

## TENNESSEE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY MEETING MINUTES

**DATE:** October 13, 2017

**TIME:** 10:00 A.M., ET

**LOCATION:** Park Vista Hotel  
705 Cherokee Orchard Road  
Gatlinburg, TN 37738

**BOARD MEMBERS**

**PRESENT:** Brad S. Lindsey, O.D., Vice Chair  
Torrey J. Carlson, O.D.  
Christopher H. Cooper, O.D.  
Linda Tharp, O.D.

**BOARD MEMBER**

**ABSENT:** Jennifer Uhl, O.D., Secretary

**STAFF**

**PRESENT:** Yvette Hernandez, Board Administrator  
Teddy Wilkins, Unit Director  
Stefan Cange, Assistant General Counsel

Dr. Lindsey, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:04 A.M. A roll call was conducted and a quorum was present.

### **Review/Approve July 12, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes**

Upon review of the July 12, 2017 board meeting minutes Dr. Tharp made a motion, seconded by Dr. Carlson to approve the minutes as written. The motion carried.

### **Office of Investigations**

In the absence of the Disciplinary Coordinator, Ms. Wilkins stated three (3) licensees are being monitored and one (1) is on probation.

### **Office of General Counsel**

Mr. Cange stated there are no open cases for disciplinary action in the Office of General Counsel.

Mr. Cange stated the rule changes concerning continuing education (modifying the wording of the rule concerning the required prescribing course, as well as the wording of the rule pertaining

to approval of CE from vendors already approved by the Board for such purposes) and one other minor change (updating the web address for license renewal), are currently undergoing internal review.

### **Administrative Report**

Ms. Hernandez stated there are 1,273 licensed Optometrists as of October 9, 2017.

Ms. Hernandez stated there were twelve (12) new licenses and fifty-three (53) renewals in July with thirty-five (35) renewing online for a percentage of sixty-six (66) percent.

Ms. Hernandez stated there were nine (9) new licenses and forty-nine (49) renewals in August with twenty-nine (29) renewing online for a percentage of fifty-nine (59) percent.

Ms. Hernandez stated there were eight (8) new licenses and forty-eight (48) renewals in September with thirty (30) renewing online for a percentage of sixty-three (63) percent.

Mr. Hernandez presented the following scheduled Board meeting dates for 2018:

January 9, 2018 (Tuesday)

April 4, 2018

July 11, 2018

October 12, 2018 – Gatlinburg, TN (tentative)

Ms. Wilkins stated the new online application system is up and running; now applicants have two (2) choices to apply for licensure, they may submit a paper application or apply online.

### **Review, Approve/Deny Licensure Applicants**

Upon review, Dr. Tharp made a motion, seconded by Dr. Lindsey, to approve the following applicants for licensure:

**Kristin Lynn Adams  
Sarah Elizabeth Anderson  
Emily Knox Caldwell  
Judy Tsui-Lee Cheng  
April Ga-YunChiu  
Halie Ann Cottrill  
Caylen Craft  
Sarah Rose Elmore  
Dahlia Hadded  
Michele Renee Haranin  
Lisa Higson  
Tyler Kitzman**

**Julie Rachel Lafreniere  
Jessica Amanda Lam  
Eric B. Larios  
Jennifer Martin Lane  
Morgan Christopher Ollinger  
Sarah Ann Rohr  
Grant Allen Rubesh  
Sari Rachel Schwartz  
Jacob Leo Stallbaumer  
Desiree Vanderstar  
An Vo  
Steven Andrew Lewis Weifenbach**

The motion carried.

## **Review, Approve/Deny Reinstatement Applicants**

Upon review, Dr. Tharp made a motion, seconded by Dr. Carlson, to approve the following reinstatement applicants:

**Jennifer Kay Henson**  
**Kurt R. Jung**

**William P. Lee**  
**Thomas A. Spetnick**

The motion carried

## **Continuing Education Waiver Request**

The Board reviewed a letter from **James N. Hall, O.D.**, requesting a waiver for 2016-2017 for the thirty (30) hours of continuing education; he is deficient for 2016-2017 per ARBO. The Board stated he can make up the 2016- 2017 hours and has until 8/31/19 to complete the thirty (30) hours of continuing education. He will have to complete a total of sixty (60) hours by August 31, 2019 for 2016-2017 and 2018-2019.

