TENNESSEE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY
MINUTES

DATE:	February 18, 2026
TIME:	9:00 A.M. CST
LOCATION:	Health Related Boards Poplar Room 665 Mainstream Drive Nashville, TN 37243
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:	Thomas Cooper, D.N.P., Consumer Member Zachary McCarty, O.D. Linda Tharp, O.D. Kenneth Young, O.D.
BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:	James Venable, O.D.
STAFF PRESENT:	Kimberly Wallace, Regulatory Board Administrative Director Melinda Dutton, Regulatory Board Administrative Assistant Kathy Trawick, Associate General Counsel

Call to Order

Dr. McCarty called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. CST, with Dr. McCarty serving as Chair. A roll call was conducted, and a quorum was present, with Dr. Thomas Cooper, Dr. Zachary McCarty, Dr. Linda Tharp, and Dr. Kenneth Young present.

Newly appointed Consumer Member, Dr. Thomas Cooper was introduced.

Board staff from the Administrative Office, including Ms. Kimberly Wallace and Ms. Melinda Dutton, and from the Office of General Counsel, Ms. Kathy Trawick, were also present.

Ms. Trawick presented the Conflict of Interest Statement and Open Meetings Act Notice to the Board, as follows:

Conflict of Interest

PURPOSE: To assure that the individual interests of board members do not conflict with or have the appearance of conflicts with their responsibilities to the Board to which they are appointed.

A circumstance in which a board member's individual interest impairs or impedes, or gives the appearance of impairing or impeding, his or her ability to make full, unbiased decisions or to provide full unbiased service to the Board.

It is the duty of this Board to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Tennessee and that the administration of this solemn responsibility is dependent upon avoiding even the appearance of impropriety.

Any board member who has a conflict of interest as defined above must recuse himself/herself from any matter and is prohibited from participating in any discussion or vote on the matter and shall leave the hearing room during the discussion or vote.

If you have a personal or financial interest in the outcome of any issue or matter before this Board that may suggest a bias on your part, you are asked to state that interest on the record so a determination can be made as to whether there exists a need for recusal.

It is improper for any board member having a conflict of interest to attempt to influence another board member at any time, including prior to the discussion on the matter for which the conflict exists.

Open Meetings Act

Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, Board business may only be discussed by the Board members during the meeting. Members should not discuss the Board's business at any time other than during the open Board meeting. The prohibition applies to phone calls, e-mails, and text messages. Board members should also ensure that all comments during the meeting are stated for all to hear; private conversations between or among members during the meeting are inappropriate.

An executive session convened by the Board for the purpose of discussing an applicant's health conditions, including mental health conditions and substance use disorders revealed during an application process, is not a public meeting as defined in T.C.A. § 8-44-102. However, during the executive session the Board may not vote on the matter at issue until the open Board meeting.

No conflicts were noted by any Board Members.

Discuss and Take Action as necessary regarding Legislation

There were no legislative items for the Board to review in this meeting.

Receive Reports and/or Requests from the Division of Health Licensure and Regulation

Fiscal Director, Matt McSpadden, was present to provide the FY2026 Mid-Year reports to the Board, with highlights as follows:

- Total Expenditures: $116,752.08
- Board Fee Revenue: $83,870.00
- Reserve Balance: $506,958.92

The Board reviewed and discussed potential scenarios and projections for future fee adjustments.

A motion was made by Dr. Tharp
To change the Renewal Fee from $275 to $425 with future reviews and projections to be provided
A second was made by Dr. Young
Discussion: ☑ None OR ☐ As Follows
The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Applicant Interviews/File Reviews/Waivers and Other Requests

CE Waiver Request – Kelly Ferjentsik, O.D. License #3834

Dr. Ferjentsik requested an extension of their CE, which was submitted on 10/27/2025. She did not specify the period for which she requested an extension, nor did she specify a requested extension time frame to complete any deficient CE. Her most recent license CE Cycle was August 2023 – September 2025, with her license expiration date being 10/31/2025. She expressed in an email to the Administrative Office that she had not obtained sufficient live/in-person CE hours to meet her requirements and also that she had not practiced in over six (6) years.

On 10/31/2025, Dr. Ferjentsik submitted an affidavit of retirement form, and her license was voluntarily retired and currently remains in a status of voluntarily retired.

A motion was made by Dr. Young
To take no action on the request
A second was made by Dr. Tharp
Discussion: ☐ None OR ☑ As Follows
Ms. Trawick advised the Board to consider speaking directly to the request for waiver or extension in anticipation of potential request for reinstatement by the licensee in the future.
Dr. Young withdrew his original motion.

An amended motion was made by Dr. Young
To deny the waiver of the CE requirements for the CE Cycle of August 2023 – September 2025 with no further action
A second was made by Dr. Tharp
Discussion: ☐ None OR ☑ As Follows
The Board discussed CE as it relates to reinstatement.
The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

CE Waiver Request – Elyse Rayborn, O.D. License #3605

Dr. Rayborn requested an extension of sixty (60) days for the completion of seven (7) hours of the CE requirements for her CE Cycle of November 2023 – October 2025.

A motion was made by Dr. Tharp
To approve the extension of sixty (60) days for the completion of seven (7) hours of the CE requirements for her CE Cycle of November 2023 – October 2025 and accept the course completion certificates as presented.
A second was made by Dr. Cooper
Discussion: ☑ None OR ☐ As Follows
The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Practice Name Request – Brentwood Eye Care, Christine Smith, O.D. License #3651

Dr. Christine Smith, License #3651 requested approval for a practice name of Brentwood Eye Care.

