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Dispensing Optician Examining Committee

December 14, 2022

Committee Members Present:

Sally Arias, Dispensing Optician, Chair
Terry Harris, Dispensing Optician

Committee Members Absent:

Kat Kristjanson, Dispensing Optician, Vice-chair

Staff Members Present:

Kristina Bell, Program Manager
Jennifer Santiago, Executive Director
Noelle L. Chung, Assistant Attorney General
Madissen Schatz, Administrative Assistant

OPEN SESSION:

1. Call to Order

Ms. Arias called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m.

2. Open Forum

Bess-Marie Barr, dispensing optician, questioned if there has been discussion of changing the license renewal period to every two years to reduce cost.

Ms. Santiago shared that there has not been proven significant cost savings in other professions by changing from annual to biennial renewals.

3. Approval of December 14, 2022, Agenda

Mr. Harris moved to approve the December 14, 2022, agenda. The motion was seconded and adopted.

4. Approval of September 21, 2022, Committee Meeting Minutes

Mr. Harris moved to approve the September 21, 2022, committee meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and adopted.

5. National Academy of Opticianry (NAO)

Ms. Bell presented a review of the Ophthalmic Career Progression Program (OCP), a home study program designed to provide a thorough theoretical education in opticianry for those working in the optical field. The committee shared that they are in support of implementing this concept. Ms. Bell explained that state laws and rules governing the profession do not authorize the committee to mandate, endorse, or adopt specific programs for credentialing apprentices but will work with Ms. Santiago to conduct more research. Recommendations will be presented at the March 2023 meeting.

6. Program Report

6.1. Interim Operating Budget Report

Ms. Santiago presented the 2021-23 Biennium Budget Status Report for the Period of July 01, 2021, through October 31, 2022.

There is a decline in October's fund balance, which is well below the fund balance goal. The expenditures are outpacing the revenue received. Ms. Santiago shared that the program is being evaluated in the next year for a potential fee increase. At that time, a seven-to-ten-year analysis will be conducted.

6.2. Credentialing Update

Ms. Bell shared the following credentialing statistics with the committee.

Active status counts:

Optician dispensing license- 940

Optician dispensing apprentice registration- 995

Pending status counts:

Optician dispensing license- 21

Optician dispensing apprentice registration- 31

Applications received:

June- 10

July- 16

August- 22

September- 25

October- 14

November- 19

Credentials expiring by month:

June- 25

July- 19

August- 28

September- 22

October- 23

November- 25

Overall application processing time (days):

June- 99

July- 275

August- 20

September 95

October- 62

November- 424

7. Rules

More information regarding [Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5229](#) will be shared at the March 2023 meeting.

8. Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Information

Ms. Santiago shared that the governor's COVID emergency declaration ended in October. The secretary of health's [masking order](#) remains in effect in healthcare settings.

9. Adjournment

Ms. Arias adjourned the meeting at 9:47 a.m.

Submitted by:

Kristina Bell, Program Manager
Dispensing Optician Examining Committee

Approved by:

Sally Arias, Dispensing Optician, Chair
Dispensing Optician Examining
Committee

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