

BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY



AGENDA

General Session Board Meeting July 31, 2024

Wednesday, July 31•9:30 – 11:00 A.M.

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(US) +1 224-475-4225 PIN: 851 896 275#

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call, Board Members, Staff and Guest
- C. Welcome New Consumer Member – Catherine Carter
- D. Additions/Corrections July 31, 2024, Agenda
- E. Review and Approval of General Session Minutes – May 29, 2024
- F. **Lillian Reese, Legislative and Regulations Coordinator**
 - Legislative Update
 - Regulations Update

G. Committee Reports

- Francisco Burgos, O.D. Board President
- Email from Jennifer Cohen - MOA Conference
- Email from OD
- PEPs Clarification from NBEO
- NBEO New Testing Center
- Increase in Fees

H. CE Committee – Kelechi Mezu, O.D.

- Maryland Optometric Association -Glaucoma Procedures
- Wilmer Grand Rounds – Blood and Thunder
- Great Shape Pro Bono - 6 hours Beverly Chado, O.D.

- **ARBO** - Conference Report - Tracey Boss, O.D.

I. Treasurer’s Report – Gwendolyn A. Joyner

J. Old Business

- Nothing to Report

K. Executive Director’s Report – Gwendolyn Joyner

- 2024 Renewal
- Board Member Vacancies
- Data Entry Clerk Position
- Docuexplorer
- September 25th Board Meeting Fiscal Officer

L. New Business

- New Licensees – Dr. Francisco Burgos

M. Adjournment

- Next General Session Board meeting will September 25, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. at 4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21215

Maryland BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY



Minutes

General Session Board Meeting July 31, 2024

Wednesday, July 31, 2024 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

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A. Call to Order (Dr. Burgos at 9: 35 am)

Roll Call:

Open/Public Session Attendees:

Board Members: Fran Burgos, O.D. Kelechi Mezu, O.D.; Mesheca Bunyon, O.D., Tracey Boss, O.D. **Consumer Member Presents:** Margaret Hubbard, Catherine Carter.

Staff Members: Gwendolyn Joyner, Executive Director, Andrea Russell-Tate, Licensing Coordinator, Lillian Reese, Regulations Coordinator; Linda Beyer, Fiscal Officer.

Board Counsel: Rhonda Edwards, Deputy/Board Counsel

Guests: Jennifer Cohen (MOA Executive Director); Kirsten Sanda (MOA Staff) Zakiyyah Holmes, Administrator, Health Boards and Commissions, Kimberly Link, J.D., Senior Advisor for Health Boards.

A. Welcome New Consumer Member

- Board Members welcomed Catherine Carter as the new Consumer Member.

D. Additions/Corrections to the July 31, 2024, Agenda

- A motion was made by Dr. Boss and seconded Margaret Hubbard to approve the agenda with one correction: To add Dr. Sandra Brown's certificate for Clinical Observation.

E. Review and Approval of General Session Minutes from May 29, 2024

- A motion was made by Dr. Boss and seconded by Margaret Hubbard to approve the General Session minutes from May 29, 2024.

F. Lillian Reese, Legislative and Regulations Coordinator

- **Regulatory Review:** Occurs every 8 years and there are 2 stages. The 1st stage: Work Plan, note: the work plan was completed last year in 2023, 2nd stage: Education Report, note: This stage is being reviewed currently and those evaluation reports have been provided to Gwen Joyner, Executive Director for review and approval. Upon receipt of approval, the evaluation reports will be forwarded to the Secretary's office for review.

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**: Former Board President, Mesheca Bunyon, O.D., (who is staying on until another optometrist member is appointed); Kelechi Mezu, O.D., (staying until another optometrist member is appointed), Fran Burgos, O.D. (Board President), (Board Secretary – No replacement), Tracey Boss, O.D., and two **Consumer members**: Margaret Hubbard and Catherine Carter. All members are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Secretary of Health.

Board staff members include Gwendolyn Joyner, Executive Director; Andrea Russell-Tate, Licensing Coordinator.

Board Counsel: Rhonda Edwards, Deputy/Board Counsel.

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 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.

G. Committee Reports:

- Francisco Burgos, O.D.
 - Email was received from Jennifer Cohen, Executive Director, MOA. Ms. Cohen sent an email to the GOA office May 30, 2024 to inquire about the Board vacancies. Ms. Cohen has not received a response regarding board vacancies.
 - An Email was received from an MD. to request information to become an Optometrist in the state of Maryland. The Board stated she will need to contact an Optometry School to find out what she needs to do, what courses the school will accept.
 - Email from Haajra Ahmed, O.D. sent an email to ask if the course information he provided is approved. He is considering attending a conference in New Jersey. Dr. Mezu-Nnabue responded to Dr. Ahmed's question, "she stated the course is not COPE approved. "The Board accepts courses approved by the MD Board, COPE, ACCME, or the Board itself". "For the courses you attend, please send a list of courses, including the outline, lecturer, and hours attended, to get them approved on an individual basis".

