

1 STATE OF ALASKA
2 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
3 DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
4 BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY
5

6 **TELECONFERENCE**
7 **June 11, 2018**
8 **Juneau, Alaska**
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10 By authority of AS 08.01.070(2) and in compliance with the provision of AS 44.62,
11 Article 6, a scheduled teleconference of the Board of Examiners in Optometry was held on
12 June 11, 2018 at 333 Willoughby Avenue, 9th Floor, Juneau, AK
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15 **Agenda Item 1 – Call Meeting to Order**

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17 Dr. Barney called the meeting to order on Monday, June 11, 2018 for the Board of Examiners in
18 Optometry at 12:05 p.m. This meeting was public noticed on May 15, 2018 in the Anchorage
19 Daily News and the Alaska Online Public Notice system.
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21 To comply with the voice roll call vote of the administrative procedures act, Dr. Barney
22 requested a voice roll call asking that each board member state their name.
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24 Voice Roll Call, constituting a quorum of the board, were:
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26 Dr. Erik Christianson, Ketchikan: present
27 Dr. Pamela Steffes, Sitka: present
28 Mr. Eric Lingle, Juneau: present
29 Dr. Damien Delzer, Fairbanks: present
30 Dr. Paul Barney, Anchorage: present
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33 Present from the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing:
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35 Janey McCullough, Division Director
36 Melissa Dumas, Administrative Officer II
37 Marylene Wales, Accountant III
38 Patricia Lonergan, Licensing Examiner
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40 **Agenda Item 1 - Review Meeting Agenda**

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42 The board reviewed the agenda and made no changes.
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44 **Agenda Item 2 - Review Regulations Project**

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46 The board reviewed the changes to 12 AAC 48.200(d), 12 AAC 48.210(d), and 12 AAC 48.360 as
47 recommended by the regulations specialist. The board agreed that the recommended
48 changes simplified and standardized the language. There were no comments and no
49 objections to the recommended changes.
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51 **On a motion duly made by Dr. Christianson, seconded by Dr. Delzer and approved**
52 **unanimously, it was:**

53 RESOLVED to approve the recommended changes to 12 AAC 48.200(d), 12 AAC
54 48.210(d), and 12 AAC 48.360 made by the regulations specialist.
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57 ROLL CALL VOTE:
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Board Member	Approve	Deny	Recuse
Dr. Damien Delzer	X		
Mr. Eric Lingle	X		
Dr. Pamela Steffes	X		
Dr. Erik Christianson	X		
Dr. Barney	X		

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61 The board reviewed the updated HB103 draft regulations submitted by Dr. Barney.
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63 **12 ACC 48.346 Regulation name TBD**

64 (a) Every optometrist desiring to utilize therapeutic procedures in the examination,
65 evaluation, diagnosis, treatment, or performance of preventive procedures related
66 to diseases, disorders, or conditions of the human eyes or adjacent and associated
67 structures shall have satisfactorily completed courses in therapeutic procedures
68 administered by an institution accredited by the Council on Post-Secondary
69 Accreditation of the United States Department of Education and acceptable to the
70 board. The board shall only approve the highest levels of education and training and
71 shall license those qualified by such education and training to utilize therapeutic
72 procedures, including anterior segment lasers and anterior segment surgical
73 procedures (Expanded Therapeutic Surgical and Laser Procedures). The use of any
74 such therapeutic procedure by an optometrist shall require the optometrist to be in
75 possession of a current license as provided in this section.

76 i. Licensed optometrists shall be credentialed to perform authorized
77 ophthalmic surgery procedures if:

78 1. the applicant provides proof of holding an Alaska license to
79 practice therapeutic optometry and is in good standing;

80 2. the applicant provides proof of satisfactory completion of a
81 course of instruction approved by the Board that may include:

82 a. the following didactic classroom instructions:

83 i. laser physics, hazards, and safety;

84 ii. biophysics of lasers;

85 iii. laser application on clinical optometry;

86 iv. laser tissue interactions;

87 v. laser indications, contraindications, and potential
88 complications;

89 vi. gonioscopy;

90 vii. laser therapy for open angle glaucoma;

91 viii. laser therapy for angle closure glaucoma;

92 ix. laser posterior capsulotomy;

93 x. common complications: lids, lashes, lacrimal
94 system;

95 xi. local complications;

96 xii. medicolegal aspects of anterior segment
97 procedures;

98 xiii. peripheral iridotomy;

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- xiv. laser trabeculoplasty;
 - xv. minor surgical procedures;
 - xvi. overview of surgical instruments, asepsis, and O.S.H.A.;
 - xvii. surgical anatomy of the eyelids;
 - xviii. emergency surgical procedures;
 - xix. chalazion management;
 - xx. epiluminescence microscopy;
 - xxi. local anesthesia techniques and complications;
 - xxii. anaphylaxis and other office emergencies;
 - xxiii. radiofrequency surgery;
 - xxiv. post-operative wound care;
- b. Clinical or laboratory experience including:
 - i. Video demonstration;
 - ii. In vitro observation or participation;
 - iii. In vivo observation; and
 - iv. A formal clinical or laboratory practical examination; and
 - c. Passage of a written test administered by the educational institution providing the course and which utilizes the National Board of Examiners in Optometry format.
- ii. A board approved course of instruction shall be:
 - 1. provided by an accredited optometry school;
 - 2. a minimum of 32 clock hours in length;
 - 3. sponsored by an organization approved by the Board; and,
 - 4. completed after January 1, 2016.
 - a. Courses completed prior to January 1, 2016 could be approved by the Board only if:
 - i. The licensee has been practicing in a state that allows Expanded Therapeutic Surgical and Laser Procedures and has practiced in that state from the time of completion of the approved course.
- (b) Every optometrist's license to utilize therapeutic procedures in the examination, evaluation, diagnosis, treatment, or performance of preventive procedures related to diseases, disorders, or conditions of the human eyes or adjacent and associated structures shall be limited within the scope of the licensee's education, training and experience as found acceptable by the board under paragraph (a) and may not perform ophthalmic surgery unless the procedure is authorized by the board. Procedures authorized by the board include anterior segment surgical procedures and anterior segment laser procedures, except those excluded from the scope of practice.
- i. The following procedures are excluded from the scope of practice of optometry, except for the preoperative and postoperative care of these procedures:
 - 1. Retina laser procedures;
 - 2. LASIK and PRK;
 - 3. Surgery related to removal of the eye from a living human being;
 - 4. Surgery requiring full thickness incision or excision of the cornea or sclera other than paracentesis in an emergency situation requiring immediate reduction of the intraocular pressure;
 - 5. Penetrating keratoplasty (corneal transplant), or lamellar keratoplasty;

