



**Board of Optometry**  
**Regular Quarterly Board Meeting Minutes**  
**March 10, 2023**

**Board Members in Attendance:**

William Prothero, Optometrist, Chairman  
Keren Yang, Optometrist, Vice-chairman  
Glen Owen, Optometrist  
Palwinder Kaur, Optometrist  
Barbara Rollinger, General Public

**Staff Members in Attendance:**

Kristina Bell, Program Manager  
Jennifer Santiago, Executive Director  
Noelle Chung, Assistant Attorney General  
Jeff Wise, Policy Analyst  
Hyon Yi, Credentialing Manager  
Poppy Budrow, Budget Analyst  
Shani Hue, Budget Analyst  
Madissen Schatz, Administrative  
Assistant

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The regular quarterly meeting of the Board of Optometry was called to order by the chairman, William Prothero, at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, March 10, 2023, via Microsoft Teams. There are in-person attendees at the Olympia Center. The minutes of the December 2, 2022, meeting were approved.

The board accepted comments from the audience on issues of significance to the profession.

Noelle Chung, assistant attorney general, reported that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is planning for the federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) for COVID-19, declared under Section 3919 of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act, to expire at the end of the day on May 11, 2023. The board will not be allowed to hold entirely virtual business meetings after that point.

Jennifer Santiago, executive director, reported that Kristina Bell has taken over the program manager position.

Ms. Santiago presented the credentialing statistics from August 1, 2022 – January 31, 2022.

Number of Credentials Issued	
Optometrist License	33
Optometry Temporary Permit	0

Average Days from Last Day of Contact to Issue	
Optometrist License	13.6
Optometrist Temporary Permit	N/A

Poppy Budrow, budget analyst, presented the optometry fee study report.

Past History Effective January 1, 2016	
Application Fee Decrease	\$45
License Fee Decrease	\$49
Late Renewal Penalty Decrease	\$25

Ms. Santiago reported there has been a delay in the Governor’s Office regarding the appointment of new members to the Board. Chairman Prothero will continue to serve until a successor has been appointed.

Ms. Santiago provided a list of 2023-24 legislation that may impact Board laws.

- Substitute Senate Bill 5389 concerning the practice of optometry.
- House Bill 1009 concerning the military spouse employment.
- House Bill 5481 concerning the uniform telemedicine act.
- House Bill 1027 and Senate Bill 5036 concerning telemedicine.
- House Bill 1503 collecting healthcare professionals’ information at the time of license application and license renewal.
- House Bill 1541 and Senate Bill 5616 establishing the nothing about us without us act.

Glen Owen moved that the Board approve the proposed revisions regarding continuing education for WAC 246-851-090 through 246-851-230. The motion was adopted by unanimous consent.

Beth Rollinger moved to approve the proposed rule language as presented for the health equity continuing education model rules, WAC 246-12-800 through 246-12-830 to comply with RCW 43.70.613, as amended by Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5229 – 2021-22. The motion was adopted by unanimous consent.

The Board reviewed and discussed proposed rule language to implement Substitute Senate Bill 5496 – 2021-22 concerning health professional monitoring programs.

Dr. Owen moved to rescind policy number: OB 20-01.1 Continuing Education Requirements Impacts caused by the COVID-19 Response upon the expiration of the federal PHE for COVID-19 at the end of the day on May 11, 2023. The motion was adopted by unanimous consent.

Dr. Owen moved that the Board does not address topics related to the American with Disabilities Act laws or other federal protections against discrimination, as this exceeds the legal responsibility of the Board. The motion was adopted by unanimous consent.

The Board established that the Training Retreat will occur after the board meeting on September 8, 2023. The board will discuss the following items.

- Rules
- Discipline
- Case management
- Health Systems Quality Assurance
- Conflict of interest
- Public disclosure
- Open Public Meetings Act
- Authority of the Board

The Board established that Vice-chairman Yang will attend the ARBO 2023 Annual Meeting in Alexandria, Virginia from June 18-20, 2023.

The Board established agenda items for the next business meeting.

- Health equity continuing education model rules, WAC 246-12-800 through 246-12-830 to comply with RCW 43.70.613, as amended by Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5229 – 2021-22.
- Substitute Senate Bill 5496 – 2021-22 concerning health professional monitoring programs.
- Telemedicine
- Signature delegation
- Business plan
- Bylaws

Chairman Prothero announced that the next meeting would be June 09, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., and declared the meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.