

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  
8 March 25, 2020

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10  
11 Juneau, Alaska .

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13 By authority of AS 08.01.070(2) and in compliance with the provision of AS 44.62,  
14 Article 6, a scheduled teleconference of the Board of Examiners in Optometry was held on

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16 March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 333 Willoughby Avenue, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Juneau, AK

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19 **Agenda Item 1 – Call Meeting to Order**

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21 Dr. Delzer called the emergency meeting to order on Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 for the Board of  
22 Examiners in Optometry at 12:12 p.m.

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24 To comply with the voice roll call vote of the administrative procedures act, Dr. Delzer requested a voice  
25 roll call asking that each board member state their name.

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27 Voice Roll Call, constituting a quorum of the board, were:

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29 Dr. Erik Christianson, Ketchikan: present  
30 Dr. Pamela Steffes, Sitka: present  
31 Dr. Damien Delzer, Fairbanks: present  
32 Dr. Bradley Cross, Soldotna: present

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34 Present from the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing:

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36 Rebecca,  
37 Emily Mesch, Licensing Examiner

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39 Present Member of the Public:

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41 Dr. Patrick Campaign, Optometrist

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43 **Agenda Item 2 – Review/Approve Meeting Agenda**

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45 The board reviewed the agenda and made no changes.

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47 **On a motion duly made by Dr. Pam Steffes, seconded by Dr. Brad Cross and approved**  
48 **unanimously, it was:**

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50 **RESOLVED to approve the March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 agenda as presented.**

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

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**Agenda Item 3 – Overview of COVID-19**

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The Alaska Board of Examiners in Optometry recognized the unprecedented circumstances that optometry professionals are facing during the pandemic. The board convened an emergency meeting to discuss possible changes in CE regulations, the use of telehealth, review guidance from the national organizations and draft a guidance for appropriate care for the crisis.

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**Agenda Item 4 – Continuing Education Requirements and Online Limitations**

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The Board discussed CE hour requirements for licensees that require live lecture. They recognized the cancellations of live CE classes and expos and analyzed the need for adjusting the CE requirements for licensees. The Board agreed that the limitations of online courses to fulfill the requirement of 40 CE hours for renewal can be waived under an emergency situation and all 40 CE hours can be done remotely and online for the licensing period ending December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

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**On a motion duly made by Dr. Pam Steffes, seconded by Dr. Erik Christianson and approved unanimously, it was:**

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**RESOLVED to suspend the requirement listed on 12 AAC 28.48.200b(4) for the licensing period 12.31.2020.**

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**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

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

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**Agenda Item 5 - Telehealth**

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The Board discussed how one would be allowed to perform telemedicine by applying for it through the State website. They found there to be no necessary actions on telehealth other than notify licensees that it is an option for licensees.

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The Board spent time deciphering what to put to their general advisory draft. Dr. Steffes recommended that the Board include and highlight that licensees must follow the mandates that have been created. Changes included: that the statutory authority sentence will be removed, adding mandatory portion, the appropriate use of telemedicine and how to register to perform telemedicine, in person delivery of routine

88 elective non-essential procedures as well as the waived remote learning restrictions on CE requirements  
89 that the board had discussed earlier.

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91 Dr. Delzer appointed himself to make the changes on the general advisory draft to send to Ms. Mesch to  
92 send to the rest of the Board for voting.

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94 *Dr. Eric Lingle joined the teleconference.*

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96 **On a motion duly made by Dr. Pam Steffes, seconded by Dr. Erik Christianson and**  
97 **approved unanimously, it was:**

98 **RESOLVED to move on with the advisory as amended to be sent to the board by**  
99 **the afternoon for the Board to vote on.**

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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. Bradley Cross	X		

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102 The Chair reminded the Board that if the Board found it necessary to meet for an emergency meeting it  
103 would be through teleconference and through the licensing examiner.

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105 **Agenda Item 6 - Adjourn**

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107 **The Chair called for the board meeting for 3.25.2020 to be adjourned at 1:05 p.m.**

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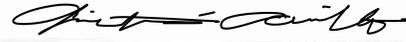
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Respectfully Submitted:

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on behalf of Emily Mesch, Licensing Examiner

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Approved:

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Dr. Damien Delzer, Chairperson  
Alaska Board of Optometry

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11/4/20

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Date