

MARYLAND BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY



REVISED AGENDA

General Session (Public) Meeting

Wednesday, May 28, 2025 – 9:30 AM-11:00 A.M.

Room 105

A. Call to Order

- Additions/Corrections to Agenda
- Additions/Corrections to March Meeting Minutes
- Review and Approval of General Session Minutes -March 26, 2025

B. Lillian Reese, Legislative Regulations Coordinator

- Status of Proposed Regulations
- 2025 Legislative Wrap Up

C. Committee Reports:

- **Fee Committee**
 - 2026 Legislative Session - Bill to add Expiration Date to Inactive Status
- **President's Report - Fran Burgos, OD.**
- John Hopkins Residency Program
- Emails from ARBO
- Vote -Changes to Statute - Adding Expiration Date Inactive Status
- **Legislative/Regulations Committee (May 22, 2025) Adel Ebraheem, O.D./Catherine Carter, Consumer**
 - Minimum definition of Eye Exams
- **Continuing Education: Aidin Dean Gogerdchi, O.D./Adel Ebraheem, O.D.**

- **Approved CEs**

- Pro -Bono Great Shape, Inc. - Pro Bono “Remote Eye Clinic in Jamaica” 6 hours
- Seidenberg Protzko Eye Associates -”Our Favorite Cases” 2 hours
- Maryland Optometric Association - “Where Optometry Intersects with Neuroscience: PUPILLOMETRY” - 2 hours
- Maryland Optometric Association - “A Crash Course in Anterior Segment Disease” - 2 hours
- Maryland Optometric Association - “Lasik And PRK Surgeries” 3 hours Clinical Observation
- Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine -” Wilmer Optometry Grand Rounds May 1015” - 1 hour
- Maryland Optometric Association - “Cornea Transplants: “Current Treatments and Beyond”- 2 hours
- Maryland Optometric Association - “Key Points in Neuro-Optometry” 2 hours COPE- Neuro -Optometry
- Maryland Optometric Association - “AMD from A to Z - 2025 Edition” - 2 hours

- **Treasurer’s Report – Catherine Carter, Consumer Member**

D. Old Business

- Nothing to Report

E. Executive Director’s Report – Gwendolyn Joyner

- Board Vacancies
- 2025 Renewal
- ARBO Annual Report
- ARBO Conference

F. New Business

- New Licensees - Francisco Burgos, O.D., President
- Last Board Meeting – Francisco, Burgos - Comments from Dr. Burgos
- The next Board meeting will be July 30, 2025, at 9:30 A.M, this will be a virtual meeting.

G. Adjournment

Maryland BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY



Minutes

General Session Board Meeting
Wednesday, May 28, 2025, 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM
Room 105

A. Call To Order (Dr. Burgos at 9: 41 A.M.)

- **Board Members in Attendance:** Francisco Burgos, O.D., President, Tracey Boss, O.D., Dominic Brown, O.D., Adel Ebraheem, O.D., and Catherine Carter, Consumer Member. **Absent:** Margaret Hubbard, Consumer Member
- **Staff Members:** Gwendolyn Joyner, Executive Director, Andrea Russell-Tate, Licensing Coordinator, Nyah Smith, Data Entry Clerk, Lillian Reese, Legislative Regulations Coordinator.
- **Board Counsel:** Rhonda Edwards, AAG Deputy Counsel/Board Counsel (joined virtually)
- **Guest:** No guests were in attendance

Dr. Burgos read the Board's opening statement into the record as well as the Board's Mission Statement and notice about public attendance.

Maryland Board of Examiners in Optometry Mission Statement

The Board of Examiners in Optometry was created in 1914. The Board of Examiners in Optometry is composed of five **Optometrist members**: Francisco Burgos, O.D. Board President, Dominic Brown, O.D. Board Secretary, Tracey Boss, O.D., Aidin Gogerdchi, O.D., and Adel Ebraheem, O.D.

Consumer members: Margaret Hubbard and Catherine Carter, Treasurer. All members are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Secretary of Health.