## **Correspondence**

The Board reviewed a letter from Frankie Goolsby, O.D. requesting approval to use the professional practice name **Oasis Eyecare**. Dr. Carlson made a motion, seconded by Dr. Cooper to approve the request. The motion carried.

The Board reviewed a letter from Jamie Ho, O.D. requesting approval to use the professional practice name **Ho Vision Group, PLLC**. Dr. Carlson made a motion, seconded by Dr. Tharp to approve the request. The motion carried.

The Board reviewed a letter from Daniel Miller, O.D. requesting approval to use the professional practice names **Bristol Eye Clinic and Mountain City Eye Care**. Dr. Tharp made a motion, seconded by Dr. Cooper to approve the request. The motion carried.

Dr. Carlson stated there was a discussion at the last Board meeting of increasing continuing education requirements in the state of Tennessee, Tennessee is second to the lowest of the states for continuing Education requirements.

Dr. Richard Orgain (former board member and attendee) stated that some states require 26 hours a year of continuing education and most states are more than 15 hours a year.

Mr. Cange stated increasing the number of continuing education hours would require a rule change and he would recommend a task force to study the issue if the Board wanted to increase the hours. The board would need a vote to direct him to start the process for a rule change and nominate one (1) Board member for the task force. The Board nominated Dr. Carlson for the task force with Mr. Cange. Dr. Carlson made a motion to move forward to increase the continuing education hours, seconded by Dr. Lindsey.

Dr. Orgain, now president of the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO) then talked about continuing education as far as what Tennessee recommends or approves. ARBO has been studying this issue and it's been a five (5) year process for ACCME to make a decision about optometric continuing education to mirror that required of medicine. In July, 2017 ARBO got approval from the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), that COPE Education is comparable to ACCME requirements. Mr. Cange asked if the Board wished to appoint a task force to study the issue of increasing continuing educations hours. Dr. Lindsey made a motion to approve a task force, seconded by Dr. Cooper. The motion carried.

### **New Business**

A discussion was held regarding Part III – ISE of the licensure exam. The issue was whether an applicant could be granted a temporary license without passing part III-ISE with agreement to not use injectables until they pass that part of the exam and/or obtain a waiver? The Board members stated the applicants must pass part III – ISE in order to get a license in the State of Tennessee.

Mr. Cange stated the Board can adopt a policy for clinical competency; it would be a notice for the public as a policy. The Board nominated Dr. Tharp to be on the Task Force with Mr. Cange.

Dr. Carlson made a motion to add clinical competency to the next Board meeting, seconded by Dr. Tharp. The motion passed.

Dr. Carlson asked the Board whether the “amniotic membrane on the ocular surface procedure” falls under the scope of the Optometry practice act. Some insurance companies in Tennessee do not recognize Optometrists for using this procedure. Mr. Cange asked this to be put on the agenda for the next Board meeting. Dr. Tharp will research the issue and give a presentation at the next Board meeting on amniotic membrane procedure.

Dr. Carlson spoke about telemedicine and the regulation of this practice in the state. The Board can only regulate Optometrists to practice who are licensed in the State of Tennessee, and telemedicine in Tennessee is being practiced by doctors out of State without a Tennessee license. Mr. Cange stated with the situation of unlicensed Optometrists, if the member of the public has information about a specific practitioner practicing without a license in Tennessee they can file a complaint with the Office of Investigations.

### **Adjourn**

With no other Board business to conduct Dr. Cooper made a motion, seconded by Dr. Tharp, to adjourn at 12:06 p.m. The motion carried.

*Ratified by the Board on January 9, 2018*