oppose SB 78 and authorize Ms. Letten to draft and distribute a letter to that effect on behalf of the Board.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

8. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: General legislative updates for the **2025 Legislative Session**

Mr. Giudici said his firm is tracking a couple of other bills in addition to SB 78 that may affect the Board. He will notify the executive director of any pending action on those bills and obtain Board responses, as necessary. Ms. Sedran said she has also been keeping an eye on proposed legislation via the fiscal note requests the board directors receive at the beginning of the legislative session. She will likewise keep Mr. Giudici informed of any legislation that may affect the Board.

9. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Discussion and updates with representative for the American Board of Opticianry

Mr. Randy Smith, Director of Examinations for the ABO, was in attendance. He said the ABO is in the process of renewing its contract with Prometric, the company that develops and administers the ABO's exams. They are getting ready to complete a new task analysis for both the Basic and Practical Exams. The ABO is now nearing pre-COVID numbers for exam takers, which is a good indicator that the profession is recovering well. The 2024 exam statistics are now available and he will provide the Nevada stats to the Board Office.

Ms. Sedran asked whether the ABO has been keeping an eye on all the new apprentice education programs available. The Board has been assessing the best way to review the programs, but insight from the ABO would be valuable. Mr. Smith referred the Board to the United Opticians Association of America, which has its own dedicated education branch that reviews both formal and distance education programs. He will have the director of that department contact the Board.

10. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Discussion and decision on process for reviewing and/or approving apprenticeship education and training programs; possible assignment of board member(s) to Review Committee

Discussion: Ms. Letten said she would like to form a committee or task force dedicated to reviewing apprentice education programs and ensuring the Board maintains the highest standards for opticianry education. She would like to serve on the committee along with another volunteer, and recommends they conduct a comprehensive review of available home study/distance programs every three years to determine the most effective and up-to-date options. The goal will be to select one program for spectacles and one for contacts, or one that effectively covers both areas. Ms. Platt said a subcommittee of the board would need to meet publicly, subject to Open Meeting Law. Ms. Letten said it would not be an efficient use of Board resources to host a public meeting every time the

subcommittee wants to have a discussion. She will volunteer to develop a criterion to review the programs and convey her recommendations to the full Board, unless another Board member would like the role. She would like to limit the review to three programs. Ms. Sedran said with the Legislature being in session over the next several months, she does not anticipate the board members or staff having adequate time to devote to this project until at least August. Ms. Letten agreed the project should be postponed; she would like to develop a new application for the education providers, which could be presented and reviewed in August.

Motion: Ms. Letten requested the Board authorize her to prepare and present a process for reviewing apprentice education programs and made a motion to that effect.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

11. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Executive Director's report

a. Licensing and renewal updates

Ms. Sedran gave updates on the Board's current license numbers. There were 111 active apprentice licenses as of the end of the 2025 renewal cycle on 1/31/25; this is a 77% retention rate, with 25 apprentice licenses expiring at the end of the cycle. Three new apprentice licenses were issued in February, for a total of 114 active licenses. The Board retained 96% of its licensed opticians, with 420 licenses renewed, and 7 licenses inactivated as of 1/31/25; 10 optician licenses are delinquent; opticians have one year from the date their license expires to reinstate their licenses.

b. General office, budget, and miscellaneous updates

Ms. Sedran said the 2025 Legislative Session is underway and she is receiving multiple fiscal note requests from the Office of Business and Industry each day. She is doing her best to keep up with regular office business along with various legislative issues, but there may be delays with day-to-day tasks and correspondence.

The Board did well with respect to its projected income at the conclusion of 2025 license renewals; income was comparable to last year and exceeded what was budgeted. However, the Board must be careful with its expenditures going forward because of additional costs incurred over the past couple of years for the legal support needed to respond to the Governor's Executive Orders, as well as costs related to sponsoring a bill and introducing new regulations. The Board's IT costs have also increased due to the creation and maintenance of online forms, and its lobbying fees have increased due to proposed legislation. Costs should decrease overall, however, now that the Board's new statutes and regulations are in place.

c. Authorization of Director to invest surplus funds in CD account

Ms. Sedran asked the Board to authorize her to invest up to \$50,000 of its surplus funds in a new CD account if she determines it is prudent to do so. She will keep an eye on the Board's upcoming costs, in tandem with the Board's treasurer and president, to determine whether it would be more beneficial to keep its surplus funds fluid over the next several months.

Motion: Ms. Seymour moved to grant the executive director discretion to invest up to \$50,000 in surplus funds in a new CD account.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

12. Public comment

There was no public comment.

Ms. Letten thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 6:04 p.m.