

# BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

January 18, 2024

9:34AM **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**  
**JANUARY 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	<b>PRESENT UNTIL 10:04 AM</b>
LaTrice Herndon – Executive Director ( <b>Allied &amp; Behavioral Health</b> )	<b>PRESENT @9: 50 AM</b>
Gregory Scurlock, Compliance Officer	<b>LATE ARRIVAL @ 10: 06 AM</b>
Mark Donatelli, Board Investigator	PRESENT
Zaneta Batts, Health Licensing Specialist	PRESENT
<b>LEGAL STAFF:</b>	
Ajay Gohil, Board Attorney	PRESENT

**BOARD OF OPTOMETRY**  
**OPEN SESSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**JANUARY 18, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

OS-0118-01	<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 until 10:04 AM</li> <li>• LaTrice Herndon, Executive Director – Present @ 9:50 AM</li> <li>• Mark Donatelli, Investigator – Present</li> <li>• Gregory Scurlock, Compliance Officer- Late Arrival @ 10:06 AM</li> <li>• Zaneta Batts, 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>
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OS-0118-02	<p><b><u>Acceptance of Meeting Agenda:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b></p> <p>Acceptance of the <b>January 18, 2024</b>, Open Session Meeting Agenda.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b></p> <p>A motion was made to approve the <b>January 18, 2024</b>, Open Session agenda by Dr. Jones and seconded by Dr. Foley.</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-0118-03	<p><b><u>Executive Directors Report:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During the Executive Director, Mrs. Ericka Walker report, she requested, Chairperson, Dr. Johnson to introduce the Board of Optometry new board member, Dr. Greg Foley. Dr. Greg Foley gave a brief background introduction on his career as an Optometrist and resident in the District for over 30 years. Mrs. Ericka Walker explained to the Board she will not be able to stay for the entire Open Session Meeting. She had a leadership meeting to participate in at the same time as the Optometry Board Meeting, however, Ms. Latrice Herndon will cover in her absence.</li> </ul>
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- Mrs. Ericka Walker discussed the upcoming DC Health relocation. As of February 26, 2024, DC Health will have a new home at 2201 Shannon Place SE, Washington, DC 20020.
- Mrs. Ericka Walker mentioned the renewal portal is open to all eligible Board of Optometry licensees to renew their licenses. All licensees are required to renew their license before the expiration date of 03/31/2024. Anyone who decides to renew their licenses between 04/01 – 05/31/2024 will have to pay an additional late renewal fee and if you don't submit a renewal application by June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, you'll need to submit a reinstatement application and all continuing education courses required to reinstate your license. Please be advised, a DC Optometrist license is considered expired after 03/31/2024 if it has not been renewed before then. If a licensee submits a late renewal application between 04/01 – 05/31/2024, your license will not lapse and will be retroactive during this time. However, if a licensee submits a reinstatement application on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, or after, when the license is reinstated, it will not be retroactive, and any services provided by the licensee are considered unregistered practice. DC Health has forwarded all eligible licensees weekly electronic renewal notices regarding the renewal process. All questions/concerns, regarding the renewal process can be forward to the board via email ([dcboop@dc.gov](mailto:dcboop@dc.gov)).
- Mrs. Ericka Walker briefly gave an update on the Health Occupation Revision Act (HORA). There was a hearing scheduled on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, where over 80 witnesses attended the hearing and gave testimonies regarding the healthcare professional boards. The HORA is being revised and the bill will likely be marked up in committee in March of 2024. In which, DC Health will work closely with Council for any potential changes.
- Mrs. Ericka Walker advised the public to check DC Health website regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19) or Monkeypox updates in the District.
- Mrs. Ericka Walker mentioned MOTA's information is listed on the Open Session Agenda for anyone who is interested in serving on any of the 19 Health Professional Boards at DC Health.
- Mrs. Ericka Walker ended her report by introducing Executive Director, Latrice Herndon, as she left the meeting.

**Hybrid Board Meeting Schedule:**

- April 18, 2024 (Virtual)
- July 18, 2024 (**In Person & Virtual**)

	<p>Licensed Optometrists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>233</b></li> </ul>	
OS-0118-04	<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 discussed the process of what it currently looks like for the scope of practice for the board of Optometry to get revised.</li> <li>• Mr. Ajay Gohil mentioned it is now possible for MOTA to appoint members to the board who practice in DC or have DC licenses, but don’t live in DC. However, it can’t be more than 50% of the clinical members on the board and the consumer member cannot live outside of the District.</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 introducing a new “Board Attorney Panel” either in the 2024 meeting or the June 22 – 24, 2025 meeting which will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota.</li> </ul>	
OS-0118-05	<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 DC Health Town Hall Meeting on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, with DC Health Chief of Staff, Dr. Watson, and the new Director of DC Health, Dr. Bennett.</li> </ul>	
OS-0118-06	<p><b><u>Open Session Meeting Minutes:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> Consideration of the Open Session minutes from the <b>October 19, 2023</b>, meeting.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b> A motion was made to accept the <b>October 19, 2023</b>, open session minutes by Dr. Reed and seconded by Dr. Jones.</p> <p>Dr. Reed, Dr. Foley, Dr. Jones, and Dr. Johnson all voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
<b>CONSENT AGENDA</b>		
OS-0118-07	<p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b></p> <p>Acceptance of consideration of applications 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. Fausta Tabe</li> <li>2. Brigitte Keener</li> </ol> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b> A motion was made to approve the items by Dr. Jones 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>	
OS-0118-08	<p><b><u>COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:</u></b> There was no public attendance at the Open Session Meeting.</p>	
<b>CLOSING</b>		
OS-0118-09	<p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> 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> 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> <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-0118-10	<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. Reed, Dr. Foley, Dr. Jones, and Dr. Johnson 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 at 10:25 AM.**

**The next meeting is scheduled for April 18, 2024 (Virtual).**

**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).**