

# BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY

CONDENSED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD APRIL 08, 2024

Date:	April 08, 2024
Time:	8:00 AM
Location:	Teleconference (Zoom)
Attending:	Members: Bradley Cross (Chair, OD), Pamela Steffes (OD), Ethan Arndt (OD) Staff: Ashley Carabajal (Licensing Examiner), Reid Bowman (Program Coordinator), Josh Hardy (Investigator), Melissa Dumas (Admin)
Absent:	Members: Kathleen Rice (OD)

<b>1a. Call to Order: Ethics Report</b>	
Brief Discussion:	<i>Each board member confirmed they had no ethical conflicts to disclose.</i>
<b>1b. Call to Order: Approve Agenda</b>	
Brief Discussion:	<i>There was no discussion to amend the agenda.</i>
Motion:	<i>Move to accept the agenda as written.              (First: Dr. Arndt, Second: Dr. Steffes)              The motion passed unanimously.</i>
Action Items:	<i>The board will follow the agenda as written unless amended later in the meeting.</i>
<b>1c. Call to Order: Approved Meeting Minutes</b>	
Brief Discussion:	<i>The board made no changes to the October 06, 2023, meeting minutes.</i>
Motion:	<i>Motion to approve the October 06, 2023, meeting minutes as written.              (First: Dr. Steffes, Second: Dr. Arndt)              The motion passed unanimously.</i>
Action Items:	<i>The board approved the October 06, 2023, meeting minutes.</i>
<b>2. Public Comment</b>	
Brief Discussion:	<i>Ms. Carabajal informed the board there were no public comments at the time.              Dr. Rice joined the meeting at 8:10 AM.</i>
Action Items:	<i>Ms. Carabajal will let the board know if anyone joins the line for public comments.</i>
<b>3. Proposal for New Regulations Project</b>	
Brief Discussion:	<i>Dr. Steffes went over her proposal for a future regulations project that includes changes to the following regulations:</i>

	<p>- 12 AAC 48.011(a)(3), 48.020(c)(1), 48.022, 48.200(a) and (b)(4), 48.210(a), 48.220(a), 48.340(a), 48.350(a), and 48.900(b)(2) and (c)(1)</p> <p><i>These changes include clearing up typos as well as better clarification for future and current licensees regarding application requirements and continuing education.</i></p> <p><i>The board discussed how to word 12 AAC 48.200(b)(4) for synchronous vs. asynchronous.</i></p> <p><i>Dr. Cross suggested putting “formerly known as” near the new wording.</i></p>
	<p><i>Ms. Carabajal explained there are currently 3 active restricted licenses, which means the board cannot appeal 12 AAC 48.022 until those are no longer active.</i></p>
	<p><i>Dr. Cross used the extra time to discuss foreign education and applicants. Dr. Cross brought up that if a foreign applicant is applying for licensure in Alaska first, the board may need to review the transcripts together to determine if it’s equivalent.</i></p> <p><i>The board clarified that the definitions in statute for a recognized school or college of optometry means a school or approved by the American Optometric Association or a committee of the American Optometric Association.</i></p>
	<p><i>Dr. Cross mentioned Alison Osborne, the regulation specialist, is no longer with the department. Mr. Bowman gave an update that until we get another regulation specialist, it may be a little slower as we only have one person working on them right now.</i></p> <p><i>Dr. Cross would like to wait to put together a regulations project draft after they get results from HB 309, so we can combine the two projects into one.</i></p> <p><i>The board will meet during lunch if needed to determine that on a later date.</i></p>
Action Items:	<p><i>The board will wait for results of HB 309 before putting together a regulations project draft and will plan a lunch meeting on a later date to discuss it.</i></p>
<b>4. PDMP Report</b>	
Brief Discussion:	<p><i>Ms. Carabajal informed the board PDMP Manager, Lisa Sherrel was not able to join the meeting today and will have a report for the board. Dr. Cross asked that Ms. Carabajal forward the report to the board when it is ready.</i></p>
Action Items:	<p><i>Ms. Carabajal will keep in touch with Ms. Sherrel and will forward a PDMP Report to the board when it is ready.</i></p>
<b>5. Investigative Report</b>	
Brief Discussion:	<p><i>Investigator Josh Hardy went over the investigative report between October 06, 2023, and April 05, 2024. Three cases were closed, one remains open.</i></p>
<b>6a. New Business: Update to Audits</b>	
Brief Discussion:	<p><i>Ms. Dumas was not available at the time for the fiscal reports under the division update (Agenda Item #6) – the board moved forward with the agenda until Ms. Dumas was available to join.</i></p> <p><i>Dr. Cross asked Ms. Carabajal for an update to the audits from last year that did not meet CE requirements for renewal. Ms. Carabajal explained to the board the two audits mentioned were included in the investigative report under “closed” due to an advisement letter.</i></p>
<b>6b. New Business: Application Discussion</b>	
Brief Discussion:	<p><i>The first application was for an Expanded Therapeutic Procedures (ETP) Request. Dr. Steffes explained her reasoning for denial as the ETP Request was not specific enough and parts of it were already approved in regulation. Dr. Cross explained the requestee should follow the correct wording and resubmit a proper ETP Request and to advise them injections are already covered under regulation and not needed in an ETP Request.</i></p>

