

## BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

April 18, 2024

9:33AM **MEETING STARTED**

**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=m0f081b779d568b61ce2ead942500eced>

**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 AGENDA****APRIL 18, 2024****ROLL CALL**

<b>BOARD MEMBER</b>	
Dr. Lisa Johnson, OD - Chairperson	PRESENT
Dr. David Reed, OD - Board Member	PRESENT
Dr. LaMia Jones, OD- Board Member	PRESENT
Dr. Greg Foley, OD, FAAO – Board Member	PRESENT
Vacant- Consumer Member	-
<b>BOARD STAFF:</b>	
Ericka L. Walker, MSW - Executive Director	PRESENT
Gregory Scurlock, Compliance Officer	<b>ABSENT</b>
Mark Donatelli, Board Investigator	PRESENT
Zaneta Batts, Health Licensing Specialist	PRESENT
Tiguist Zerihun, Health Licensing Specialist	PRESENT
<b>LEGAL STAFF:</b>	
Ajay Gohil, Board Attorney	PRESENT

**BOARD OF OPTOMETRY**

**OPEN SESSION MEETING MINUTES**

**APRIL 18, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

OS-0418-01	<p><b><u>Introductions:</u></b></p> <p><b>Board Members</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. David Reed, OD- Present</li> <li>• Dr. LaMia Jones, OD – Present</li> <li>• Dr. Lisa Johnson, OD- Present</li> <li>• Dr. Greg Foley, OD- Present</li> </ul> <p><b>Board Staff</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ericka Walker, Executive Director – Present</li> <li>• Mark Donatelli, Investigator – Present</li> <li>• Gregory Scurlock, Compliance Officer- Absent</li> <li>• Zaneta Batts, Health Licensing Specialist – Present</li> <li>• Tiguist Zerihun, Health Licensing Specialist - Present</li> </ul> <p><b>Legal Staff</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ajay Gohil, Attorney- Present</li> </ul> <p><b>Public Attendance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anthony J. Scerbo, Office of Open Government</li> </ul>
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OS-0418-02	<p><b><u>Acceptance of Meeting Agenda:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b></p> <p>Acceptance of the <b>April 18, 2024</b>, Open Session Meeting Agenda.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b></p> <p>A motion was made to approve the <b>April 18, 2024</b>, Open Session agenda by Dr. Reed and seconded by Dr. Jones.</p> <p>Dr. Johnson, Dr. Reed, Dr. Jones, and Dr. Foley all voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>
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**MINUTES AND STAFF REPORTS**

OS-0418-03	<p><b><u>Open Session Meeting Minutes:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b></p>	
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	<p>Consideration of the <b>January 18, 2024</b>, Open Session Meeting Minutes.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b> A motion was made to accept the <b>January 18, 2024</b>, Open Session meeting minutes by Dr. Reed and seconded by Dr. Jones.</p> <p>Dr. Johnson, Dr. Reed, Dr. Jones, and Dr. Foley all voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
OS-0418-04	<p><b><u>Executive Director’s Report:</u></b></p> <p>Mrs. Walker gave an update on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DC Health has moved into a new building on February 26, 2024, the new address is 2201 Shannon Place SE, Washington, DC 20020, the next Optometry board meeting is scheduled on July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, in person and members of the public are invited to attend the in-person board meeting as well.</li> <li>• Mrs. Walker introduced the new Health Licensing Specialist, Ms. Tiguist Zerihun, who is currently assigned to work with the board of Optometry.</li> <li>• The Mayor’s Office of Talent and Appointments (MOTA) recruits talented and interested individuals from all eight (8) Wards to serve on District Boards. The link to apply to serve on a board: <a href="https://mota.dc.gov/page/boards-vacancies-or-available-seat">https://mota.dc.gov/page/boards-vacancies-or-available-seat</a>. The Board of Optometry is currently seeking to fill the vacancy for a consumer board member.</li> <li>• There are currently 184 licensed Optometrists in the District.</li> </ul>	
OS-0418-05	<p><b><u>Board Attorney’s Report:</u></b></p> <p>Mr. Gohil gave an update on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Ajay Gohil informed the Board Members, Staff, and the Public on the amendments that were forwarded to the committee on health as well as the council to expand the Optometry scope of practice did not get approved.</li> <li>• Mr. Ajay Gohil announced the next ARBO meeting is scheduled for June 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in Nashville, Tennessee and he’s looking forward to the new “Board Attorney Panel”, which he will present at the conference along with two other attorneys from Oregon and</li> </ul>	

