

MARYLAND BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY



REVISED

AGENDA

General Session (Public) Meeting

Wednesday, September 24, 2025 – 9:30 AM-11:00 A.M.

Room 105

A. Call to Order

- Additions/Corrections to Agenda for September 24, 2025
- Additions Corrections to Minutes for May 28, 2025
- Review and Approval of General Session Minutes – May 28, 2025
- Review and Approval of July 1, 2025, Emergency Session Minutes
- July 30, 2025 Meeting was canceled.

B. Lillian Reese, Legislative Regulations Coordinator

- Fee Regulations Update
- 2026 Proposed Optometry Bills

C. Committee Reports:

- President's Report – **Aidin Gogerdchi, O.D.**
- Email from Delegate McComas
- NBEO Open House, Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
- Score Report
- Emails from ARBO

D. Continuing Education: Aidin Gogerdchi, O.D./Adel Ebraheem, O.D.

- **Approved CEs**

- Wilmer Eye Institute – Wilmer Grand Rounds “Coding and Billing Pearls for Optometric Eye Exams: 1 hour. Kevin J. Corcoran, COE, CPC, CPMA, FNAO. July 9, 2025
- Jennifer Kungle, O.D., F.C.O.V.D. Neuro – Developmental Optometrist (OMST) Optometric Multisensory Training I hour, July 30, 2025.
- Vicky Wong, O.D. “Beyond 20/20 Outreach for Howard County Underserved Public School Children” “Pro Bono Work- Eye Exams” **November 15, & 16, 2025.**
- Samuel Boles, M.D. “Artificial Intelligence-AT in Glaucoma Management: The Good, The Bad and the Quirky”1 hour. September 12, 2025
- Wilmer Optometry – “Grand Rounds Presentation – “A Case of Epidemic Keratoconjunctivitis” September 10, 2025
- Maryland Optometric Association – “Update on Corneal Transplantation” Lecture Event 2 hours, **October 26, 2025**

E. ARBO Conference, COMPACT/Reciprocity

- Dr. Boss
 - ARBO Conference
- Rhonda Edwards, AAG
 - COMPACT/Reciprocity Discussion

F. Treasurer’s Report – Catherine Carter, Consumer Member

- Treasurer’s Report
- Fiscal Officer – Hillary Fasciano, Boards and Commissions

G. Executive Director’s Report - Gwendolyn Joyner

- 2025 Renewal Update
- Meeting and DRC dates for 2026 - vote
- Email to ARBO “Minimum Standard of Care”

H. New Business

- New Board Member – Replacement for Francisco Burgos, O.D.
- New Licensees – Aidin Gogerdchi, O.D. - vote

I. Board Meeting

- The next Board meeting will be November 12, 2025, at 9:30 AM, at 4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21215.

J. Adjournment

MARYLAND BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY



MINUTES

General Session (Public) Meeting

Wednesday, September 24, 2025 – 9:30 AM-11:00 A.M.

Room 105

A. Call to Order

Board Members in Attendance: Francisco Burgos, O.D., Tracey Boss, O.D., Dominic Brown, O.D., Adel Ebraheem, O.D., Aidin Gogerdchi, O.D.; Consumer Member: Catherine Carter. *Board Members not in Attendance: Margaret Hubbard (Consumer Member)*

Staff Members: Gwendolyn Joyner - Executive Director; Nyah Smith, Data Entry Clerk, Lillian Reese -Legislative and Regulations Coordinator. *Staff Members not in attendance: Andrea Russell-Tate, (Licensing Coordinator)*

Board Counsel: Rhonda Edwards - AAG Deputy Counsel/Principal/Board Counsel

Guests: Zakiyyah Homes, Jennifer Cohen, Kristen Sanda
Revision - *Guests not in Attendance: Hillary Fasciano, Fiscal Officer*

Dr. Gogerdchi read the Board's opening statement into the record as well as the Board's Mission Statement and noted 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:** Aidin Gogerdchi, O.D. President, Dominic Brown, O.D., Secretary, Tracey Boss, O.D., Adel Ebraheem, O.D. (one vacancy) and two **Consumer members:** Catherine Carter, Treasurer, and Margaret

Hubbard. 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 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 for September 24, 2025**
 - Motion made by Dr. Brown and seconded by Ms. Carter to approve the September Agenda.
- **Additions/Corrections to Minutes for May 28, 2025**
 - There were no corrections to May 28, 2025, meeting minutes.
 - Motion to approve by Dr. Brown and seconded by Ms. Carter
- **Review and Approval of July 1, 2025, Emergency Session Minutes**
 - Motion to approve Minutes for July 1, 2025, Dr. Brown and seconded by Ms. Carter.
 - July 30, 2025, meeting was canceled.