A motion was made by Dr. Tharp
To approve the practice name of Brentwood Eye Care
A second was made by Dr. Young
Discussion: ☑ None OR ☐ As Follows
The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

CE Course Review – Optometric Educational Consultants, Gregory Caldwell, O.D.

The Board reviewed the inquiry submitted by Optometric Educational Consultants for a controlled substance prescribing course titled "Opioid Prescribing: Integrating Patient Care and Practitioner Responsibility" with instructor, Gregory Caldwell, O.D., COPE ID99250-PH.

A motion was made by Dr. Young
To approve the controlled substance prescribing course titled "Opioid Prescribing: Integrating Patient Care and Practitioner Responsibility" with instructor, Gregory Caldwell, O.D., COPE ID99250-PH.
A second was made by Dr. Tharp
Discussion: ☑ None OR ☐ As Follows
The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Presentation of Orders and OGC Disciplinary Items

Consent Orders
None

Agreed Orders
None

Orders of Compliance
None

Requests for Order of Modification
None

Receive Reports and take action as needed regarding CSMD Committee Reports

There were no reports of CSMD business presented in this meeting.

Dr. Young accepted the role of CSMD representative for the Board.

Consent Agenda

The Board's consent agenda included the following items:

- Approval of Meeting Minutes, October 8, 2025
- Ratification of Licensure Files
- Approval of Agreed Citations
    - CE – Joshua Dalley, O.D., Lic #3918
    - CE – Charles Tessman, O.D., Lic #3641
    - CE – Stephen Bartek, O.D., Lic #608
    - CE – Meredith Goforth, O.D., Lic #3856
    - CE – Andrew Costello, O.D., Lic #2727
    - CE – Jordan Harrison, O.D., Lic #3403
    - CE – Troy Moss, O.D., Lic #3770
    - CE – Patrick Lane, O.D. #550
    - CE – Makesha Sink, O.D., Lic #2260
    - CE – Jeffery McClian, O.D., Lic #1024
- Departmental Reports
    - Administrative Office
    - Office of General Counsel

- Office of Investigations
- Notices
    - ACOE – Notice of Adopted Changes
    - ARBO - Member Update
    - COPE Reviewer – White
    - NBEO – Response to KY Optometric Board Regulation

A motion was made by Dr. Tharp
To approve all items on the consent agenda as presented.
A second was made by Dr. Young
Discussion: ☑ None OR ☐ As Follows
The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Discuss and take action as necessary regarding Rulemaking, Rule Amendments, and Policies

Rule 1045-02-.09

The Board reviewed the Policy Statement on Contents of a Spectacle Lens Prescriptions, which they adopted on 10/08/2025, in consideration of Rule 1045-02-.09.

It was noted that Patience Long, Executive Director of the TN Association of Optometric Physicians (TAOP), requested to make public comment on this item, who deferred to have Dr. Garrett Shephard represent TAOP. Dr. Shephard expressed TAOP's position on requirements for dispensary measurements and other prescription considerations. Ms. Long provided follow-up statements regarding prescription requirements.

The Board initiated proposed language changes to Rule 1045-02-.09.

A motion was made by Dr. Young
To approve the proposed language changes to Rule 1045-02-.09
A second was made by Dr. Tharp
Discussion: ☑ None OR ☐ As Follows
A roll call vote was held, as follows:

- Dr. Cooper – AYE
- Dr. Young – AYE
- Dr. McCarty – AYE
- Dr. Tharp – AYE

The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Review of Correspondence

Kayla Tucker Katsadouros, O.D.

The Board acknowledged the receipt of the correspondence item, with no action taken.

Conference/Event Reports and Upcoming Events Review

ARBO Annual Meeting, Phoenix, AZ, 06/13-06/14/2026

A motion was made by Dr. Young
To sponsor attendance by:

- One board member

A second was made by Dr. Cooper
Discussion: ☑ None OR ☐ As Follows
The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Discuss Old/New Board Business

The Board considered a request by ARBO to include a standing agenda item for ARBO on future meeting agendas for the receipt of reports, requests and information from the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry.

A motion was made by Dr. Young
To approve adding a standing agenda item for the receipt of reports, requests and information from the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry
A second was made by Dr. Cooper
Discussion: ☑ None OR ☐ As Follows
The motion passed unanimously by voice vote, with an abstain by Dr. Tharp

Public Comment

Ms. Wallace reviewed the Public Comment policy, wherein, any individual wishing to make a public comment at a board meeting must submit a request to do so in writing, it must include the specific topic from the published agenda/sunshine notice for the meeting for which the individual wishes to make comment and must be received by the Administrative Office at least ten (10) business days prior to the date of a meeting.

Should the agenda be amended after initial publication, the member of the public wishing to address the Board on an amended agenda item must give their written notice no less than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting.

The email address for submission of a request to make public comment for this Board is: Unit3HRB.Health@tn.gov.

Written requests for public comment were received by the Administrative Office for this meeting from:

- Patience Long, Executive Director of the TN Association of Optometric Physicians (TAOP), who requested to make comment on agenda items 8.a Rule 1045-02-.09

Public comments were heard by the Board at the points on the agenda at which each item was reviewed. The Board also received other public comments as noted earlier in these Minutes.

Adjourn

There being no further business to be heard, a motion was made by Dr. Tharp to adjourn.
A second was made by Dr. Young
Discussion: ☑ None OR ☐ As Follows
The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 12:19pm CST.

These Minutes were ratified by the Board on 04/08/2026.

08 April 2024

Board Chair **Date**