



**Dispensing Optician Examining Committee**  
**March 16, 2022**

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**Committee members present:** Aracely "Sally" Arias, LO  
Terry Harris, LO

**Committee members absent:** Kathy Kristjanson, LO

**Staff members present:** Jennifer Santiago, Executive Director  
Ashley Bell, Health Services Consultant  
Noelle L. Chung, Assistant Attorney General  
Madissen Schatz, Administrative Assistant

On March 16, 2022, the Dispensing Optician Examining Committee via web conference. Notice of the meeting was published on the [Dispensing Optician Examining Committee website](#) and was sent out through the GovDelivery listserv.

**1. Call to Order**

Ms. Santiago called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

1.1. Introduction of committee and staff.

Committee and staff introduced themselves.

1.2. Approval of agenda.

Mr. Harris moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and adopted.

1.3. Approval of December 14, 2021 committee meeting minutes.

Ms. Arias moved to approve the December 14, 2021 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and adopted.

**2. Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 5229 Health Equity Continuing Education**

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 committee.

**3. Elections**

3.1. The committee nominated and selected a chairperson and vice chairperson.

Ms. Arias nominated herself as chair and Ms. Kristjanson as vice-chair. The motion was seconded and adopted.

**4. Program Report – Jennifer Santiago**

4.1. Program staffing update

Debra Mendoza has accepted the nonpermanent position of credentialing supervisor, leaving the position of program manager vacant. Ms. Santiago has begun the recruitment process and hopes to have the position filled by May 01, 2022.

4.2. Interim Operating Budget Report

Ms. Santiago presented the July 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021 biennium budget status report to the committee. The department predicts that the fund balance will be reduced significantly over the next biennium.

4.3. 2022 Committee meeting dates

Ms. Santiago shared the following 2022 meeting dates to the committee:

March 16, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

June 22, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

September 21, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

December 14, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

4.4. Licensing statistics

Ms. Santiago presented the following credentialing statistics as of February 22, 2022 to the committee:

| Credential Type                                | Status         | Number of Credentials |
|--|----------------|-----------------------|
| Optician Dispensing<br>Apprentice Registration | Active         | 1007                  |
| Optician Dispensing<br>Apprentice Registration | Pending        | 60                    |
| Optician Dispensing<br>License                 | Active         | 951                   |
| Optician Dispensing<br>License                 | Inactive       | 58                    |
| Optician Dispensing<br>License                 | Retired Active | 17                    |
| Optician Dispensing<br>License                 | Pending        | 27                    |

#### 4.5. Health Enforcement Licensing Management System (HELMS) Update

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

### 5. **Apprentice Guidance Manual**

#### 5.1. Development of Dispensing Optician Apprentice Guidance Manual

The committee continued the process of revising the Apprentice Guidance Manual.

Recommended Training Topics and Tasks:

- Consider changing language from “Informal assessment” to “Informal assessment of training to date.”
- Move “Methods of illumination – use of fluorescein for CL. Recognizing common corneal stains and lens corneal relationships and slit lamp illuminations” to months 9-10 of year two.
- Consider moving “CL optics & application, physiology & chemistry” and “CL design & materials, orientation & general knowledge fitting” to year two.
- Preface all language in year three with “review of.” Consider doing a review of year one in year three. Months 1-6 could include a review of optical lenses, and months 7-12 could include a review of contact lenses.

Ms. Santiago will present the updated revisions at the June 22, 2022 meeting.

### 6. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

**Submitted by:**  
Jennifer Santiago, Executive Director  
Dispensing Optician Examining Committee

**Approved by:**  
Sally Arias, LO  
Dispensing Optician Examining Committee

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