

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 April 17, 2020  
9 Juneau, Alaska

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11  
12 By authority of AS 08.01.070(2) and in compliance with the provision of AS 44.62,  
13 Article 6, a scheduled teleconference of the Board of Examiners in Optometry was held on  
14 April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 333 Willoughby Avenue, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Juneau, AK  
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17 **Agenda Item 1 – Call Meeting to Order / Roll Call**

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19 Dr. Damien Delzer called the meeting to order at 9:07am

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21 Roll call:

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23 Dr. Bradley Cross, Soldotna – Present  
24 Mr. Eric Lingle, Juneau – Present  
25 Dr. Damien Delzer, Fairbanks – Present  
26 Dr. Erik Christianson, Ketchikan – present  
27 Dr. Pam Steffes, Sitka – present

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29 Juneau staff:

- 30  
31 Rebecca Powers – Present  
32 Emily Mesch – Present  
33 Ilsa Lund – Present

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35 Observer:

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37 Gina Ritacco, Director of Boards and Commissions  
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40 **Agenda Item 2 – Approve Meeting Agenda and Minutes**

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42 Dr. Delzer asks if there are any changes to the agenda. None are presented.

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44 **On a motion duly made by Dr. Erik Christianson, seconded by Dr. Bradley Cross and**  
45 **approved unanimously, it was:**

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47 **RESOLVED to approve the April 17, 2020 agenda as presented.**

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Board Member	Approve	Deny	Recuse
Dr. Damien Delzer	X		

Dr. Bradley Cross	X		
Mr. Eric Lingle	X		
Dr. Pam Steffes	X		
Dr. Erik Christianson	X		

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**Agenda Item 2 – Approve Meeting Agenda and Minutes**

The Board made no changes to the February 3, 2020 board meeting minutes.

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

**RESOLVED to approve the February 3, 2020 minutes as presented.**

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

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**Agenda Item 3 – Advanced Procedures**

*Sher Zinn enters room at 9:26am.*

The Board reviewed letter received from Dr. Nate Lightizer, representing the curriculum studied by Dr. Paul Barney with respect to advanced procedures allowances.

Dr. Steffes acknowledges that this specific applicant meets the requirements, but is concerned about whether that sets the precedent that this course is sufficient for future applicants. Sticking point is if the course covers corneal collagen cross-linking. Mr. Lingle asked for a layman’s explanation of the procedure in question and Dr. Delzer described the procedure in detail.

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

**RESOLVED to approve Dr. Barney’s request for an expanded therapeutic procedure license, with the caveat that the board must receive clarification on training for corneal collagen cross-link procedures.**

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

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**Agenda Item 4 – CE Regulations**

83 Dr. Delzer introduced LPSE exam, which is administered by the NBEO and covers laser and surgical  
84 procedures. Due to the relative novelty of advanced procedures certifications in Alaska, Dr. Delzer  
85 voiced that he does not yet want to use this exam to certify new graduates, but is interested in its potential  
86 use down the line.

87  
88 Dr. Steffes shared that she believes this is something to be aware of, and may see a similar track to the  
89 ISE exam for injections certification, but agrees that no action is necessary today.

90  
91 Dr. Christianson and Dr. Cross stated that neither are familiar enough with the exam to state a firm  
92 opinion, but agree in principle with Dr. Delzer and Dr. Steffes.

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94 **Temporary Waiver**

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96 Dr. Delzer asked about guidance from the division. Emily informs the board that new instruction from  
97 Director Chambers was emailed that morning, and retrieves email for board to read.

98  
99 Dr. Steffes pointed out that current regulations do not require distance learning to meet the same  
100 requirements as in-person continuing education.

101  
102 Dr. Delzer noted that Sunrise Rules have improved the quality of non-COPE-approved continuing  
103 education that is currently available. No action to change requirements for distance learning is taken.

