

**BOARD OF OPTOMETRY
FULL BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 23, 2013**

TIME AND PLACE: The Board of Optometry (Board) meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. at the Department of Health Professions (DHP), Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, 2nd Floor, Room 4, Henrico, Virginia 23233.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Angela Tsai, O.D., Chair

MEMBERS PRESENT: Hal Breedlove, O.D.
Joseph E. Droter, O.D.
Jonathan R. Noble, O.D.

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Douglas Weberling, O.D.
Citizen Member, Vacant

STAFF PRESENT: Leslie L. Knachel, Executive Director
Charis Mitchell, Assistant Attorney General, Board Counsel
Elaine Yeatts, Senior Policy Analyst
Carol Stamey, Operations Manager
Tamara Farmer, Administrative Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT: Laura McHale, Virginia Optometric Association
Betty Graumlich, National Association of Optometrists and Opticians
Ralston King, Virginia Society of Otolaryngology
Kristi Green, Opticians Association of Virginia
Debbie Bonner, Opticians Association of Virginia

QUORUM: With four members of the Board present, a quorum was established.

ORDERING OF AGENDA Dr. Breedlove moved to approve the order of the agenda. The motion was seconded and carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment was presented.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Ms. Knachel reported that Dr. Cane and Mr. Owens were not available to provide an Agency Director's Report.

PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE: Ms. Knachel presented Dr. Tsai with a plaque recognizing and thanking her for her four years of service to the Commonwealth as a member of the Board of Optometry.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Dr. Noble moved to approve the February 15, 2013, meeting

minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and carried.

REGULATORY UPDATE:

Ms. Yeatts advised the Board that a biennial analysis of the Board's revenues and expenditures revealed the need for the Board to consider a one-time licensure fee reduction. Upon review of the Board's budget, Dr. Noble moved to approve the one-time fee reduction as presented in draft regulation. The motion was seconded and carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Follow-up Report

Expenditure Codes

As requested at the previous board meeting, Ms. Knachel forwarded documentation to the board members explaining board expenditure codes and definitions.

Oregon's Amended Nondiscrimination Law

As requested at the previous board meeting, Ms. Knachel provided Oregon's amended "nondiscrimination" legislation in the Board's agenda packet. It was determined that the issue was relative to third party reimbursement discrimination and scope of practice. It was noted that the Board did not have authority over insurance carriers.

Verbal Approval for Contact Len RX

As requested at the previous board meeting, Ms. Knachel provided the Federal Trade Commission's Contact Lens Rule information regarding verbal approval of a prescription.

Recordkeeping Continuing Education

Ms. Knachel reported that a request was made to the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO) to conduct a survey of the states regarding the availability of recordkeeping continuing education (CE) courses specific to optometry. She informed the Board that multiple states responded that they too were having difficulty finding this type of CE. One state responded with preliminary research indicating that there may be several courses in development and will forward information when available. Ms. Knachel will keep the Board apprised of additional information as it is received.

Probable Cause Review

Ms. Knachel provided an overview of the disciplinary probable cause review, the completion of the probable cause review sheet and completion of the Sanction Reference Points Worksheet.

Ms. Knachel was requested to prepare a report on the categories of

cases.

Pupillary Distance

Dr. Tsai requested at the previous board meeting that pupillary distance be placed on the Board's agenda for review and discussion due to the number of inquiries received by staff. The Board determined that the topic could be addressed through *Frequently Asked Questions* located on the Board's website. Ms. Knachel will present an updated draft of *Frequently Asked Questions* for the Board's review at the next meeting.

2014 Calendar

The Board requested that the February 2014 calendar meeting date be adjusted.

Dr. Noble moved to approve the 2014 calendar with alternate dates. The motion was seconded and carried.

Officer Election

Dr. Droter moved to defer the election of officers to the next board meeting. The motion was seconded and carried.

BOARD OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS REPORT:

Dr. Noble provided a brief update on the Board of Health Professions' activities.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Tsai thanked staff for their patience and guidance during her tenure with the Board.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Statistics

Ms. Knachel noted that the licensure and disciplinary case statistics had been included in the agenda packet.

Budget

Ms. Knachel noted that the budget information specific to the Board had been included in the agenda packet.

Newsletter

Ms. Knachel reported that a news update will be sent out regarding the one-time reduced fees via electronic distribution once it becomes effective.

NEW BUSINESS:

No new business was presented.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m. The motion was seconded and carried.

Angela Tsai, O.D.
Chair

Leslie L. Knachel, M.P.H.
Executive Director

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**VIRGINIA BOARD OF OPTOMETRY
INFORMAL CONFERENCE
AUGUST 23, 2013
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS
HENRICO, VIRGINIA**

TIME & PLACE: The informal conference before a Special Conference Committee (SCC) was called to order at 1:05 p.m., at the Department of Health Professions, 9960 Mayland Drive, 2nd Floor, Room 4, Henrico, Virginia.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jonathan Noble, O.D.
Joseph Droter, O.D.

STAFF PRESENT: Leslie L. Knachel, M.P.H., Executive Director
Peter Opper, Administrative Proceedings Division
Carol Stamey, Operations Manager
Tamara Farmer, Administrative Assistant

MATTER SCHEDULED: **Amir Abyaneh, O.D., 0618001936**
Case No.: 149949

DISCUSSION: Dr. Abyaneh appeared before the SCC in accordance with a Notice of Informal Conference dated July 15, 2013. Dr. Abyaneh was present and represented by Tom O'Brien, Esquire. The SCC fully discussed the allegations in the notice with Dr. Abyaneh.

CLOSED SESSION: On properly seconded motion by Dr. Droter, the SCC recessed Open Session and convened in Closed Session pursuant to §2.2-3711(A)(28) of the Code of Virginia (Code) for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter regarding **Amir Abyaneh, O.D.** Additionally, it was moved that Mr. Opper and Ms. Knachel attend the closed session because their presence in the closed meeting was deemed necessary and would aid the SCC in its deliberations.

OPEN SESSION: Having certified that the matters discussed in the preceding closed session met the requirements of §2.2-3712 of the Code, the SCC reconvened in open session and announced its decision.

DECISION:

Based on the investigative report and discussion of the case with Dr. Abyaneh, the SCC moved to accept Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and voted to issue an Order placing his license on INDEFINITE PROBATION for a period of not less than one year and subject to terms and conditions.

ADJOURNMENT:

The conference adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Jonathan R. Noble, O.D.
Chair

Leslie L. Knachel, M.P.H.
Executive Director

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