

**BOARD FOR HEARING AID SPECIALISTS AND OPTICIANS
MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians met on Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at the Offices of the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, Perimeter Center, Board Room 4, 2nd Floor, 9960 Mayland Drive, Richmond, Virginia 23233.

The following members were present for the meeting:

Kristina Green, Chair
Debra Ogilvie, AuD, Vice Chair
Darla All
Kaytlyn Young
Bruce R. Wagner
Michael Armstrong, MD
Pamela Chavis, MD
Laura Lee Thompson
Desire'e Lewis-Nelson
Erik Meland

The following members were not present:

Stacey Brayboy
Pamela Smith

DPOR staff present for all, or part of the meeting included:

Stephen Kirschner, Deputy Director, Licensing & Regulatory Programs
Kelley Smith, Executive Director
Tamika Rodriguez, Regulatory Operations Administrator
Wendy Duncan, Licensing Operations Administrator
Heather Garnett, Administrative Coordinator

A representative from the Office of the Attorney General was not present for the meeting.

Ms. Green, Chair, determined a quorum present and called the meeting **CALL TO ORDER** to order at 9:35 a.m.

Ms. Green read the Department of Professional & Occupational Regulations mission and stated Board meeting reminders.

Ms. Smith, Executive Director, explained the Emergency Egress **EMERGENCY EGRESS** procedures for board room 2.

Ms. Smith introduced a new Board member, Ms. Desire'e Lewis-Nelson

**NEW BOARD
MEMBER
INTRODUCTION**

The Board took the agenda under consideration.

**APPROVAL OF
AGENDA**

Upon a motion by Ms. Thompson and seconded by Ms. Young, the Board voted to approve the agenda.

The members voting 'yes' were Ms. Green, Ms. Ogilvie, Ms. All, Ms. Young, Mr. Wagner, Mr. Armstrong, Ms. Chavis, Ms. Thompson, and Ms. Lewis-Nelson.

There were no negative votes. The motion carries.

The Board took the minutes from the June 21, 2023, Board meeting under consideration.

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES
CONSIDERED AS A
BLOCK**

Upon a motion by Mr. Armstrong and seconded by Ms. Chavis the board voted to approve the minutes as presented.

The members voting 'yes' were Ms. Green, Ms. Ogilvie, Ms. All, Ms. Young, Mr. Wagner, Mr. Armstrong, Ms. Chavis, Ms. Thompson, and Ms. Lewis-Nelson.

There were no negative votes. The motion carries.

There were no public comments.

**PUBLIC
COMMENT**

CASES

In the matter of **File Number 2024-00182, Julia Looney**, Board members reviewed the Informal Fact-Finding Conference transcript and exhibits.

**Licensing
File Number 2024-
00182, Julia Looney**

Julia Looney did not appear at the meeting in person, by counsel, or by any other qualified representative.

Upon a motion by Ms. Young and seconded by Mr. Armstrong, the Board voted to accept the recommendation and approve the license.

The members voting 'yes' were Ms. Green, Ms. Ogilvie, Ms. All, Ms. Young, Mr. Wagner, Mr. Armstrong, Ms. Chavis, Ms. Thompson, and Ms. Lewis-Nelson.

There were no negative votes. The motion carries.

Mr. Meland arrived at 9:53 a.m.

**Arrival of Board
Member**

REPORTS

Ms. Green asked the Board to review the licensing statistics that were provided in the agenda.

Licensing Statistics

The Board requested Staff to provide the full calendar year regulant population reports.

Ms. Green asked the Board to review the examination statistics that were provided in the agenda.

**Examination
Statistics**

The Board discussed test scores. Ms. Smith stated test scores will be a topic of discussion for the Exam Review Committee. Staff will contact committee members with a committee meeting date.

Ms. Green asked the Board to review the regulatory report that was provided in the agenda.

Regulatory Report

The Board did not have questions.

**REGULATORY
ACTION AND
BOARD
GUIDANCE**

Ms. Smith requested the Board withdraw the ANSI fast-track regulation and proceed with revising the lenses and frame standards as part of the proposed phase of the general regulatory review for opticians.

**Optician Lenses and
Frame Standards**

The board discussed ANSI Standards and general regulatory review for opticians.

Upon a motion by Ms. All and seconded by Mr. Meland, the Board voted to withdraw the ANSI fast-track regulation and proceed with revising the lenses and frame standards as part of the proposed phase of the general regulatory review for opticians.

The members voting 'yes' were Ms. Green, Ms. Ogilvie, Ms. All, Ms. Young, Mr. Wagner, Mr. Armstrong, Ms. Chavis, Ms. Thompson, Ms. Lewis-Nelson, and Mr. Meland.

There were no negative votes. The motion carries.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Smith informed the Board, the Exam Director, Mr. Emerson has sent a letter to ABO addressing concerns from Optical Alliance. A reply from ABO has not been received, when received the reply will be listed as an agenda item for the next meeting.