	<p>Tennessee. There are scholarship applications available for anyone who is interested in attending.</p>	
OS-0418-06	<p><b><u>Board Chair’s Report:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Lisa Johnson briefly discussed her attendance at the ARBO meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, she is currently on the committee for the OE Tracker. OE Tracker has implemented new updates scheduled to launch in June to make it easier for Optometrists to upload their continuing education courses.</li> <li>• Dr. Lisa Johnson also requested effective and better instructions for the next renewal cycle in the future.</li> </ul>	
<b>DISCUSSION ITEMS</b>		
OS-0418-07	<p><b><u>Legislative Updates – Office of Government Relations:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Ajay Gohil provided an update on behalf of Kera Johnson, who wasn’t in attendance at the meeting, due to a conference she attended in Nashville, Tennessee.</li> </ul> <p><b>Health Occupations Revision Act (HORA) Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DC Health worked on a significant revision of the HORA. This would be the first significant revision in seventeen years.</li> <li>• The revised HORA received Mayoral approval and has been introduced in the Council as the <i>Health Occupations Revision General Amendment Act of 2023</i> (<a href="#">B25-0545</a>).</li> <li>• This legislation received a hearing on <a href="#">December 7<sup>th</sup></a>. Over 80 witnesses, many of whom were healthcare professionals, signed up to provide testimony. DC Health’s Associate Director of Health Professional Licensing Boards provided testimony in support and answered questions from the Council.</li> <li>• A mark-up was held on <a href="#">March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024</a>. The legislation then went to the Committee of the Whole where it underwent the First reading and was approved unanimously. It will now go through a Second Reading in early May.</li> <li>• Changes:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Telehealth: The bill as introduced proposes the first-ever uniform guidelines for telehealth services in the District, including:</li> <li>• Allowing for District-licensed professionals to use telehealth as a service modality to treat patients located in the District,</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permits a patient-client or patient-provider relationship to be established through telehealth,</li> <li>• Requires that health professionals providing telehealth services to register with the District and comply with the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program when prescribing certain medications, and exempts telehealth companies from the Certificate of Need Scope of Practice, Licensure, and Registration Updates:</li> <li>• The Committee Print removes the proposal in the bill as introduced to expand the scope of practice for optometrists to include the administration of controlled substances and the diagnosis and treatment of glaucoma.</li> <li>• Optometrists will continue to serve their patients comprehensively, retaining the ability to prescribe antibiotics, appropriate analgesics, antihistamines, and non-steroidal anti-inflammatories. Will also maintain the ability to initiate glaucoma treatment with consultation from the patient’s physician or another appropriate healthcare provider, as well as administer medication for the emergency treatment of angle closure glaucoma.</li> <li>• Reorganization of Health Professional Licensing Boards: Currently oversees 19 Health Professional Boards – this bill is changing that by decreasing the total number of Boards to 15 (merging/consolidating). The Board of Optometry will remain independent.</li> <li>• Reasons: Improve administrative efficiency of boards to streamline the application process and address quorum issues and board vacancies.</li> </ul> <p><b>DC Health Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Oversight:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DC Health had its Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Oversight hearing in early April. This hearing offered an opportunity for the Committee on Health to review DC Health’s proposed budget for the 2025 Fiscal Year.</li> <li>• There were two hearings, one on April 10 for public witnesses and one on April 11<sup>th</sup> for representatives from DC Health, including testimony from the Director of DC Health, Dr. Ayanna Bennett. To watch the hearing, visit this <a href="#">link</a>.</li> </ul>	
OS-0418-08	<p><b><u>Email Inquiry from Dr. Yasmin Brown, O.D.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> To respond to the inquiry addressed to the Board via email.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b></p>	

	<p>A motion was made for the board to respond to the email and invite Dr. Brown to come to the next scheduled board meeting to further explain the reasons for the request by Dr. Reed and seconded by Dr. Jones.</p> <p>Dr. Johnson, Dr. Reed, Dr. Jones, and Dr. Foley all voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
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**CONSENT AGENDA**

<p>OS-0418-09</p>	<p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b></p> <p>Acceptance of the consideration of application(s) approved and the items for purposes of review and/or ratification of Board Actions taken since the last meeting.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Alia Raad</li> <li>2. Lester Efanayi</li> <li>3. Ramal Yaqoob</li> </ol> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b></p> <p>A motion was made to approve the items by Dr. Reed and seconded by Dr. Foley.</p> <p>Dr. Johnson, Dr. Reed, and Dr. Jones, all voted in favor of the motion.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
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<p>OS-0418-10</p>	<p><b><u>COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:</u></b></p> <p>There were no comments from the public at the Open Session Meeting.</p>	
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**CLOSING**

<p>OS-0418-11</p>	<p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b></p> <p>To go into closed session to discuss confidential matters as permitted in DC Official Code § 2-575(b).</p> <p><b><u>Background:</u></b></p> <p>Pursuant to DC Official Code § 2-575(b), the Board will move into the Closed Executive Session portion of the meeting to discuss the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To consult with an attorney to obtain legal advice and to preserve the attorney-client privilege between an attorney and a public body, or to approve settlement agreements pursuant to § 2-575(b)(4)(a).</li> </ol>	
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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>2. Preparation, administration, or grading of scholastic, licensing, or qualifying examinations pursuant to section § 2-575(b)(6).</li><li>3. To discuss disciplinary matters pursuant to section § 2-575(b)(9).</li><li>4. To plan, discuss, or hear reports concerning ongoing or planned investigation of alleged criminal or civil misconduct or violations of law or regulations, if disclosure to the public would harm the investigation pursuant to section § 2-575(b) (14).</li></ol>	
OS-0418-12	<p><b><u>MOTION TO ADJOURN:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Bord Action:</u></b> To adjourn the Open Session Meeting.</p> <p><b><u>Background:</u></b> At the end of every meeting, a motion to adjourn must be made in an open session to close out the business of Boards.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b> A motion was made to adjourn the Open Session Meeting by Dr. Reed and seconded by Dr. Jones.</p> <p>Dr. Johnson, Dr. Reed, Dr. Jones, and Dr. Foley all voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	

**This ends the Board of Optometry Open Session Meeting at 10:32 AM.**

**The next meeting is scheduled for July 18, 2024 (In Person & Virtual).**

**In person meeting at DC Health’s new location:  
2201 Shannon Place SE  
Washington, DC 20020**

**This meeting is governed by the Open Meetings Act. Please address any questions or complaints arising under this meeting to the Office of Open Government at [opengovoffice@dc.gov](mailto:opengovoffice@dc.gov).**