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

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108 **RESOLVED that due to the inability to obtain in-person continuing education during the**  
109 **COVID-19 public emergency, the Alaska Board of Optometry has suspended the 10-hour**  
110 **limit on online, remote, and correspondence continuing education in 12 AAC 48.200b(4) for**  
111 **the 2020 renewal, and will accept all modalities of continuing education for this licensing**  
112 **period.**

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

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115 **Agenda Item 5 – Neuro-Optometrist Designation**

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117 Dr. Pam Steffes shared with the Board what she researched about Neuro-Optometrists. There is currently  
118 only one Fellow of COVD in Alaska but none for NORA in Alaska. She asked the board if they should  
119 consider adding NORA Fellows as somebody who could identify themselves as a specialist. Dr. Delzer  
120 added that in his research, it appears that their path in their fellowship is fairly similar to the COVD.  
121 However, Dr. Delzer agreed with Mr. Lingle’s recommendation that the board not list every single  
122 American Academy Diplomate Program but rather use terms of currently certified in a currently  
123 recognized category so that the board does not have to constantly modify the regulations. There was  
124 discussion about the levels of fellowship training.

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

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**RESOLVED to amend 12 AAC 48.330d to read “An Optometrist may only represent themselves as a specialist if the optometrist is currently certified in that field (1) as a Diplomate of the American Academy of Optometry; or (2) as a Fellow of the College of Optometrists in Vision Development; or (3) as a fellow of the Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation Association.”**

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Approve</b>	<b>Deny</b>	<b>Recuse</b>
Dr. Damien Delzer	X		
Dr. Bradley Cross	X		
Mr. Eric Lingle	X		
Dr. Pam Steffes	X		
Dr. Erik Christianson	X		

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Dr. Damien Delzer tasked himself to write the FAQ to send to Ms. Mesch to forward to Ms. Zinn.

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**Agenda Item 6 - Telemedicine**

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Dr. Delzer shared that the Board has received many correspondences from confused licensees in regards to telemedicine and opened the floor up for discussion. Many members of the board agreed that the need for face to face contact for certain diagnosis can be eliminated with telemedicine.

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*Lacey Derr entered the teleconference.*

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Ms. Derr gave the board some examples of other boards that have provided communication about telemedicine and is available for any other future questions. The board foresees creating regulation for telemedicine going forward.

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*The Board entered a recess at 10:51am.*

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151

*Off Record at 10:51am.*

152

*On Record at 11:07am.*

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*The chair called the meeting back to order at 11:07am.*

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*The accountant was not yet present, the board moved on to agenda item 9 first.*

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**Agenda Item 9 – Application Review**

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The Board reviewed the application for an optometry license for changes that need to be applied. The board listed that they would like to add that the waiver for military personnel to submit CE hours is only applicable in a recognized combat zone as per the regulation. The Board discussed further on what options they have to better the application.

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Dr. Steffes presented 3 changes she would like to see made. Dr. Steffes stated that in Part V of the application should list which state they are licensed in or just remove Part V as it is redundant to Part VIII so they may merge as one. She secondly mentioned Part VIII can potentially become outdated by the time their license gets processed. Thirdly, the personal reference form only states that they knew the applicant previously but nothing about their competency or character.

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170 Dr. Delzer added that they would need to amend the fees section of Part I and provided options of  
171 wording for Part V, Part VIII and Part VIII. The Board discussed their options and made further  
172 recommendations on their changes.

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174 The licensing examiner was tasked to make a draft of the changes to the applications.

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176 **Agenda Item 10 – Health Mandate 15**

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178 The Chair presented what is currently on Mandate 15 and opened the floor up for discussion on what to  
179 write in the Board’s statement to their licensees. The members of the board recommended changes to the  
180 mandate and planned on making the amendments later to vote on in OnBoard.com.

181  
182 *Ms. Melissa Dumas entered the teleconference.*

183  
184 **Agenda Item 8 – Division Update, Fee Analysis**

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186 Ms. Melissa Dumas presented the FY19 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Board Report. The Board is currently dealing with an  
187 \$82,000 which has gone down from the last year. A fee analysis will be performed in the future as there is  
188 fee raising freeze made by the Governor. Ms. Dumas suggested raising the fees after renewals rather than  
189 before renewals.

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191 **Agenda Item 11 - Adjourn**

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193 **The Chair called for the board meeting for 4.17.2020 to be adjourned at 12:27 p.m.**

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197 Respectfully Submitted:

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200 on behalf of Emily Mesch, Licensing Examiner

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202 Approved:

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205 Dr. Damien Delzer, Chairperson  
206 Alaska Board of Optometry

207  
208 11/4/20

209 Date  
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