Follow up on ABO Letter

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Smith recommended the Board adopt a continuance policy for disciplinary cases going before the board and asked the Board to review the draft continuance policy in the agenda.

Continuance Policy

The Board discussed the continuance policy.

Upon a motion by Ms. Chavis and seconded by Mr. Armstrong, the Board voted to adopt the policy on continuances with amendments.

The members voting 'yes' were Ms. Green, Ms. Ogilvie, Ms. All, Ms. Young, Mr. Wagner, Mr. Armstrong, Ms. Chavis, Ms. Thompson, Ms. Lewis-Nelson, and Mr. Meland.

There were no negative votes. The motion carries.

RESOLUTIONS

Ms. Green read the resolution of Melissa Gill.

Melissa Gill

Commonwealth of Virginia



**Department of Professional and Occupational
Regulation**

Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians

Resolution To

Melissa Gill

WHEREAS, Melissa Gill faithfully and diligently served as a member of the Virginia Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians from 2016 to 2023; and

WHEREAS, Melissa Gill has given generously of her knowledge, time, and talent to the Board, including serving as a member of the Board's Optician Apprenticeships Committee, the Board's Opticians Examination Committee, and providing expertise to the Board as needed; and

WHEREAS, Melissa Gill endeavored always to protect the health, safety, and well-being of the public by rendering fair and wise decisions, which were in the best interest of the Board and the Commonwealth's citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians acknowledges its gratitude and deepest appreciation for the devoted service of Melissa Gill, who is highly regarded by the members of the Board and the citizens of the Commonwealth.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians this eighth day of November, in the year two-thousand and twenty-three, that Melissa Gill be given all honors and respect due her for her outstanding service to the Commonwealth, its citizens, and the Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be presented to her and be made a part of the official minutes of the Board so that all may know of the high regard in which she is held.

The Board agreed to this resolution by consensus.

Ms. Green read the resolution of Saman Aghaebrahim.

Saman Aghaebrahim

Commonwealth of Virginia



**Department of Professional and Occupational
Regulation**

Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians

Resolution To

Saman Aghaebrahim

WHEREAS, Saman Aghaebrahim faithfully and diligently served as a member of the Virginia Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians from 2021 to 2023; and

WHEREAS, Saman Aghaebrahim has given generously of his knowledge, time, and talent to the Board, including serving as a member of the Board's Regulatory Review Committee, and providing expertise to the Board as needed; and

WHEREAS, Saman Aghaebrahim endeavored always to protect the health, safety, and well-being of the public by rendering fair and wise decisions, which were in the best interest of the Board and the Commonwealth's citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians acknowledges its gratitude and deepest appreciation for the devoted service of Saman Aghaebrahim, who is highly regarded by the members of the Board and the citizens of the Commonwealth.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians this eighth day of November, in the year two-thousand and twenty-three, that Saman Aghaebrahim be given all honors and respect due him for his outstanding service to the Commonwealth, its citizens, and the Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be presented to him and be made a part of the official minutes of the Board so that all may know of the high regard in which he is held.

The Board agreed to this resolution by consensus.

Ms. Green invited all Board members to participate in the Conflict of Interest Act Training. The Board members who completed the training were Ms. Green, Ms. Ogilvie, Ms. All, Ms. Young, Mr. Wagner, Mr. Armstrong, Ms. Chavis, Ms. Thompson, Ms. Lewis-Nelson, and Mr. Meland.

**CONFLICT OF
INTEREST ACT
TRAINING**

Ms. Green informed the Board the next scheduled Board meeting is January 10, 2024.

**Next Schedule Board
Meeting**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10.39 a.m.

Adjourn



Kristina Green, Chair



Kishore S. Thota, Board Secretary

**STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CONFLICT OF INTERESTS ACT**

**TRANSACTIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
for Officers and Employees of State Government**

1. Name Kristina Green
(Name of Board Member)
2. Title: Board Chair
3. Agency: DPOR/Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians
(Name of Board)
4. Meeting/IFF Date: 11/08/2023

5. Do you have a personal interest in the following transaction?

No; I **do not** have a personal interest in any transactions taken at this meeting.

Yes - If yes, please answer the following questions.

A.

(Agenda Item)

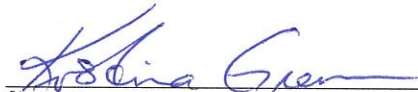
B. Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction:

C. I declare that I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction:

D. I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest. or

I did not participate in the transaction.

6. Signature of Board Member:


Signature

11/8/2023
Date

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CONFLICT OF INTERESTS ACT

TRANSACTIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
for Officers and Employees of State Government

1. Name Erik Meland
(Name of Board Member)
2. Title: Board Member
3. Agency: DPOR/Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians
(Name of Board)
4. Meeting/IFF Date: 11/08/2023

5. Do you have a personal interest in the following transaction?

- No; I **do not** have a personal interest in any transactions taken at this meeting.
- Yes - If yes, please answer the following questions.

