



Board of Optometry Regular Meeting Minutes

March 4, 2022

Committee members present: Glen Owen, OD, Chair
William Prothero, OD, Vice-Chair
Robert Davis, OD
Keren Yang, OD
Beth Rollinger, Public Member

Committee members absent: Palwinder Kaur, OD (appointed 2/23/2022)

Staff members present: Lorelei Walker, Program Manager
Kim-Boi Shadduck, Program Manager
Ashley Bell, Health Services Consultant
Noelle Chung, Assistant Attorney General
Ashley Maxwell, Supervising Staff Attorney
Poppy Budrow, Budget Analyst
Madissen Schatz, Administrative Assistant

On March 04, 2022, the Board of Optometry met via web conference. Notice of the meeting was published on the [Board of Optometry website](#) and was sent out through the GovDelivery listserv.

OPEN SESSION:

Call to Order – Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Owen called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

1. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Rollinger moved to amend the agenda with the removal of 10.0 Review of [WAC 246-851-410 Drug Formulary](#). This topic will be tabled until the next meeting. The motion was seconded and adopted.

2. Approval of Minutes – December 10, 2021 Business Meeting

Dr. Prothero moved to approve the minutes from the December 10, 2021 business meeting. The motion was seconded and adopted.

Reports

3. Glen Owen, O.D, Chair

Dr. Prothero presented an overview of RCWs, WACs, policies, and guidelines.

4. Lorelei Walker, Program Manager, Dept of Health

4.1. Credentialing

Due to heavy workload, credentialing supervisors were not able to attend or provide reports.

4.2. Budget

Ms. Walker presented the biennium budget report for July 01, 2021 – December 31, 2021. We now have an accurate amount of charges (i.e. indirect rate established and applied, FTE allocations corrected, delays in billing are caught up). The Budget Office is in the process of ensuring that expenditures are charged correctly, and accurately reflected in future budget reports.

Fee Study- A fee study for the board will begin in April-May 2022. The study will analyze factors that contribute to projected revenue/expenditure trends to see if fees may need to be adjusted in light of the board's currently healthy budget balance. Preliminary information may be shared in June.

Expense Categories- Staff is working to bring the expense categories up to date. The sunrise review has caused the attorney general services expense to go over budget. Travel cost projects will need to be addressed, due to the 2022 ARBO conference and the possibility of resuming in-person meetings.

4.3. Legislative Updates

Legislative session cut-off dates were discussed, and the last day of session is March 10th. [Substitute Senate Bill 5753](#) relating to increasing capacity for certain boards and commissions has passed Senate and is currently in the House.

4.4. Recruitment

Dr. Anna Wells has stepped down from the board but has offered to serve as a pro tem member. The governor has appointed Dr. Palwinder Kaur in her place.

Given that three terms expire in September 2022, staff will work with the governor to reappoint Dr. Kaur and will extend Dr. Prothero's term for another year to help with mentoring and board continuity. The governor will also consider making a permanent change to one of the terms during the next appointment, to ensure that no more than two terms expire at the same time.

4.5. HELMS Update

HELMS began working with a new integration vendor, MTX. The project is currently in the planning phase for external stakeholder communications.

5. Noelle Chung, AAG

No new updates

Open Forum

No comments

Board Business

6. Health Equity Continuing Education Legislation

Ashley Bell, Department of Health, provided a report on the department's work on [SB 5229](#). The department will reach out to individuals that have experienced health inequities and coordinate rules workshops from March-April 2022. Ms. Bell will then report the draft rules to the board.

7. COVID-19 Emergency Topics

The board discussed optometry COVID-19 issues, and took no additional actions at this time.

8. Substitute Senate Bill 5542 on the Scope of Optometric Practice

The board discussed [SB 5542](#) regarding expanding the scope of optometry and reviewed the final sunrise review report related to this bill proposal. The bill did not make it out of the house of origin by the February 15, 2022 deadline.

9. Continuing Education (CE) Rulemaking Proposal

The board continued rulemaking to consider an increased number of online courses and other miscellaneous changes to [WACs 246-851-090 through -235](#).

The board heard an update from the Council on Optometric Continuing Education's subcommittee on their work evaluating the efficacy of online webinar vs. in-person continuing education. OPW offered to continue to assist with the rulemaking process, and the board made some edits and notes to the draft rule language based on the discussion with the subcommittee. One recommendation from OPW is that asynchronous online learning should always coincide with a summative assessment to ensure that participants are actively attending.

10. Review of [WAC 246-851-410 Drug Formulary](#)

Tabled until June 24, 2022.

11. Jurisprudence Exam Revisions

The board reviewed a draft jurisprudence exam with sample questions to cover new regulations and questions.

Dr. Prothero agreed to join Dr. Yang in forming a subcommittee to revise the Jurisprudence Exam. Dr. Dale Tosland asked to be included in the subcommittee. Ms. Walker, Ms. Santiago, and Ms. Chung will with the subcommittee before the June 24, 2022 meeting to work on the exam further.

12. Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry Updates

The board discussed participation in the June-14 annual conference, reviewed ARBO’s update of continuing education categories, and discussed other ARBO-related topics. Due to a hearing scheduling conflict on June 13, 2022, the board will discuss ARBO annual conference attendance during the Wednesday, March 09, 2022 case management conference call.

13. Agenda-Building

The board reviewed its tracking table for board business and discussed priority items for the June 24, 2022 agenda.

- ARBO report out
- Review of [WAC 246-851-410](#)
- Update on [SB 5229](#)
- Continuing education proposal
- Jurisprudence Exam Committee update
- Fee study update

14. Adjournment

Dr. Prothero motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:59 a.m. The motion was seconded and adopted.

Submitted by:
Loralei Walker, Program Manager
Board of Optometry

Approved by:
Glen Owen, Chair
Board of Optometry

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SIGNATURE

on file _____
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DATE

DATE