The Board is mandated to regulate the practice of optometry in Maryland and protect the public health and welfare of its citizens by ensuring the delivery of vision services by qualified optometrists. It is the responsibility of the Board to:

- *Credential and license applicants
- *Certify optometrists to use-diagnostic pharmaceutical agents and therapeutic pharmaceutical agents in the practice of optometry
- *Promulgate and adopt regulations to govern the practice of optometry in Maryland
- * Monitor continuing education programs and continuing education compliance
- *Investigate complaints against licensees concerning alleged violations of the law
- *Conduct hearings concerning these violations
- *Discipline licensees found to be in violation of the law

COMAR 10.01 14.02 Public Attendance

The public may attend and observe an open session of a public body within or established by the Maryland Department of Health.

Except in instances when a public body expressly invites public testimony, questions, comments, or other forms of public participation, or when public participation is otherwise authorized by law, a member of the public attending an open session may not participate in the session.

- Additions/Corrections to Agenda
A motion was made by Dr. Boss and seconded by Ms. Carter to accept the May 28, 2025, agenda.
- Review and approval of General Session Minutes – March 26, 2025
A motion was made by Dr. Gogerdchi and seconded by Dr. Boss to approve the March 26, 2025 meeting minutes.

B. Lillian Reese, Legislative Regulations Coordinator

- **Status of Proposed Regulations**
 - There are two proposed regulations that have gone through the promulgation process, they are almost complete. (1) 10.28.02.05 for Continuing Education and the other was (2) 10.28.02.05/07/8/11/12, of various chapters to clean up the regulations. Criminal History was added to the regulations due to the CHRC Bill that passed during the 2024 Legislative Session.
 - **The Board received four responses concerning the 10-hour live, in-person continuing education (CE) requirement.** Several licensees misunderstood the proposed regulation changes —

specifically the bracketed text — as *not* removing the 10-hour in-person requirement. Under the new regulations, all 50 CE hours may be completed online. A motion was made by Dr. Boss and seconded by Dr. Brown to adopt language as proposed.

Clarification letters will be sent to those licensees, explaining that the proposed regulations **do** eliminate the 10-hour in -person component.

- **2025 Legislative Wrap Up**

- Board Members received a copy of the 2025 Legislative Session Wrap Up. The Board took positions on two Bills during the session:
- HB231 -Constitutional Amendment Bill, this Bill did not pass.
- HB783/SB458 -The Board joined other health professional Boards in submitting a joint letter regarding this legislation. Although an amendment was proposed, it was not included in the final version of the Bill. Additionally, the Implicit Bias and Structural Racism Bill passed and will become effective October 1, 2025. Licensees will be required to complete: (1) an Implicit Bias Training Course, and a (2) Structural Racism Course as part of their first renewal after April 1, 2026. If a licensee has already completed the Implicit Bias Training, the licensee will not be required to take it again, as it is a one – time requirement. The question was asked “Will the Board accept Implicit Bias and Structural Racism Training courses from other states”, the answer is “Yes”

C. Committee Reports

- **Fee Committee**

- 2026 Legislative Session – Bill to add Expiration Date to Inactive Status
 - Ms. Reese hopes changes will be finalized in a month
 - Items G&H are new.
 - The Board should plan to discuss next year whether a fee will be required for a licensee’s license to remain in Inactive status.
- A motion was made by Dr. Boss and seconded by Ms. Carter to accept the fee proposal increase for COMAR 10.28.02.07.

- **President’s Report – Francisco Burgos, O.D.**

- Discussion on how to expedite licensure for optometry residents.
- Residents practice under TPA-licensed optometrist
- Board could consider a temporary/limited license (requires passing all parts of the NBEO Exam, (National Exam).
- Health Occupations Article Title: **§11–307.1**. (Limited License)

- Emails from ARBO
- RE retired volunteers
 - No additional action taken
- RE Kentucky Regulation change
 - A motion was made by Dr. Boss and seconded by Dr. Brown to join a letter of support to oppose the amendment.
- NBEO will update scoring
- RE Jamie Perry, MD., MPH Director of School Health contacted Board staff in regards to getting a list of Optometrist.
 - A Data Use Agreement would be required between Maryland Department of Health, Public Health and the Board.
 - Discussed okay to provide *business* information, but not *personal* information.
 - Medicaid would be the source for requested information
 - Board Counsel will make time to reach out and assist without going through new legislation.
 - Since this is insurance information, not just licensing, much legislation would be required.
 - The Board currently has a Database Use Agreement with Medicaid.
 - Ms. Carter will make herself available if needed
 - Ms. Joyner will inquire with IT (Information Technology) if they can pull business addresses of licensees by ZIP codes.
- Vote – Changes to Statute -Adding Expiration Date to Inactive Status
 - Discussion -There are regulatory Boards that utilize a 6-year expiration date.
 - A motion was made by Ms. Carter and seconded by Dr. Boss to accept a 6-year expiration date for inactive status.
 - Discussion on charging every two years to be on inactive status after the current legislation is approved.
 - Board Counsel proposed utilizing uncoded language for “abandoned license”
 - Board Counsel stated Maryland of Physicians requires inactive renewal in two years.
 - Ms. Reese stated Bill draft for Inactive Status is needed in July.

