



Board of Optometry Regular Meeting Minutes

March 1, 2024

Location: Labor & Industries, 7273 Linderson Way S.W., Room S119, Tumwater, WA 98501,
and Microsoft Teams

Board members present: Melissa Dacumos, Optometrist, Chair
Theodore Kadet, Optometrist
Keren Yang, Optometrist
Riya Paranthan, Optometrist, Vice-chair
Palwinder Kaur, Optometrist
Barbara Rollinger, General Public

Board members absent: None

Staff members present: Amber Freeberg, Executive Director
Kristina Bell, Program Manager
Noelle Chung, Assistant Attorney General
Shelbee Scrimo, Administrative Assistant
Megan Maxey, Policy Analyst
Margaret Pagel

Others present Stephanie Cramer, WAEPS
William Prothero
Weihan Wang, OD
Hillary Norris

Notice of this meeting was published on the Board of Optometry profession [website](#) and was sent out through the GovDelivery listserv.

Open Session:

Call to Order and Introductions – Melissa Dacumos, OD, Chair

Dr. Dacumos called meeting to order at 9:02am

1. Approval of agenda

March 1, 2024, meeting agenda was motioned, seconded, and approved.

2. Approval of minutes

December 1, 2023, meeting minutes were motioned, seconded, and approved.

3. Open forum- Dr. Cramer and Dr. Wang

Stephanie Cramer, President of the Washington Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

Regarding WAC 246-550-1580, happy to see more defining language, we would encourage just for more clarity for those optometrists in our state that are reading the scope of practice.

Regarding the proposed new WAC, the three main things are: the first one, we encourage ophthalmologists to be in agreement. The Second one, we would want to clarify what type of examination the board would deem adequate to perform these surgeries. The third one is that we would encourage the definition of complications for your members who are reporting these procedures.

Weihan Wang, OD

Regarding the requirement for in-person continuing education, it is very hard to find in-person CEs and they are only offered at certain times. The second issue has to do with the new scope of practice law. The advanced procedures need some clarification. The last thing is about sending patients with complications to an ophthalmologist, I disagree with that and that's because many complications do not require an ophthalmologist.

4. Reports

4.1. Melissa Dacumos, OD, Chair

Introduced the new Executive Director Amber Freeberg and thanked previous Executive Director Tracie Drake.

4.2. Amber Freeberg, Executive Director Department of Health

Ms. Freeberg updated the Board on upcoming changes regarding the credentialing team moving over to the Office of Health Professions.

5. Legislative Update – SSB 5389 Scope of Optometry – Melissa Dacumos, OD- Chair

Dr. Dacumos and Dr. Prothero gave an update from the SSB 5389 subcommittee. The bill amends RCW 18.53.010 expanding the optometrist scope of practice to include advanced procedures an optometrist may perform with a license endorsement. The bill also adds drug prescribing and administering rights.

The board discussed the proposed draft language on the following rules.

- WAC 246-851-515, License endorsement to perform advanced procedures (New Section).
- WAC 246-851-400, Certification required for use of pharmaceutical agents.
- WAC 246-851-410, Drug formulary.
- WAC 246-851-570, Certification required for use or prescription of drugs administered orally for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes.
- WAC 246-851-580, Drug list.
- WAC 246-851-590, Guidelines for the use of oral Schedule II hydrocodone combination products and Schedule III through V controlled substances and legend drugs.
- WAC 246-851-600, Certification required for administration of epinephrine by injection for treatment of anaphylactic shock.

The next subcommittee meeting will be open to the public on March 13, 2024, at 5:30pm via Microsoft TEAMS

6. Legislation Update HB1724 – Increasing the trained behavioral health workforce – Kristina Bell, Program Manager

Ms. Bell provided the board with updates regarding HB1724 which will move the JP exam to continuing education.

7. Continuing Education Policy, Melissa Dacumos, OD - Chair,

To address the confusion related to the minimum number of synchronous in person learning CE hours the board is considering adopting a CE policy to assist optometrist in understanding how many in person CE hours are required. This policy will only affect optometrists who have a CE reporting period in 2024.

The board discussed adopting this CE policy. It was motioned, seconded, and passed unanimously.

8. Administrative Items, Melissa Dacumos, OD – Chair

The board discussed the changes in the bylaws that were brought up by Ms. Rollinger. The board motioned, seconded, and approved the bylaws.

9. Agenda-building

The board reviewed board business and discussed priority items for the June 14, 2024, agenda.

Adjournment of Open Session

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:21 a.m., seconded, passed unanimously.

Submitted by:

Kristina Bell, Program Manager
Board of Optometry

Approved by:

Melissa Dacumos, Chair
Board of Optometry

On file

SIGNATURE

DATE

On file

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DATE

