



Board of Optometry Regular Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2026

Location: Washington Department of Health – 111 Isreal Road SE • TC2 - Room 153, Tumwater, WA 98501, and Microsoft Teams

Board Members' Present: Melissa Dacumos, Optometrist, Chair
Riya Paranthan, Optometrist, Vice-chair
Keren Yang, Optometrist
Amanda Lang, Optometrist
Paul Jensen, Optometrist

Board Members Absent:

Staff Members Present: Amber Freeberg, Executive Director
Pamela Bright, Program Manager
Katie Graue, Administrative Assistant
Tara Mackemull, Program Assistant
Megan Maxey, Policy Analyst
Brielle Matthes, Credentialing Staff
Marie Carp, AGG

Others Present: DJ Gonzales
Kelsey Coyle
Wallace Lovejoy
Pratil Lal

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 the meeting to order at 9:01 am and gave introductions for DOH staff, and Board Members.

1. Approval of agenda - Melissa Dacumos, OD, Chair

The draft of March 6, 2026, meeting agenda as presented was moved, seconded, and approved unanimously.

2. Approval of minutes - Melissa Dacumos, OD, Chair

Draft January 16, 2026, meeting minutes as submitted, were moved, seconded, and approved unanimously.

3. Open forum - The board opened it up for comments from the audience for ten minutes each on issues of significance to the profession.

No public comment was given.

4. Program Updates – Pamela Bright, Program Manager

4.1. Budget:

Ms. Bright presented the current budget and reviewed the fund balance for the Program up to December of 2025. Ms. Bright gave a breakdown of the expenses for the Board and ended with the estimated revenue vs. the actual revenue variance.

4.2. Credentialing Report:

Ms. Bright gave an update on the Optometrist performance data.

Optometrists			
Total Licensees		since 3-2025	In Process...
OD	1839	+63	OD
7/1/2025 thru 12/31/2025			Total Pending
	OD		22
Applications Received	27		Intake
Applications Resolved	44		0
Issued	44		Final Approval
Closed	0		6
Denied	0		
Ratio	1.63		
			Timeline
			OD
			Issued
			Days
			Average Q3 2025
			33
			Average Q4 2025
			11
			Goal
			87

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4.3. Recruitment:

Ms. Bright gave an update on current recruitment; DOH staff is reaching out to the Governor's office requesting placement of the vacant public member spot. Ms. Bright is working on Dr. Yang's opening as well.

4.4. Legislation:

- HB 2613 - Establishing Requirements for Compounded Medications – did not progress
- SB 6166 - Requiring Worn Credentials – did not progress

5. Executive Director Update, Amber Freeberg, Executive Director

- 5.1. Ms. Freeberg gave an update on HELMS and the final release that is coming up this month (March 2026). Ms. Freeberg told the Board that the freeze dates are expected to be from March 18, 2026, to March 24, 2026.
Ms. Freeberg answered questions from the Board about Advanced Procedures credentialing.

6. Advanced Procedures Committee Update – Melissa Dacumos, OD, Chair

- 6.1. Committee gave an update.
 - 6.1.1. Subcommittee members: Dr. Melissa Dacumos, Dr. Paul Jensen, Dr. Bill Prothero (Pro-Tem Member)

Dr. Dacumos asked the Board if they would like the subcommittee to draft a letter to the secretary regarding the qualified positions by the Washington Medical Commission. The was a motion to approve sending a letter to the Secretary of Health stating our concerns regarding the qualified physicians draft rulemaking by the WMC and sending it on behalf of the Board, the motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

7. Telehealth Committee Update – Keren Yang, OD

- 7.1. Committee gave an update.
 - 7.1.1. Subcommittee members: Dr. Keren Yang, Dr. Riya Paranthan and William Prothero, Pro-Tem.

Dr. Yang gave an update and let the Board know that the Telehealth committees last meeting was rescheduled and she currently had nothing new to report on. The next meeting is scheduled for March 27, 2026.

8. Correspondence – Pamela Bright, Program Manager

- 8.1. Public Records Request – Ms. Bright reviewed with the board that a letter was written in by ProvenBase to the board asking for a list of all the providers.
There was a motion for the Board to deny providing access to lists of individuals requesting it for commercial purposes, including this current one by ProvenBase based on the RCW 42.56.070, the motion was seconded and approved unanimously.
- 8.2. ARBO – Quarterly Member Update. The Board reviewed the ARBO first quarter update and the Board decided to just review the emails and not discuss them at Board meetings.

9. Travel Reminder – Melissa Dacumos, OD, Chair

- 9.1. ARBO Conference June 13 and 14, 2026, in Pheonix, Arizona; approved attendees are Riya Paranthan, Amber Freeberg and Pamela Bright.

10. Reminder: Meeting Dates for 2026

- 10.1. June 26, September 18, December 11

11. Building Agenda – Pamela Bright, Program Manager

- 11.1. The board reviewed and identified agenda items for the June 26, 2026, regular business meeting.
 - 11.1.1. Advanced procedures committee updates.
 - 11.1.2. ARBO recap



11.1.3. Telehealth subcommittee update.

Adjournment of Open Session - Melissa Dacumos, OD, Chair

Dr. Dacumos motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:36 am, moved, seconded, passed unanimously.

Submitted by:

Pamela Bright, Program Manager
Board of Optometry

Approved by:

Melissa Dacumos, Chair
Board of Optometry

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