



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Olympia, Washington 98504

WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY
June 11, 2021 Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Washington State Board of Optometry was called to order at 9:03 a.m. on Friday, June 11, 2021, by Chair Glen Owen, OD. The meeting was held via webinar with 17 on the phone.

Board Members Present:

Glen Owen, OD, Chair
Anna Wells, OD, Vice Chair
William Prothero, OD
Robert Davis, OD
Anna Wells, OD
Beth Rollinger, Public Member
Keren Yang, OD

DOH Staff Present: Lorelei Walker, Program Manager
Brad Burnham, Executive Director
Anna Yeung-Lam, Program Support (sitting in for Chelsea French)
Ashley Maxwell, Staff Attorney
Kelsey Martin, AAG
Jeff Wise, Policy Analyst
Miceal Carnahan, Finance Officer

Others Present: Jennifer Crown, OPW
Mike Burgess, Lobbyist for OPW
Kim Jones, OPW

Open Session

Call to Order

Dr. Owen called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

1. Approval of agenda

Dr. Owen asked for a vote of approval of agenda. William Prothero made a motion to accept the agenda as amended. Anna Wells seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Approval of minutes – March 12 meeting minutes

Beth Rollinger made a motion to accept the minutes. William Prothero seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports (Information)

3. Glen Owen, OD, Chair

Dr. Owen had no report to give. Dr. Owen thanked DOH staff and the board, and thanked Kelsey Martin for her assistance as the board's AAG. Everyone congratulated her on a cute baby girl and wished her the best for the future.

4. Brad Burnham, Executive Director and Lorelei Walker, Program Manager, Office of Health Professions

A written summary of program updates was provided with the opportunity for board members to ask questions. Credentialing supervisors are currently unable to provide presentations to boards and commissions due to workload.

Miceal Carnahan joined for introduction and helped answer questions. Updated budget report included 2-year trends for revenue and expense and overall budget. Projects vs actual expenses for past quarter were provided. Miceal touched on budgeting process for next biennium. Miceal mentioned that a fee study was put on her radar to be analyzed. William Prothero suggested a motion be made for the Department of Health to do a fee study to cover unexpected expenses and to consider license fee reduction as a result of that study as a priority. Glen Owen seconded the motion for a fee study. Glen Owen requested that Miceal's contact information be sent out to the board. Mr. Burnham will put forward a request on the board's behalf.

Mr. Burnham and Ms. Walker reviewed and explained charges for the Health Enforcement and Licensing Management System (HELMS).

Mr. Burnham discussed legislative updates. ESSB 5229 Continuing Education Health Equity will be discussed later on during this meeting as well. As for the Bill 1378 Supervision of medical assistants, there was just added new information related to telemedicine visits. Mr. Burnham stated that the State vs Blake Decision Washington State Supreme Court Ruling is still a work in progress. Mr. Burnham stated that at the next session, the department will present a proposal related to all the requesting to modify the structure of some boards, specifically they will be requesting to add a new piece to about compensation to make it uniform, which means that there will be an increase compensation for the board of optometry.

5. Kelsey Martin, AAG

Ms. Martin provided update on OD's as administrators of the COVID vaccine. Ms. Martin stated that there is a link on the DOH website about this information and link will be sent to Lorelei to distribute to the board. William Prothero had a clarifying question wondering if there's an expiration date on the emergency declaration.

Ms. Martin also provided update on corporate optometry practice oversight. It was advised that it's best to work with Consumer Protection Division and submit a complaint via the Attorney General's website. Beth Rollinger suggested that they can write a letter expressing their concerns to the Consumer Protection Division. Requested that this topic be added to next meeting's agenda.

Open forum – There was no public comment.

Board Business

6. COVID-19 Emergency Topics

The board identified and discussed optometry COVID-19 issues.

7. Continuing Education (CE) Requirements in a Post-COVID Era

The board discussed current CE requirements in WAC 246-851-090 through -235 and determined if rulemaking should be considered to allow an increased number of online CE courses. Dr. Owen proposed to modify current CE requirements and requested that the topic be on agenda for the next quarterly meeting. Dr. Prothero made a motion to start the first step in the rule making process to consider a larger allowance of online study. Beth Rollinger seconded the motion.

Break from 10:32 am – 10:42 am

8. Review agenda for the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO) Annual Meeting

The board discussed participation and preparation for the all-virtual ARBO meeting to be held June 19, 2021.

9. Cultural Competency Continuing Education

The board reviewed a request from the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) for the board to consider requiring cultural competency continuing education (CE) for optometrists. Staff provided information on ESSB 5229, which passed during legislative session and requires regulatory boards to adopt rules that require cultural competency CE. Mr. Burnham will draft a response to ASCO.

10. Records Retention Requirements

The board continued its discussion about optometry records retention requirements, reviewed guidelines from the Washington Medical Commission, and discussed possible development of optometry records retention guidelines.

11. Jurisprudence Exam

The board reviewed a summary of jurisprudence exam questions by subject and began the process of updating the exam. Dr. Owen asked, how often the exam is reviewed and updated. Lorelei answered, generally, after any rulemaking or policy change is when the exams are reviewed and updated, but it's also up to the board. Dr. Owen stated that he would review the exam and review it with Dr, Wells and Lorelei prior to the next meeting.

12. Agenda-building

The Board reviewed its tracking table for board business and discussed priority items for the September 10, 2021 agenda:

- Kelsey will send COVID Administration Matrix to clarify requirements for ODs to administer the vaccine and looking into when directive might expire
- Fee Study Request
- Discuss more about “can the board formally write a letter to the AGO outlining concern in the board’s law, unlawful act in the RCW that the board cannot pursue relating to business
- Draft CR 101 to propose rulemaking to increase the allowance of online CE and other CE-related changes
- ARBO delegates, report and updates
- Establishing dates for next year’s meeting
- Delegation forms- Revised forms to be considered for approval
- Revisit mentorship document – staff update section
- Follow up on COVID vaccine administration
- Consult AG on violations and repeat offenders
- Records retention – review medical guidelines
- Review corporate practice ownership
- Updating content in jurisprudence exam

Adjournment of Open Session

Dr. Owen asked for a motion to adjourn meeting. William Prothero made the motion to adjourn meeting. Robert Davis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Next Board of Optometry meeting is September 10, 2021