

BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY

Regular Session Minutes

September 30, 2015
DHMH
4201 Patterson Avenue #105
Baltimore, MD 21215
9:30 a.m.

The regular session of the Board of Examiners in Optometry's meeting was held on Wednesday, September 30, 2015. Board members present were, Phyllis Strickland, O.D., Stephen Kwan, O.D., Frederick J. Walsh, Ph.D., Brian T. Woolf, O.D., Andrew Doyle O.D., Mesheca Bunyon O.D., and Rona D. Pepper. Also present were Ari Elbaum, Board Counsel, Patricia G. Bennett, Board Administrator, and Arthura H. Easter, Secretary.

A. Opening of Meeting

Dr. Phyllis Strickland, O.D., Board President, opened the regular session of the Board meeting at 9:45 a.m.

B. Minutes

The regular session minutes of the meeting held on July 29, 2015 were reviewed and the following corrections were made: Under F, #2 the following words should be added to the 1st sentence for clarification purposes after the word inquiring: "if or whether the Prokera Ring is allowed... Secondly the word Prokera should not be hyphenated as was written in the body of F.#2. And should be corrected. Dr. Strickland asked for a motion to be made to accept the corrected minutes. A motion was made by Dr. Walsh and seconded by Dr. Walsh to accept the minutes as corrected. The Board's vote was unanimous.

Introductions

Two new Board members were introduced and gave brief summaries of their education, professional affiliations and backgrounds.

Mesheca Bunyon, O.D. – gave summary of her background and other pertinent data.

Rona D. Pepper – started as a Court Stenographer and has taught/is teaching Court Stenography at Stevenson University.

At that time it was suggested that Ms. Pepper should be added to the Legislation Committee.

After the new Board members spoke, Committee reporting took place and a brief explanation of each committee's responsibilities were described.

C. Committee Reports

1. Continuing Education - Dr. Woolf

Dr. Woolf stated that there was nothing to report. (Board Approve CE Programs?).

2. Credentialing- Dr. Kwan

Dr. Kwan reported that there was no information to report. Reviews CE hours for new doctors or those moving from DA to TA?

3. Budget – Dr. Kwan

As of this meeting Dr. Kwan has taken over budget reporting, from Dr. Strickland, who is now the Board President. He will be reporting on expenditures and revenues for the Board.

4. QEI – Dr. Doyle

Dr. Doyle has been newly appointed to this committee and is responsible for Patient records review. He will be asking Optometrists from the community to assist with the current review.

5. Rehabilitation- Dr. Doyle

.Nothing new to report????????????????

6. ARBO- Dr. Strickland

ARBO is in charge/controls all regulatory boards for the U.S. and Canada.

7. Legislation – Dr. Walsh

Dr. Walsh gets the board's read on legislation coming from Annapolis and any bills that may be interested in or ones that may affect the board.

D. Old Business

Regulations

Regulatory Review – Dr. Woolf, Chair

The Committee held a teleconference meeting 8-27-15. Questions coming out of that meeting were: How do we conduct the review and what should be reviewed. He stated that this is the 8 year review and will last through 2016.

Legislation- Dr. Walsh

There was nothing new to report because the Board has not introduced any legislation.

E. Executive Director's Report – Patricia Bennett

Board Appointments – Ms. Bennett reiterated the introductions of the newest appointments to the Board.

Board Staffing – Ms. Bennett introduced Arthura H. Easter to the board because she has been newly assigned to the Optometry Board's Office as a Secretary. .

Legislative Audit – The Audit is housed in this meeting every 2 ½ years. It will take place again after the first of the year.

Paula Hollinger's Retirement – Secretary's Appointment - Ms Hollinger's retirement is effective on September 30, 2015. We don't know yet how her retirement will affect the Boards.

New Board Member Training –

New Board Member training will be held on November 16, 2015 at University of MD's Baltimore County Campus from 8:00 until 4:00.

F. New Business

1. **New Licenses Issued** – Motion was made by _____ to accept new candidates and seconded by by _____ to accept them.
2. **Transfer of Patient Records** - The question was asked if transferring patient records to new doctors constituted a HIPPA violation, if the doctor's place of business was located in a commercial setting such as Walmart . It was discussed and determined that the Dr. in question should not violate State Law. In effect, the State Regulation regarding the transfer should be quoted and not HIPPA.
3. **Military Optometrist** – Dr. Doyle stated that Department of Defense (DOD) regulations are different from Veterans Veteran's Administration rules. The question that precipitated the above answer was , "Can we waive our regulations for Doctors who are/have been attached to the Military and can allow the affected Doctors to be licensed in MD. The answer is "NO". There is no reciprocity or endorsement for a Military Optometrist. Dr. Walsh stated that a change of Statute would have to be enacted to change the regulation. Ms. Bennett stated that would expedite the application information and the she and Ari would work together to complete the work that needs to be done on it
4. **Opternative & Ophthalmology** – The harm of on line eye exams was discussed. Legislation would have to put forth. An MOA/MOU regarding the legislation affecting the board is at Crofton, MD.????
5. **Unscrupulous Contact Lens Sellers** – Legislation is set to go?????
6. **Updated Board Roster** – is listed in the packet that was passed out at the beginning of the meeting.
7. **Next Board Meeting** – Dr. Strickland informed the Board members that a Parliamentarian will be at the Next Board Meeting in order to assist the Board with the use of Roberts Rules of Order. The guest speaker's presentation will last for approximately 1 and ½ hours, which means that the regular Board Meeting would not start until 11:00.
8. **Pro Bono Work Request** - Needs to researched in the regulations. A motion was made by Dr Woolf to accept the Pro Bono Work Request and seconded by Dr. Walsh.

A motion was made by Dr. Bunyon to to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Dr. Kwan.

The regular session of the Board adjourned at 10:55 a.m. to go into Administrative Session.

Respectfully submitted,