- **Legislative/Regulations Committee** (May 22, 2025) Adel Ebraheem, O.D./ Catherine Carter, Consumer
 - The legislative/Regulations Committee met to discuss Minimum Standard of Eye Care, to determine if the Board should include some language in the Statute to define Minimum Standard of Eye Care or Minimum definition of Eye Exams.
 - Ms. Joyner stated that she will contact ARBO's Executive Director to request a blast email be sent to all Optometry Regulatory Boards, inquiring whether their Board has a definition for "Minimum Eye Exam" and/or "Minimum Standard of Care."

- **Continuing Education: Aidin Dean Gogerdchi, O.D./Adel Ebraheem, O.D.**
 - **Approved CEs**
 - Pro-Bono Great Shape, Inc. – Pro Bono "Remote Eye Clinici in Jamaica" 6 hours.
 - Seidenberg Protzko Eye Associates – "Our Favorite Cases" 2 hours
 - Maryland Optometric Association – "Where Optometry Intersects with Neuroscience: Pupillometry" 2 hours.
 - Maryland Optometric Association – "Lasik And PRK Surgeries" 3 hours Clinical Observation
 - Maryland Optometric Association – "A Crash Course in Anterior Segment Disease" – 2 hours.
 - Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine – "Wilmer Optometry Grand Rounds May, 10 2025 1 hour.
 - Maryland Optometric Association – "Cornea Transplants: "Current Treatments and Beyond" – 2 hours.
 - Maryland Optometric Association – "Key Points in Neuro -Optometry" 2 hours, COPE -Neuro -Optometry
 - Maryland Optometric Association – "AMD from A to Z – 2025 Edition" - 2 hours.

- **Treasurer's Report – Catherine Carter, Consumer**

FY Summary as of May 27, 2025

Total Revenue Collected in FY24 \$333,605.00

Total Revenue Collected as of May 21, 2025, \$61,090.00

Expenditures FY2024 \$300,880.67

FY24 Special Fund Carry Over \$148,191.43

Current Fund Balance as of May 21, 2025 -\$28,174.98

D. Old Business

- Nothing to Report

E. Executive Director's Report – Gwendolyn Joyner

- Board Vacancies
Ms. Joyner contacted the GOA (Governor's Office of Appointments) to find out the status of Board vacancies. Board staff is waiting to hear from GOA.
- As of May 28, 2025, there are 109 Licensees who have renewed.
The 2025 Renewal began on April 30, 2025, and will end on June 30, 2025.
- ARBO Annual Report was prepared and sent for the upcoming ARBO Conference. Rhonda Edwards, AAG Board Counsel, Tracey Boss, O.D. and Gwendolyn Joyner, will be attending the ARBO Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- Nyah Smith worked with Ms. Joyner for several months as an Intern. She was hired in May 2025 as a contractual Data Entry Clerk to work on the scanning project.

F. New Business

- New Licensees – Francisco Burgos, O.D, President

1. Parvis, Antoinette D.	DA	3069
2. Wagner, Ashley	TA	3070
3. Wagner, Joseph	TA	3071
4. Sapone, John	TA	3072
5. Goldberg, Steven	N/A	3074

- A motion was made Dr. Boss and seconded by Dr. Brown to approve the new licensees.
- Last Board Meeting – Francisco Burgos, O.D., President
Dr. Burgos spoke to reflect on his time serving on the Board for 8 years, he will be truly missed.
- The next Board meeting will be July 30, 2025, at 9:30 A.M., this will be a virtual meeting.

G. Adjournment

- A motion was made by Dr. Brown and seconded by Dr. Boss to adjourn the General Session meeting at 12:01 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Dominic Brown, O.D.