- 150 6. Nonlaser surgery requiring incision of the iris and ciliary body, including
- 151 iris diathermy or cryotherapy;
- 152 7. Nonlaser surgery requiring incision of the vitreous;
- 153 8. Surgery requiring incision of the retina;
- 154 9. Surgical extraction of the crystalline lens;
- 155 10. Surgical implantation of intraocular lens implants;
- 156 11. Incisional or excisional surgery of the extraocular muscles;
- 157 12. Nonlaser surgery of the eyelid for eyelid malignancies or for incisional
- 158 cosmetic or mechanical repair of blepharochalasis, ptosis, and
- 159 tarsorrhaphy;
- 160 13. Surgery of the bony orbit, including orbital implants;
- 161 14. Incisional or excisional nonlaser surgery of the lacrimal system other
- 162 than lacrimal probing or related procedures;
- 163 15. Surgery requiring full thickness conjunctivoplasty with graft or flap;
- 164 16. Any nonlaser surgical procedure that does not provide for the
- 165 correction and relief of ocular abnormalities;
- 166 17. Injection into the posterior chamber of the eye to treat any macular or
- 167 retinal disease; and
- 168 18. The administration of general anesthesia;

170 (c) Prohibitions and Referrals.

- 171 i. Performing Expanded Therapeutic Surgical and Laser Procedures without
- 172 completing the educational requirements established in this administrative
- 173 regulation shall be grounds for discipline. Performing Expanded Therapeutic
- 174 Surgical and Laser Procedures without satisfactory completion of the educational
- 175 requirements outlined in this administrative regulation shall be grounds for
- 176 suspension or revocation of an optometry license and/or credentialing to perform
- 177 authorized ophthalmic surgery procedures.
- 178 ii. An injection into the posterior segment/chamber or retinal tissue to treat any
- 179 macular or retinal disease shall be prohibited.
- 180 iii. Any eyelid or adnexal lesion found to be malignant shall be referred to a
- 181 practitioner trained and qualified to treat those lesions.

182 Authority AS.08.72.050 AS.08.72.278 AS.08.72.273

185 Dr. Barney reviewed with the board the updates that he had made to the original draft
 186 submitted at the April Board meeting. Discussion centered around (b) 1, 3, 8, 16, 17. The board
 187 concluded that they would continue the review of this draft. Board members will forward
 188 comments to staff and another conference call will be scheduled.

190 **Agenda Item 3 – Review Fee Analysis**

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 192 Janey McCullough, Melissa Dumas and Marylene Wales joined the meeting and discussed the
 193 fee analysis with the board. Melissa reviewed that each program is required to be self-
 194 supporting and this program has been in a deficit position for several quarters. There have been
 195 fee increases, those increases have not brought the program out of deficit. The goal is get out
 196 of deficit and to have 1 year of expenses on hand in a non-renewal year. Melissa reviewed with
 197 the board the division's proposal. The board asked several questions and acknowledged that
 198 due to recent regulation projects expenses have increased, once those projects are completed
 199 they anticipate expenses will decrease. The Board proposed the following fee increase:
 200 Application fee increase of 150.00, Exam fee increase of 150.00, New license fee increase of
 201 120.00 and Renewal increase of 120.00. Director McCullough thanked the board for their

202 proposal and advised she would take this proposal and complete the fee analysis. Licensees
203 will receive a letter from Director McCullough addressing any fee increases and there will be a
204 public comment period.

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On a motion duly made by Dr. Delzer, seconded by Dr. Steffes and approved
unanimously, it was:
RESOLVED to approve licensing fee increases.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Board Member	Approve	Deny	Recuse
Dr. Damien Delzer	X		
Mr. Eric Lingle	X		
Dr. Pamela Steffes	X		
Dr. Erik Christianson	X		
Dr. Barney	X		

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The board scheduled a conference call for August 6, 2019 at 12:00 PM to continue working on
the regulation that they discussed today and to review any written public that may have come
back from public comment.

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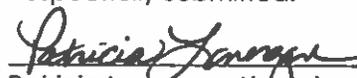
Agenda Item 4 - Adjourn Meeting

Dr. Barney asked if there was any other board business, hearing none and having concluded
the agenda items, Dr. Barney adjourned the conference call.

The conference call adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

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Respectfully Submitted:


Patricia Lonergan, Licensing Examiner

Approved: 
Dr. Paul Barney, Chairperson
Alaska Board of Optometry

10-19-2018
Date