

BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

JULY 15, 2021

9:30 am

OPEN SESSION

MEETING MINUTES

WebEx Virtual Meeting

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all board meetings are held virtually during the declared public health emergency.

Information on how to access the public portion of the meeting is listed below:

This meeting is available by web:

<https://dcnet.webex.com/dcnet/j.php?MTID=m7962eeea220951dde4b13959a42b4c60>

This meeting is available by phone:

Call in Number: 1-650-479-3208 or 1-202-860-2110

Access Code: 160 800 4760

Meeting Password: 2EMrsmD7qR9

**BOARD OF OPTOMETRY
 OPEN SESSION MEETING MINUTES
 JULY 15, 2021 ATTENDANCE & ROLL CALL**

BOARD MEMBER	
Dr. Lisa Johnson, OD - Chairperson	Present
Dr. David Reed, OD - Board Member	Present
Dr. LaMia Jones, OD- Board Member	Present
Mr. Tracy Hammond- Board Member	Present
Vacant- Board Member	Present
BOARD STAFF:	
Ericka L. Walker, MSW - Executive Director	Present
Mark Donatelli, Board Investigator	Present
Thelma Ofosu Mensah, Health Licensing Specialist	Present
LEGAL STAFF:	
Ajay Gohil, Board Attorney	Present

BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

JULY 15, 2021

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

OS-0715-01	<p><u>Introductions</u></p> <p>Board Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. David Reed, OD- Present • Dr. Lisa Johnson, OD- Present(Interim Chair) • Dr. LaMia Jones, OD – Present • Mr. Tracy Hammond – Present <p>Board Staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ericka Walker, Executive Director – Present • Mark Donatelli, Investigator – Present • Thelma Ofosu-Mensah, Health Licensing Specialist- Present <p>Legal Staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ajay Gohil, Attorney- Present • Neelam Patel, Legal Intern, Present
OS-0715-02	<p><u>Acceptance of Meeting Agenda</u></p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> Acceptance of the July 15, 2021 Open Session Meeting Agenda.</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> A motion was made to accept the July 15, 2021 meeting agenda by Dr. Reed, seconded by Mr. Hammond.</p> <p>Dr. Reed, Dr. Johnson, Dr. Jones and Mr. Hammond all voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>

MINUTES AND STAFF REPORTS

OS-0715-03	<p><u>Executive Directors Report:</u></p> <p>Ms. Ericka Walker gave an update on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On April 13, 2021, HRLA launched a new online licensure portal for any healthcare provider who is interested in
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	<p>applying for a new health professional license, or to renewal, reinstate, or reactivate an existing license</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ms. Thelma Ofosu-Mensah is the interim Health Licensing Specialist for the Board due to Ms. Ashley Balm’s recent departure. Ms. Walker is working with Human Resources to back fill Ms. Balm’s position, and the Board should have a new Health Licensing Specialist by the next meeting. ○ On July 12, DC Health staff returned to work, working in a new in-office work schedule. ○ Public Health Emergency is expected to end on July 25, 2021. If the Public Health Emergency is lifted, health care providers working under the purview of the Waiver Requirements, will have a 60 day grace period after July 25, 2021 to obtain a license to practice in the District of Columbia. ○ Ms. Walker, Board Interim Chair and Board Attorney participated in the virtual ARBO Annual Meeting, June 18 – 19, 2021. A summary of the sessions were provided. ○ ARBO is looking for volunteers to serve on committees. ○ 214 licensed Optometrists in the District. ○ Board meetings will still be held in the virtual based on a poll conducted by the Associate Director, Frank Meyers. Most Board members preferred the virtual meetings. 	
OS-0715-04	<p><u>Board Attorney’s Report:</u></p> <p>Ajay gave a report on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Commended ARBO for organizing a successful 2021 virtual ARBO conference, with special recognition of its session on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. ● ARBO needs to know that its 2023 annual conference in Washington, D.C. is currently listed on its website as June 18-20, 2023 and that will conflict with the new Juneteenth federal holiday of Monday, June 19, 2023 ● The next ARBO Annual meeting is scheduled for June 12-14, 2022 in Chicago. ● Advised the Board to update the Delegation of Authorities to include a fine schedule. ● Mayor’s Public Health Emergency will expire July 25, 2021 and healthcare providers working under the purview of the Waiver 	

	will have a 60 day grace period after the expiration date to obtain licensure in the District.	
OS-0715-05	<p><u>Board Chair’s Report:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announced she’s the interim Chair for the Board of Optometry and she is pending official notification from the Mayor’s office to confirm her as the Chairperson. Reiterated the discussions that took place during the virtual ARBO meetings as discussed by Ms. Walker and Mr. Gohil. 	
OS-0715-06	<p><u>Open Session Meeting Minutes:</u></p> <p>Board Action: Consideration of the Open Session minutes from the April 15, 2021 meeting.</p> <p>Motion: A motion was made to accept the April 15, 2021 meeting minutes by Dr. Jones, seconded by Dr. Reed.</p> <p>Dr. Reed, Dr. Johnson, Dr. Jones and Mr. Hammond all voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
DISCUSSION AND AGENDA ITEMS		
OS-0715-07	<p><u>Board of Optometry Health Occupations Revision Act (HORA)</u></p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> Board to review.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> A member of the public submitted recommendations for changes to the HORA.</p> <p>The member from the public who submitted the recommendations was not present during the Open Session. The Board elected to discuss the matter during the Executive Session Meeting.</p>	
CLOSING		
OS-0715-08	<p><u>MOTION TO COSE</u></p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> To go into closed session to discuss confidential matters as permitted in DC Official Code § 2-575(b).</p>	

	<p><u>Background:</u> Upon conclusion of the open session meeting and pursuant to the DC Official Code 2-575(b) and for the purposes set forth therein, the Board will move into the closed executive session portion of the meeting to consult with the Board attorney, discuss disciplinary matters and hear reports concerning violations of the law or regulations.</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> A motion was made to close the open session meeting by Dr. Reed, seconded by Mr. Hammond.</p> <p>Dr. Reed, Dr. Johnson, Dr. Jones and Mr. Hammond all voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
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This ends the Board of Optometry Open Session Meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for *October 21, 2021.*