B. Lillian Reese, Legislative Regulations Coordinator

- Fee Regulations Update
 - Sent to Governor's late 07/2025
 - No movement currently
 - Requested action no later than 10/2025
- 2026 Proposed Optometry Bills
 - Two Bills
 - Criminal History Records Check
 - Anticipating Omnibus Bill to be a departmental bill

- Not anticipated to require private sponsorship
- Exam requirements and inactive status expiration date
 - Two Bill Sponsors
 - Senator Augustine
 - Delegate Johnson
 - Waiting on the Bill draft
 - Executive Director or a Board member will have to testify

C. Committee Reports:

- President's Report – **Aidin Gogerdchi, O.D.**
- Email from Delegate McComas
 - Question about prescribing BF/PAL to geriatric patients, and how the license of opticians are regulated and if there is a licensing/credentialing process for technicians
 - Reply: ABO has an accreditation process; opticians are not permitted to prescribe lenses
 - Not a requirement to have an ABO
- NBEO Open House, Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
 - New testing center HQ in Charlotte, North Carolina
- Score Report
 - 82% of applicants who fail are within 10% of the passing score cut-off
 - Skills = 22% of scoring; testing = 78% of scoring
 - Patient Encounters 78%
 - Until new language is adopted, we must accept the overall scores
 - If only overall pass but not sub-elements, we will consider “incomplete” vs “denial” so there will not be a need to report as a denied application
- Emails from ARBO
 - Sept 30th @1pm ARBO/NBEO Webinar

D. Continuing Education: Aidin Gogerdchi, O.D./Adel Ebraheem, O.D.

- **Approved CEs**
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E. ARBO Conference, COMPACT/Reciprocity

- Dr. Boss
 - ARBO Conference
 - Terri Haley, OD. is the new ARBO President
 - New OD school coming to North Carolina
 - Discussion on Tele-health; task force was created for discussion on related topics
 - NBEO scoring discussed
 - LSPE made by ODs/MDs
- Rhonda Edwards, AAG
 - COMPACT/Reciprocity Discussion
 - Years ago, DC Board reached out to MD / VA Boards to discuss a Reciprocity Bill
 - Currently, all MD licensing boards are permitted to enter into reciprocity agreements
 - Option to increase licensing base
 - DC Board would like to meet

F. Treasurer’s Report – Catherine Carter, Consumer Member

- Treasurer’s Report

Expenditures for FY2025 **\$345,147.02**

FY24 Special Fund Carry Over **\$148,191.43**

FY25 Special Fund Carry Over **\$120,096.41**

Current Available Fund Balance as of September 22, 2025 **\$96,663.63**

- Fiscal Officer – Hillary Fasciano, Boards and Commissions
 - **Unable to attend 09/24/2025**

G. Executive Director’s Report - Gwendolyn Joyner

- 2025 Renewal Update
 - Ended 06/30/25
 - 440/458 renewed
- Meeting and DRC dates for 2026 - vote
 - Motion to approve Board meeting and DRC dates: made by Dr Boss, seconded by Dr Brown
- Scanning project is currently on hold
 - Licensing applications have been online
 - Steps are still being taken to become paperless
- Email to ARBO “Minimum Standard of Care”
 - Legs/Regs committee to review
 - Would require a change to statute to redefine
 - Ronda: health occupations board cannot create a separate statute for telehealth | we can revise definitions to meet standards of care
- Implicit bias and structural racism training starts next week for renewal (1x requirement)
- Rhonda creates user agreement between Board and MDH to obtain a list of active ODs and their business address
- RE Active business list by ZIP code - Gwendolyn to disburse to Board
 - No confidential information on the list - should be okay to disburse to nurses, etc.

H. New Business

- New Board Member – Replacement for Francisco Burgos, O.D.
 - Maria Pham will be the incoming Board Member to fill the O.D. vacancy.
- New Licensees – Aidin Gogerdchi, O.D. - vote
 - A motion was made by Dr Brown and seconded by Ms. Carter to approve the list of new licensees:

1. Goldberg, Steven,	NA	3074
2. Elumelu, Jennifer	TA	3075
3. Fouda, Haidi	TA	3076
4. Skreydel, Mariya	TA	3077
5. Girum Mihret	TA	3078
6. Konstatinov, Anna	NA	3079

7. Kovacs, Bonnie	TA	3080
8. Coan, Emily	NA	3081
9. Houssan, Colette	TA	3082
10. Newell, Darah Lin	TA	3083
11. Coyne, Mackenzie	TA	3084
12. Phan, Tammy	TA	3085
13. Libengood, MacKenzie	TA	3086
14. Lea, Dorothy	TA	3087
15. Mitchell, Jasmine	TA	3088
16. Blake, Kristen	TA	3089
17. Mantel, Autum	TA	3090
18. Linhart, Noah James	TA	3091
19. Majid, Macy	TA	3092
20. Malchoff, Pamela	TA	3093
21. Studer, Abbey Elizabeth	N/A	3094
22. Ho, Dieu Stacie	TA	3095
23. Takoo, Shihij	TA	3096
24. Said, Timothy Fam	TA	3097
25. Olin, Alyssa	TA	3098
26. Carroll, Maleiah	TA	3100
27. Li, Lu	TA	3101
28. Engerbretsen, Kendra	TA	3103
29. LaMont, Sean	TA	3104
30. Loi, Katherine	TA	3105
31. Deakins, Isabel	TA	3106

I. Board Meeting

The next Board meeting will be November 12, 2025, at 9:30 AM, at 4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21215.

J. Adjournment

A motion was made by Dr. Brown and seconded by Ms. Carter to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted

Dominic Brown, O.D.
Secretary

