

MINUTES OF THE CONFERENCE CALL MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF OPTOMETRY
August 26, 2022

ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Board of Optometry was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Dr. Robert Vandervort, Chairman, at Hampton Inn, 7343 Husker Circle, Husker Room, Lincoln, NE. The agenda was sent to the Board members and other interested parties prior to the meeting. The following members answered the roll call:

Robert Vandervort, O.D., Chairperson
Creston Myers, O.D. (via WebEx)
Jeremiah Baumfalk, O.D.
Linda Heiden, Secretary (via WebEx)

A quorum was present and the meeting convened. Also present were: Jesse Cushman, Program Manager; and Vonda Apking, Health Licensing Coordinator; and T.J. O'Neill, Assistant Attorney General; Mark Myerson, Investigator (via WebEx); Suzanna Glover-Ettrich, Department Attorney (via WebEx); and Anna Harrison, RN, BSN, Compliance Monitor (via WebEx).

Dr. Vandervort announced that there is a copy of all the public documents being reviewed at this meeting available in the meeting room pursuant to the Open Meetings Act.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Heiden moved, seconded by Baumfalk, to adopt the agenda with the Chairman having the ability to rearrange as necessary. Voting aye: Baumfalk, Heiden, Myers, Vandervort. Voting nay: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 1, 2022

Page 1: No changes.

Page 2: Under 401 CREDENTIALING REVIEW - OPTOMETRY, line 3, delete the word "manner".

Myers moved, seconded by Vandervort, to approve the April 1, 2022, minutes as corrected. Voting aye: Heiden, Myers, Vandervort. Voting nay: none. Abstain: Baumfalk. Absent: none. Motion carried.

INVESTIGATIONAL REPORTS, DISCIPLINARY REPORTS, APPLICATION REVIEW – CLOSED SESSION

Heiden moved, seconded by Baumfalk, to go into closed session at 2:04 p.m. for the purpose of review and discussion of investigative reports, licensure applications, and other confidential information, and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of the individuals. Voting aye: Baumfalk, Heiden, Myers, Vandervort. Voting nay: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.

The Board returned to open session at 3:04 p.m.

APPLICATION REVIEW

Initial Application(s)

Heiden moved, seconded by Baumfalk, to postpone recommendation on the optometrist application of Christine Brisson for additional information. Voting aye: Baumfalk, Heiden, Myers, Vandervort. Voting nay: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.

Reinstatement After Discipline Application(s)

Baumfalk moved, seconded by Myers, to recommend reinstating the license of Julie Walter on probation for 3 years, with the standard terms and conditions for an individual diagnosed with a substance use disorder, including body fluid screens, quarterly employer reports and if self-employed from a practice monitor, follow all treatment recommendations, and report all prescription medications. Voting aye: Baumfalk, Heiden, Myers, Vandervort. Voting nay: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.

RATIFY EMAIL BALLOTS SINCE THE LAST MEETING

Staff read the following into the record:

- The Board approved a letter to the 407 Credentialing Review Committee supporting selective laser trabeculoplasty (SLT) on 4/7/2022.

REGULATIONS UPDATE

Cushman explained that there are language changes for reciprocity and those changes are being incorporated into the current regulations. The regulations will be brought back to the Board for review when available.

401 CREDENTIALING REVIEW - OPTOMETRY

Nothing to discuss at this time.

ASSOCIATION OF REGULATORY BOARDS OF OPTOMETRY (ARBO) ANNUAL MEETING

Myers explained that there were 60 individuals attending in person and 40 individuals attended virtually. Myers attended virtually on Saturday and Sunday. Discussion topic was testing protocols and procedures and outside analysis which is highly regulated. States have the same issues with the examination. Vandervort attended virtually on Monday and Tuesday. Topics discussed including total revision of Part III of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO) examination and acceptance of Council on Endorsed Licensure Mobility for Optometrists (CELMO) which is already recognized in several states.

The next meeting is TBA when there are applications and/or discussion topics available.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signature on file with the Department)

Creston Myers, O.D., Secretary
Board of Optometry