

Winter-Spring 2026

## Message from the Executive Director

### Message from the Executive Director — Board of Optometry

Vision health touches every part of daily living—from education to workforce readiness to road safety. The Board of Optometry remains committed to ensuring our residents receive the highest quality of eye care through strong professional standards, continuing education, and public awareness.

Your vigilance in early detection, patient education, and interprofessional collaboration continues to make a measurable impact. Thank you for keeping the District’s focus clear and our communities looking toward a healthier future.

— Vito DelVento, DVM, Executive Director



## Welcome & Introduction

The Health Systems and Preparedness Administration (HSPA) at the District of Columbia Department of Health (DC Health) is committed to ensuring that all licensed health professionals meet the highest standards of competence, ethics, and public safety.

This newsletter serves as a communication pathway between DC Health, the professional licensing boards, and licensees. Each issue provides important regulatory updates, continuing education opportunities, public health initiatives, and professional achievements.

Through collaboration, transparency, and accountability, DC Health continues to advance its mission of protecting, promoting, and improving the health of all District residents.

## About DC Health | HSPA

The Health Systems and Preparedness Administration (HSPA) is one of five administrations within DC Health. Within HSPA, the Office of Health Professional Licensing oversees 15 professional licensing boards, the Investigations Division, and the Pharmaceutical Control Division.

Each respective board falls under the Office of Health Professional Licensing within HSPA, ensuring that health professionals practice safely and effectively through:

- Licensing and renewals for health professionals
- Policy development and enforcement of laws and regulations
- Board support for disciplinary actions, rulemaking, and continuing education
- Public-health partnerships promoting safe, ethical, and quality care

HSPA also includes four additional offices:

- Office of Health Care Facilities
- Office of Operations
- Office of Emergency Preparedness and Resilience

Each professional board is composed of members appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the DC Council, representing both professional expertise and public interests. Together, these boards uphold DC Health’s core values: integrity, excellence, accountability, and service.

## HSPA Mission

HSPA coordinates public health and emergency healthcare preparedness, response, and recovery efforts by leveraging partnerships to ensure readiness to protect those who reside, visit, or do business in the District of Columbia.

## About the Board

The **Board of Optometry** oversees the practice of Podiatry in the District of Columbia. The Board ensures practitioners maintain high levels of competency and ethical conduct while protecting patient safety.

### Current Focus Areas

- ARBO Updates: ARBO will be providing quarterly updates henceforth to share with the Boards and the public.
- Telehealth and Telepractice Rule

## Board Updates & Priorities

### Board – 5 members

- Four (4) Optometrists
- One (1) consumer member

### Vacancies:

- Two (2) Optometrists
- One (1) Consumer Member
  - Regulatory Changes to the Scope of Practice in Optometry
  - The public is welcome to attend the Open Session Meeting of the Board.

## Board Members

- Dr. Lisa Jonhson, Board Chair
- Dr. Gregory Foley- Board Member

## Continuing Education Spotlight

### CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION (CME) FOR RENEWALS

#### What are my CEU requirements?

- CEs must be taken between April 1, 2024, and March 31, 2026.
- An optometrist must complete thirty-eight (38) hours of approved CEs to include:
  - At least ten percent (10%) or four (4) hours of the 38 required CEs shall be in the subjects related to public health: Policy Statement on Identifying Public Health Issues for Continuing Education.
  - Two (2) hours of the thirty-eight (38) required CEs shall be in cultural competence and appropriate clinical treatment specifically for individuals who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender non-conforming, queer, or questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity and expression.
- Thirty-two (32) CE hours shall be directly related to the practice of optometry.
- Please note that continuing education requirements for this 2026 renewal period may be satisfied through approved online continuing education courses.
- For LGBTQ CE courses, please check out the [link](#).

## Public Health Connection

Link to the New Approved Director's [Public Health Priorities](#)



## Board Chair Corner

I am Dr. Lisa A. Johnson and currently serve as the Chair of the Board of Optometry. I have been on the board for over twenty years serving as the chair for the last four. I have practiced optometry in the Washington Metropolitan area since 1985 after graduating from The Pennsylvania College of Optometry.

The board currently has two members, myself and co-chair Dr. Greg Foley. We are in need of two additional optometrists and a consumer member. There are currently 211 licensed ODs in the District of Columbia. The board is and has been diligently working to have our scope of practice expanded to allow ODs to have controlled substance prescribing privileges and to treat cases of open-angle glaucoma without referral to a medical physician. We are working with Maryland and Virginia to have an Optometry Reciprocity Agreement between the three jurisdictions. The members of the board and staff look forward to continuing our service to the residents of the District of Columbia.

- *Dr. Lisa Johnson*



“ We are working with Maryland and Virginia to have an Optometry Reciprocity Agreement between the three jurisdictions.” -- *Dr. Lisa Johnson*

## Compliance & Licensing Tips

- Renewal Begins January 1, 2026
- Deadline for Renewal: March 31, 2026
- Renew licenses at least 30 days before expiration.
- Maintain current mailing and email addresses in the licensing portal.
- Update us immediately about a new employment and your business contact
- Report any disciplinary actions or criminal convictions within 10 days.
- Display your license certificate at your practice location.

## Closing Note

DC Health thanks all licensed professionals for their service and commitment to public health. Together, we advance to a stronger, healthier, and more resilient District. [Board Website](#)

## Upcoming Meetings & Events

2026 meeting dates:

- January 15, 2026: Virtual
- April 9, 2026: In-person
- July 16, 2026: Virtual
- October 15, 2026: In-person

## Contact Information

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