

## BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

July 18, 2024

9:39AM **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****JULY 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	<b>ARRIVED @ 9: 49 AM</b>
Vacant- Consumer Member	-
<b>BOARD STAFF:</b>	
Ericka L. Walker, MSW - Executive Director	PRESENT
Gregory Scurlock, Compliance Officer	PRESENT
Mark Donatelli, Board Investigator	PRESENT
Whitney Moore, 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**

**JULY 18, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

OS-0718-01	<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 @ 9: 49 AM</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>• Whitney Moore, Investigator - Present</li><li>• Gregory Scurlock, Compliance Officer- Present</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>• Brandon Lewis, Office of Open Government</li><li>• Jim Kelly, Legal Intern for DC Health</li><li>• Ryan Vulpis, Legal Intern for DC Health</li><li>• Yasmin Brown, OD</li><li>• Michael Rosenblatt, OD</li><li>• Johnson (<b>who failed to respond to Board Staff and Board Members when requested the public attendance to identify their selves</b>)</li></ul>
OS-0718-02	<p><b><u>Acceptance of Meeting Agenda:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b></p> <p>Acceptance of the <b>July 18, 2024</b>, Open Session Meeting Agenda.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b></p> <p>A motion was made to approve the <b>July 18, 2024</b>, Open Session agenda by Dr. Jones and seconded by Dr. Reed.</p> <p>Dr. Johnson, Dr. Reed, and Dr. Jones, all voted in favor of the motion.</p>

The motion passed unanimously.

**MINUTES AND STAFF REPORTS**

<p>OS-0718-03</p>	<p><b><u>Open Session Meeting Minutes:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b></p> <p>Consideration of the <b>April 18, 2024</b>, Open Session Meeting Minutes.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b></p> <p>A motion was made to accept the <b>April 18, 2024</b>, Open Session meeting minutes by Dr. Reed and seconded by Dr. Jones.</p> <p>Dr. Johnson, Dr. Reed, and Dr. Jones, all voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>
<p>OS-0718-04</p>	<p><b><u>Executive Director’s Report:</u></b></p> <p>Mrs. Walker gave an update on the following:</p> <p><b><u>Change to the Term of License, Certificate, and Registration Effective Date as of June 16, 2024:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs. Walker informed all board members, staff, and public attendees that Dr. Bennett (Director of DC Health) has changed the renewal system to align with each licensee’s month of birth. All applicable licenses, certificates, or registrations issued on or after June 16, 2024, will expire on the last day of the birth month of their license. This will apply to all new applicants and will become applicable to licensees renewing later this year. Moving forward, all licensees’ expirations dates will not be the same.</li> <li>• Mrs. Walker asked the Board Members to think about their initiative for FY25 which will start on October 1, 2024. What is the Board of Optometry mission for FY25 to include involving your local Optometry organizations within the DC, Maryland, and Virginia areas.</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>• <b>Board Meeting Schedule:</b></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. October 17, 2024 (Virtual)</li> <li>b. January 16, 2025 (In Person &amp; Virtual)</li> <li>c. April 17, 2025 (Virtual)</li> <li>d. July 17, 2025 (In Person &amp; Virtual)</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are currently 196 licensed Optometrists in the District.</li> </ul>	
OS-0718-05	<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 provided an update from the ARBO Conference which was held in Nashville, Tennessee on June 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024. He attended the conference with Chairperson, Dr. Johnson and Executive Director, Ericka Walker. The Board of Optometry has to work on regulations and policies to implement Telehealth because the entire legislation, not just for the board of Optometry, is supposed to pass either at the end of July or the 1st week in August. Also, the board of Optometry did not get the prescribing legislations or the treatment of open angle glaucoma without having to refer to an ophthalmologist pass in DC.</li> <li>• Mr. Ajay Gohil announced the next ARBO meeting is scheduled for June 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025 in Minneapolis, Minnesota and there were surveys presented inquiring about the request to change the upcoming dates, however, there hasn’t been a response or change of dates announced yet.</li> <li>• Mr. Ajay Gohil was a speaker at the ARBO meeting and discussed discipline matters during his panel presentation.</li> </ul>	
OS-0718-06	<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 conference in Nashville, Tennessee. The OE Tracker App has been updated and encouraged Optometrists to look at it, which she’s currently a committee member. The NBEO examination, development, and administration process has updated and improved as well. It has been determined it is fair, well considered, and securely executed.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Lisa Johnson also encourages board members to join committees.</li> </ul>	
<b>DISCUSSION ITEMS</b>		
OS-0718-07	<u>None</u>	
<b>CONSENT AGENDA</b>		
OS-0718-08	<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. Andrew Adamich</li> <li>2. Jenna Vergeldt</li> <li>3. April Hurley</li> <li>4. Chrysanthi Stevens</li> <li>5. Diana Mamoud</li> <li>6. Parker Ayer</li> <li>7. Rachel Hawran</li> </ol> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b></p> <p>A motion was made to approve the items by Dr. Jones and seconded by Dr. Reed.</p> <p>Dr. Johnson, Dr. Reed, and Dr. Jones, and Dr. Foley all voted in favor of the motion.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
OS-0718-09	<p><b><u>COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Michael Rosenblatt: Dr. Rosenblatt discussed concerns regarding the Optometry scope expansion and would like to be involved with introducing bills for Optometrists to present to the Council.</li> <li>• Dr. Yasmin Brown: Proposed an amended request to the DC Board of Optometry to change the eyeglass prescription expiration date from one year to two years.</li> <li>• Dr. Michael Rosenblatt: Asked the Board if the change was to go into effect that Dr. Brown presented would the Board members put it out there for the public to comment? The Board responded: Yes</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ryan Vulpis: Although Schedule II didn't pass the council, there's a list of Schedule III that's a fair number of opioids as well as other painkillers as other options. He's contacted a few optometrists in the area to seek input as to what drugs in that schedule they use the most. Ryan also believes a solution can be found that accommodates the sentiments of the council.</li> </ul>	
<b>CLOSING</b>		
<p>OS-0718-10</p>	<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>	
<p>OS-0718-11</p>	<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. 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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**This ends the Board of Optometry Open Session Meeting at 10:24 AM.**

**The next meeting is scheduled for October 17, 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).**