A.

(Agenda Item)

B. Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction:

C. I declare that I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction:

- D. I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest. or
- I did not participate in the transaction.

6. Signature of Board Member:


Signature

11/8/23
Date

**STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CONFLICT OF INTERESTS ACT**

**TRANSACTIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
for Officers and Employees of State Government**

1. Name Laura Thompson
(Name of Board Member)
2. Title: Board Member
3. Agency: DPOR/Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians
(Name of Board)
4. Meeting/IFF Date: 11/08/2023

5. Do you have a personal interest in the following transaction?

No; I **do not** have a personal interest in any transactions taken at this meeting.

Yes - If yes, please answer the following questions.

A.

(Agenda Item)

B. Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction:

C. I declare that I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction:

D. I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest. or

I did not participate in the transaction.

6. Signature of Board Member:

Signature

Date

11/08/23

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CONFLICT OF INTERESTS ACT

TRANSACTIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
for Officers and Employees of State Government

1. Name Pamela Chavis, MD
(Name of Board Member)
2. Title: Board Member
3. Agency: DPOR/Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians
(Name of Board)
4. Meeting/IFF Date: 11/08/2023

5. Do you have a personal interest in the following transaction?

No; I **do not** have a personal interest in any transactions taken at this meeting.

Yes - If yes, please answer the following questions.

A.

(Agenda Item)

B. Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction:

C. I declare that I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction:

D. I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest. or

I did not participate in the transaction.

6. Signature of Board Member:

Pamela Chavis
Signature

11/08/2023
Date

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CONFLICT OF INTERESTS ACT

TRANSACTIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
for Officers and Employees of State Government

1. Name Darla All
(Name of Board Member)

2. Title: Board Member

3. Agency: DPOR/Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians
(Name of Board)

4. Meeting/IFF Date: 11/08/2023

5. Do you have a personal interest in the following transaction?

No; I **do not** have a personal interest in any transactions taken at this meeting.

Yes - If yes, please answer the following questions.

A.

(Agenda Item)

B. Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction:

C. I declare that I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction:

D. I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest. or

I did not participate in the transaction.

6. Signature of Board Member:

 11-8-23
Signature Date

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CONFLICT OF INTERESTS ACT

TRANSACTIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
for Officers and Employees of State Government

1. Name Debra Ogilvie
(Name of Board Member)

2. Title: Board Vice Chair

3. Agency: DPOR/Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians
(Name of Board)

4. Meeting/IFF Date: 11/08/2023

5. Do you have a personal interest in the following transaction?

No; I **do not** have a personal interest in any transactions taken at this meeting.

Yes - If yes, please answer the following questions.

A.

(Agenda Item)

B. Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction:

C. I declare that I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction:

D. I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest. or

I did not participate in the transaction.

6. Signature of Board Member:

Debra Ogilvie
Signature

11-8-23
Date

**STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CONFLICT OF INTERESTS ACT**

**TRANSACTIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
for Officers and Employees of State Government**

1. Name: Bruce Wagner
(Name of Board Member)
2. Title: Board Member
3. Agency: DPOR/Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians
(Name of Board)
4. Meeting/IFF Date: 11/08/2023

5. Do you have a personal interest in the following transaction?

No; I **do not** have a personal interest in any transactions taken at this meeting.

Yes - If yes, please answer the following questions.

A. _____
(Agenda Item)

B. Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction:

C. I declare that I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction:

D. I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest. or

I did not participate in the transaction.

6. Signature of Board Member:

Bruce Wagner
Signature

11-8-23
Date

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CONFLICT OF INTERESTS ACT

TRANSACTIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
for Officers and Employees of State Government

1. Name Kaytlyn Young
(Name of Board Member)

2. Title: Board Member

3. Agency: DPOR/Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians
(Name of Board)

4. Meeting/IFF Date: 11/08/2023

5. Do you have a personal interest in the following transaction?

No; I **do not** have a personal interest in any transactions taken at this meeting.

Yes - If yes, please answer the following questions.

A.

(Agenda Item)

B. Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction:

C. I declare that I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction:

D. I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest. or

I did not participate in the transaction.

6. Signature of Board Member:


Signature

11/8/23
Date

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CONFLICT OF INTERESTS ACT

TRANSACTIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
for Officers and Employees of State Government

1. Name: Desire'e Lewis-Nelson
(Name of Board Member)
2. Title: Board Member
3. Agency: DPOR/Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians
(Name of Board)
4. Meeting/IFF Date: 11/08/2023

5. Do you have a personal interest in the following transaction?

No; I **do not** have a personal interest in any transactions taken at this meeting.

Yes - If yes, please answer the following questions.

A.

(Agenda Item)

B. Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction:

C. I declare that I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction:

D. I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest. or

I did not participate in the transaction.

6. Signature of Board Member:


Signature

11-8-2023
Date