

BOARD OF OPTOMETRY OPEN SESSION MEETING MINUTES

October 15, 2020

9:30 am to 12:00 pm

Virtual Meeting Notice

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

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

Join by Web

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

Join by Phone

1-650-479-3208 Call-in toll number (US/Canada)

Access code: 160 800 4760

OPEN SESSION OCTOBER 15, 2020

OS-1020-01	<p>CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL-9:34am</p> <p>Board Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Jeffrey Kraskin- Member • Dr. Lisa Johnson- Member • Dr. LaMia Jones- Member • Mr. Tracey Hammond- Member • Dr. David Reed-Member: Absent <p>Board Staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frank Meyers, Associate Director • Ericka Walker, Executive Director • Aisha Nixon, Executive Director • Ajay Gohil, Board Attorney • David Walker, Health Licensing Specialist • Ashley Balma, Health Licensing Specialist • Mark Donatelli, Board Investigator 	
OS-1020-02	<p>APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA</p> <p>Motion: A motion was made to approve the October 15, 2020 Agenda by Mr. Hammond. Seconded by Dr. Jones.</p> <p>Vote: Dr. Kraskin, Dr. Johnson, Dr. Jones and Mr. Hammond voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
OS-1020-03	<p>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT</p> <p>Ms. Aisha Nixon welcomed all board members and staff to the October 15, 2020 Board of Optometry Meeting. She thanked the Board for their continued support throughout her tenure. Ms. Nixon provided the Board with the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DC Health operational status: DC Health remains closed to the public and staff continues to work remotely. • The Public Health Emergency has been extended until December 31, 2020. • Staff is doing UAT testing on the new online licensure portal and hopes that the system will go live by the beginning of 2021. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Licensure census for the Board: 201 active Optometrists, 180 with DPA authority, and 185 with TPA authority. <p>ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR’S REPORT</p> <p>Mr. Frank Meyers welcomed and thanked The Board Members for their continued dedication to the residents of The District of Columbia. He provided the Board with the following updates regarding the Health Regulation & Licensing Administration recent realignment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new realignment will help to streamline processes and procedures within the department. Three offices were created, and 3 new Associate Directors hired. Part of the realignment include the addition of an Executive Director’s position. He introduced Ms. Ericka Walker as the new Executive Director for the Board. Ashley Balma will also become the new Health Licensing Specialist assigned to the board. He thanked Ms. Nixon and Mr. Walker for all of their hard work. 	
OS-1020-04	<p>BOARD ATTORNEY’S REPORT</p> <p>Mr. Ajay Gohil provided the Board with the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informed the Board that the he is the interim attorney for a number of the Allied and Behavioral Health Boards until the position is filled. Health Occupations Revision Act (HORA) updates will continue in the upcoming year. The Calendar Dates for the upcoming meeting will be announced at the January 2021 meeting. 	
OS-1020-05	<p>CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT</p> <p>Dr. Kraskin thanked Mr. Walker and Ms. Nixon for all of their hard work and dedication to the Board of Optometry over the years. He welcomed Ms. Ericka Walker and Ms. Ashley Balma to the Board.</p>	

OS-1020-06	<p>MINUTES</p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> Consideration of the Open Session Minutes from the July 16, 2020 meeting.</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> A motion to accept the Open Session Minutes from the July 16, 2020 meeting without additions or corrections was made by Dr. Johnson. Seconded by Mr. Hammond.</p> <p><u>Vote:</u> Dr. Kraskin, Dr. Johnson, Dr. Jones and Mr. Hammond voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
OS-1020-07	<p><u>DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY</u></p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> Board to discuss the potential delegation to staff to approve “clean” applications.</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> A motion to approve the delegation of authority was made by Mr. Hammond. Seconded by Dr. Johnson.</p> <p><u>Vote:</u> Dr. Kraskin, Dr. Johnson, Dr. Jones and Mr. Hammond voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
OS-1020-08	<p>TELEHEALTH – DISCUSSION</p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> The Board is to provide any feedback/discussion.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> DC Health has created an interprofessional workgroup comprised of the Board Chairs from different licensure boards. The group was established to generate ideas on solving health matters from a multi-discipline approach. The workgroup has decided to focus its efforts on the development of legislation to address telehealth. A subcommittee will be formed with representation from each health professional board.</p>	

	<p>Motion: <i>No formal motion needed. FYI Only</i></p>	
OS-1020-09	<p>FYI – NBEO TASK FORCE UPDATES</p> <p>Background: The Task Force was charged to explore alternative testing methods for candidates seeking the NBEO exam series (Parts I, II, and III) used for licensure by jurisdictional regulatory boards. The report is available for review.</p> <p>Motion: <i>No formal motion needed. FYI Only</i></p>	
OS-1020-10	<p>FYI- FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION (FTC) CONTACT LENS RULE</p> <p>Background: The FTC recently finalized changes to the contact lens rule. Attached is information from the American Optometric Association (AOA) that is important in relation to health care consumer protection. The changes announce in June 2020 to take effect October 16, 2020.</p> <p>Motion: <i>No formal motion needed. FYI Only</i></p>	
OS-1020-11	<p>MOTION TO CLOSE</p> <p>Board Action: To go into closed session to discuss confidential matters as permitted in DC Official Code § 2-575(b).</p> <p>Background: Upon conclusion of the open session meeting 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>Motion: A motion to close the Open Session portion of the meeting at 10:29am was made by Dr. Jones. Seconded by Dr. Johnson.</p> <p>Vote:</p>	

	<p>Dr. Kraskin, Dr. Johnson, Dr. Jones and Mr. Hammond voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
<p>OS-1020-12</p>	<p>MOTION TO ADJOURN</p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> To adjourn the meeting.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> At the end of every meeting, a motion to adjourn must be made in open session to close out the business of the Boards.</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dr. Johnson. Seconded by Mr. Hammond.</p> <p><u>Vote:</u> Dr. Kraskin, Dr. Johnson, Dr. Jones and Mr. Hammond voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	

The next open session meeting scheduled for January 21, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

The Open Meetings Act governs this meeting. Please address any questions or complaints arising under this meeting to the Office of Open Government at opengovoffice@dc.gov.