

BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY

CONDENSED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 05, 2025

THESE DRAFT MINUTES WERE PREPARED BY THE STAFF OF THE DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING. THEY HAVE NOT BEEN REVIEWED OR APPROVED BY THE BOARD.

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| Date: | November 05, 2025 |
| Time: | 10:30 AM |
| Location: | Teleconference (Zoom) |
| Attending: | Members: Kathleen Rice (Chair, OD), Ethan Arndt (OD), Sheryl Lentfer (OD), Charles Rudstrom (Public Member) Staff: Ashley Carabajal (Licensing Examiner), Reid Bowman (Program Coordinator), Sharon Blosser (Paralegal), Erika Prieksat (Chief Investigator) |
| Absent: | Pamela Steffes (OD) |

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| 1a. Call to Order/Roll Call: <u>Ethics Report</u> | |
| Brief Discussion: | <i>Ms. Carabajal informed the board Dr. Steffes reached out and will be joining the meeting as soon as possible. Each member of the board confirmed they had no ethical conflicts to disclose.</i> |
| 1b. Call to Order/Roll Call: <u>Review/Approved Agenda</u> | |
| Brief Discussion: | <i>No discussion to amend the agenda.</i> |
| Motion: | <i>Motion to approved the agenda as written. (First: Dr. Rice; Second: Dr. Lentfer)</i> |
| Recorded Votes: | <i>Dr. Rice – Y</i> <i>Dr. Lentfer – Y</i> |
| | <i>Dr. Steffes – Absent</i> <i>Dr. Arndt – Y</i> |
| | <i>Mr. Rudstrom – Y</i> |
| Action Items: | <i>The board will follow the agenda as written unless amended later in the meeting.</i> |
| 2. <u>Public Comment</u> | |
| Brief Discussion: | <i>Ms. Carabajal informed the board there were no public comments at the time.</i> |
| | <i>Ms. Carabajal informed the board three members of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO) were present to listen in on agenda topic #4 - "Regulations Review: Part III NBEO: Performance Skills."</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Dr. Jill Bryant, OD, MPH, NBEO Executive Director</i> - <i>Dr. Nicole Jerge, OD, NBEO Senior Director of Clinical Examination Administration and Development</i> |

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| | <p align="center">- Dr. Jame Althoff, OD, NBEO Associate Director of Part II PAM/TMOD and LSPE</p> <p>Dr. Rice welcomed the members of the NBEO.</p> | |
| Action Items: | Ms. Carabajal will let the board know if anyone joins the meeting for public comments. | |
| 3. Course Review: <u>Ocular Aesthetics</u> | | |
| Brief Discussion: | <p>The board reviewed the 32-hour course provided by the American Academy of Optometry (AAO) and discussed the 32-hour course provided by Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry and reviewed our Expanded Therapeutic Procedures (12 AAC 48.040) to see if the course aligned with our regulations. The board agreed the course covered what Alaska allows under regulation.</p> <p>Dr. Rice mentioned this was to review the course to make sure the board is comfortable with OD's completing the course. Dr. Rice stated we can keep moving on with the agenda until Dr. Steffes joins the meeting and would come back to this discussion if needed.</p> | |
| 4. Regulations Review: <u>Part III NBEO: Performance Skills</u> | | |
| Brief Discussion: | <p>The board discussed updating regulations to require all applicants applying by examinations must pass all parts of the Part III exam, regardless of overall passing. Ms. Carabajal informed the board that only two states (Florida and North Carolina) require all parts of the Patient Encounters and Performance Skills (PEPS) Exam based on how their laws are written.</p> <p>Dr. Rice asked the reasoning on why the NBEO separated the parts of the PEPS exam. Dr. Bryant explained to the board how the scoring of the PEPS exam works and why the NBEO updated it. Dr. Bryant confirmed that only two states require all parts of the PEPS to be passed, and one other state is looking into changing their laws to require that as well.</p> <p>Dr. Steffes joined the meeting at 11:14 AM.</p> <p>Dr. Steffes mentioned it is the board's responsibility to ensure public safety and an optometrist becoming licensed to practice in Alaska should be able to do the basic and demonstrate them. Dr. Rice is concerned about applicants who overall pass the PEPS exam but fail the skills portion and whether they can learn those skills. The board stated licensing an optometrist who did not pass the skill portion of the PEPS exam could potentially have a poor outcome.</p> <p>Dr. Bryant informed the board the members are available to join future meetings to give a presentation to the board and provide updates as needed. There were no objections from the board and Dr. Rice thanked the members from NBEO for being present and joining the discussion.</p> | |
| 5. Executive Session: <u>Voluntary Surrender - DB</u> | | |
| Motion: | <p>Motion for the Alaska State Board of Examiners in Optometry to enter into executive session in accordance with AS 44.62.310(c), and Alaska Constitutional Right to Privacy Provisions, for the purpose of discussing subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion. Board staff to remain during the session.</p> <p>(First: Dr. Rice; Second: Mr. Rudstrom)</p> | |
| Recorded Votes: | Dr. Rice – Y | Dr. Lentfer – Y |

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| | <i>Dr. Steffes – Y</i> | <i>Dr. Arndt – Y</i> |
| | <i>Mr. Rudstrom – Y</i> | |
| Action Items: | <i>The board entered executive session. Off the Record: 11:29 AM On the Record: 11:31 AM</i> | |
| 5. Executive Session: <u>Voluntary Surrender – DB – Continued</u> | | |
| Motion: | <i>Motion to approve the voluntary surrender of Dr. Dean Brown’s optometrist license. (First: Dr. Steffes; Second: Mr. Rudstrom)</i> | |
| Recorded Votes: | <i>Dr. Rice – Y</i> | <i>Dr. Lentfer – Y</i> |
| | <i>Dr. Steffes – Y</i> | <i>Dr. Arndt – Y</i> |
| | <i>Mr. Rudstrom – Y</i> | |
| 6. New Business: <u>Set Next Meeting Date</u> | | |
| Brief Discussion: | <p><i>Mr. Bowman informed the board of the Governor’s Administrative Order (AO) 360 and explained reducing regulations and the board must plan a meeting soon to discuss their plan for regulation reductions.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Bowman informed the board they must have an approved plan to reduce regulations or propose new regulations by February 13, 2026.</i></p> <p><i>The board asked Ms. Carabajal to disperse the highlighted statutes and regulations booklet to the board for review. The board will make suggestions on their own time and email their suggestions to Ms. Carabajal who will compile the suggestions together for the board to review at the next meeting. Mr. Bowman requested the members have the suggestions to Ms. Carabajal by December 03, 2025, to ensure enough time to compile the suggestions together before the meeting.</i></p> | |
| Action Items: | <i>Ms. Carabajal will send the board the highlighted statutes and regulations booklet for review. The board will submit any suggestions to Ms. Carabajal via email by December 03, 2025. Ms. Carabajal will compile all suggestions for review at the next scheduled meeting.</i> | |

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| Next Meeting: | December 10, 2025, at 08:30 AM |
| Adjournment: | 12:00 PM |