- o National Board of Examiners (NBEO) sent a release dated July 9, 2024 for additional clarification regarding the launch of the new PEPS exam. “Detailed information is provided in the evaluation forms. Board members were provided a copy of the release.
- o NBEO New Testing Center
 - Ms. Joyner will be attend the NBEO New Testing Center in Charlotte, North Carolina, September 14, 2024
- o Fee Increase Discussion
 - Board Members discussed increasing the fees by \$25.00 to \$50.00. Ms. Reese stated that if the Board wants to increase their fees, the regulations for the fees will need to be pulled back to add additional fee information. The Board decided to wait and let the regulations submitted go through first before making changes to the fees. The fee increase has been tabled for further discussion, once the Board has decided on the amount to increase the fees.Linda Beyer, Fiscal Officer will attend the September 25, 2024 Board meeting to provide an update to the Board’s budget.
- **CE Committee** – Kelechi Mezu, Nnabue, O.D.
 - Maryland Optometric Association -Glaucoma Procedures approved for 1 hour.
 - o Wilmer Grand Rounds -Blood and Thunder approved for 1 hour.
 - o Great Shape Pro Bono – Approved for Beverly Chado, O.D. for CE renewal approved for 6 hours
 - o Sandra Brown, Clinical Observation for renewal approved for 8 hours.
- **ARBO Conference** – Tracey Boss, O.D.
 - o Dr. Boss attended the ARBO Conference, June 16, 17, 18th, and presented her report to the Board. There are currently 3 new Optometry schools in the works. Additional information is included in Dr. Boss’s report.

H. Treasurer’s Report -Gwendolyn A. Joyner

- o Ms. Joyner gave the Treasurer’s Report for FY24 and FY 25

FY 24 Summary as of July 26, 2024

Total Revenue Collected in FY24	\$33,605.00
Expenditures FY 2024	\$286,559.17
FY2023 Special Fund Carry Over	\$115,467.10
Current Fund Balance as of 7/26/2024	\$147,606.96

FY25 Summary as of July 26, 2024

Total Revenue Collected in FY25	\$36,015.00
Expenditures for FY 2024	9,575.71
FY2025 Fund Balance	\$31,337.95

I. Old Business

- Nothing to Report

J. Executive Director's Report – Gwendolyn A. Joyner

- **2024 Renewal**

- Ms. Joyner stated that as of 7/31/2024 there were 506 licenses renewed out of 587.
- Board Member Vacancies – There has been no word on Board member vacancies.
- Board staff has interviewed for the Data Entry Clerk position. A selection has been made.
- Docuexplorer – Ms. Joyner stated that she met with Docuexplorer to discuss options for the scanning project. There are three ways to have documents scanned: (1) Docuexplorer can scan the files and destroy for the Board, or the files can be returned after Docuexplorer scans the files. (2) AI can read the documents (3) Licensees can upload documents to email, documents would go into licensees file in Docuexplorer, this is the easiest way.
- Ms. Joyner sent a video from Docuexplorer so that the Board members will know how AI can read the documents into the system.
- Ms. Joyner has asked Linda Beyer, Fiscal Officer, to attend the September 25, 2024, to discuss FY 25 and FY26 and FY27 Budgetary concerns and increasing fees.

K. New Business

- **New Licensees**

A motion was made by Margaret Hubbard and seconded by Tracey Boss, O.D. to approve the following licensees.

1. Lixin Zhang TA 3003
2. Maythita Eiampikul TA 3004
3. Markiel Yakubov TA 3005

4. Sean Michael Gretz	TA 3006
5. Drishika Patel	TA3007
6. Nia A. Ebrahim	TA 3008
7. Adaeze Ashley Nnabue	TA 3009
8. Divya Patel	TA3010
9. Shreea Mistry	TA3011
10. Gabrielle Lashell Gafford	TA 3012
11. Kristen Col	TA 3013
12. Ester Kohen	TA3014
13. Alejandra Andrea Canas	TA3015
14. Elijahray Risman	TA3016
15. Mahek Firasta	TA 3017
16. Julie Marie Landavoza	3018
17. Shale Behare	TA3019
18. Jaime Kristin	DA3020
19. Natalia Magdalena Gorski	TA 3021
20. Jay Ray Liu	TA3022
21. Syed Zainab Narmeen	TA3023
22. Kasey Kwong-Yin Chan	TA3024
23. Tiffany S. Frey	TA3025
24. Annika Jung	TA3026
25. Arezou Azizaldin	TA3027
26. Jenna Kathryn Vergeldt	TA3028

Dr. Bunyon stated that a new graduate (Cubdeerix P. Robinson) is coming to Maryland to work as an Optometrist. Ms. Russell-Tate stated her application has been received and is in the review process.

L. Adjournment

- A motion was made by Tracey Boss, O.D. and seconded by Margaret Hubbard, O.D. to adjourn the meeting at 10;15 a.m.
- The next Board meeting will be held in person, September 25, 2024 at 4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21215.

Respectfully submitted by,



Andrea Russell-Tate, Licensing Coordinator