	<i>The second application was already submitted to the board, however, Dr. Steffes mentioned the injections or ISE must be completed after graduating from optometry school, as mentioned in 12 AAC 48.020. Dr. Steffes would approve the application if the applicant shows they completed the injections course or ISE. Dr. Cross advised Ms. Carabajal to reach out to the applicant and update them.</i>
Action Items:	<i>Ms. Carabajal will reach out to the ETP Requestee and advise them to submit a proper ETP Request to the board. Ms. Carabajal will also advise the initial applicant that they must show proof of passing the ISE or injections course after graduating from optometry school.</i>
<b>6c. New Business: Discussion on Foreign Education</b>	
Brief Discussion:	<i>Ms. Carabajal explained to the board she received a letter from a potential applicant who received an ophthalmology degree in South Korea. She explained they had completed all NBEO Exams, and this is their first time applying for licensure in the US. Dr. Rice stated we would not license someone with a medical degree, Dr. Arndt agreed. Dr. Cross stated they should try applying through the Medical Board.</i>
	<i>Dr. Cross mentioned we would need to see their transcripts if they decided to try and apply. Dr. Steffes brought up that we couldn't honor their medical degree because their school is not listed under AOA or Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO).</i>
	<i>Dr. Cross asked if we had missed anything important during the meeting. Ms. Carabajal reminded Dr. Cross to mention that the 32-hour advanced procedures surgical course through Northeastern State University, Oklahoma College of Optometry. Dr. Cross let the board know that it is acceptable for the 7-hour injections course, but if the licensee wants to request ETP, they will still need to provide the 32-hour CE certificates again.</i>
Action Items:	<i>Ms. Carabajal will reach out to the applicant and refer them to the Medical Board.</i>
<b>6d. New Business: ARBO Annual Meeting</b>	
Brief Discussion:	<i>Dr. Cross asked the board if anyone was planning to attend the 2024 Association of Regulatory Board of Optometry (ARBO) Annual Meeting. Dr. Steffes informed Dr. Cross she was planning to attend but was unsure on her stance with being on the board. Dr. Cross asked Ms. Carabajal if there was an update to who was replacing Dr. Steffes on the board. Reid informed the board that we don't know when someone is appointed until the day of.</i>
	<i>Dr. Steffes is still able to go to ARBO as our representative and report back even if a new member is appointed before our next meeting after ARBO's meeting.</i>
Action Items:	<i>Ms. Carabajal will send ARBO's Annual Meeting information to Dr. Steffes.</i>
<b>7. Division Update: Fiscal Reports</b>	
Brief Discussion:	<i>Ms. Dumas went over the Fiscal Year 2023, Quarter 4 report, as well as the Fiscal Year 2024, Quarter 2 report with the board.</i>

Next Meeting:	<i>October 09, 2024; 09:00-12:00</i>
Adjournment:	<i>09:37</i>