



Dispensing Optician Examining Committee
June 22, 2022

Committee members present: Sally Arias, LDO, Chairperson
Kat Kristjanson, LDO, Vice-chairperson
Terry Harris, LDO

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

On June 22, 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.

OPEN SESSION:

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. Virtual or in-person public meeting.

As of June 01, 2022, Governor Inslee rescinded [proclamations 20-28 of the Open Public Meetings Act](#). Section five of [Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1329](#) permits the committee to hold meetings remotely during a declared state of emergency if public attendance cannot be done with reasonable safety. Mr. Harris moved that “we stay virtual until 2023.” The motion was seconded and adopted.

1.3. Approval of agenda.

Ms. Kristjanson motioned to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and adopted.

1.4. Approval of March 16, 2022, committee meeting minutes.

Mr. Harris moved to approve the March 16, 2022, committee 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 information regarding [ESSB 5229](#), health equity legislation, passed in 2021. The department held four listening sessions during February, and four rules workshops throughout March and May. Ms. Bell hopes to file a CR-102 in the summer, and a CR-103 by the end of the year. A public hearing will likely occur in the fall. Programs are encouraged to open their rules after the CR-102 is filed with the code revisor.

3. Program Report – Jennifer Santiago, Executive Director; Noelle Chung, Assistant Attorney General

3.1. Program staffing update

Ms. Santiago shared that she is working on filling the Dispensing Optician Examining Committee’s vacant program manager position. A recent round of interviews did not produce any successful candidates. Ms. Santiago will continue collecting and reviewing applications.

3.2. Interim operating budget report

Ms. Santiago shared the 2021-23 Biennium budget status report for the period of July 01, 2021, through April 30, 2022. The fund balance trend is currently declining. Increased expenses are associated with the reestablishment of the committee and work on the guidance manual.

The estimated revenue to-date was \$131,387, and the actual revenue totaled \$120,316.

The budget to-date was \$176,423, and the expenses to-date totaled \$128,503.

3.3. Uniformed Disciplinary Act Biennial Report

Ms. Santiago shared findings from the 2019-2021 Uniform Disciplinary Act (UDA) report. The department received 34 complaints regarding dispensing opticians, and one investigation was completed. Five unlicensed practice investigations were completed. One charge was settled with an agreed order, and one with a cease-and-desist order.

Ms. Santiago shared the following credentialing statistics from March 17, 2022:

Credential Prefix	Credential Type	Status	Number of Credentials
OPTA	Optician Dispensing Apprentice Registration	Active	1009
OPTA	Optician Dispensing Apprentice Registration	Pending	42
OPTI	Optician Dispensing License	Active	946
OPTI	Optician Dispensing License	Inactive	56
OPTI	Optician Dispensing License	Retired Active	18
OPTI	Optician Dispensing License	Pending	29

3.4. Examination cost research

Ms. Santiago shared the examination cost summary research with the committee. The summary justified the previous decision to change to a national examination for cost savings.

4. Open forum

Ms. Donna Hatch, LDO, D&D Management Services, encouraged the committee to invite the National Academy of Opticianry (NAO) to share a presentation on the Ophthalmic Career Progression Program at the next meeting. Ms. Hatch would like to see a similar program adopted in Washington.

5. Apprentice Guidance Manual

The committee continued the process of revising the Apprentice Guidance Manual. Ms. Santiago will present the revisions at the next meeting. The committee will review statutes

and requirements associated to apprenticeships at the next meeting and attempt to finalize the Guidance Manual.

6. Adjournment

Ms. Arias moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 a.m. The motion was seconded and adopted.

Submitted by:

Jennifer Santiago, Executive Director
Dispensing Optician Examining Committee

Approved by:

Sally Arias, LDO, Chairman
Dispensing Optician Examining
Committee

on file

SIGNATURE

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