

**Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation
9960 Mayland Drive
2nd Floor-Board Room 4
Richmond, Virginia 23233**

BOARD FOR HEARING AID SPECIALISTS AND OPTICIANS

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Wednesday, March 4, 2026, 9:30 a.m.

Mission: Our mission is to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public by licensing qualified individuals and businesses enforcing standards of professional conduct for professions and occupations as designated by statute.

I. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Determination of Quorum
- b. Emergency Evacuation Procedures

II. INTRODUCTION OF DPOR DIRECTOR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians Meeting Agenda, March 4, 2026

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians Minutes from October 29, 2025

V. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD*

VI. CASE FILES

Licensing

- 1. 2025-02656 Thomas Arthur Casey

VII. REPORTS

- a. Licensing Statistics
- b. Examination Statistics
- c. Regulatory Report
- d. Executive Director Report

VIII. REGULATORY ACTION AND BOARD GUIDANCE

- a. Board-approved Review Course
- b. Hearing Aid Specialists Renewal Provision
- c. Renewal Notifications Amendment

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Qualifications for Licensure – Military Training and Education

X. BOARD MEMBER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

XI. REMINDERS

- a. Next Board Meeting, May 6, 2026
- b. Complete Conflict of Interest Form and Travel Voucher

XII. ADJOURNMENT

- ❖ Agenda materials made available to the public do not include disciplinary case files or application files pursuant to §54.1-108 of the Code of Virginia.
- ❖ Five minute public comment, per person, with the exception of any open disciplinary or application file.
- ❖ Persons desiring to participate in the meeting and requiring special accommodations or interpretative services should contact the Department at (804) 367-8590 at least ten days prior to the meeting so that suitable arrangements can be made for an appropriate accommodation. The Department fully complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act

2026 MEETING DATES:

May 6, 2026
August 12, 2026
October 28, 2026

Materials contained in this agenda are proposed topics for discussion and are not to be construed as regulating or official Board position.
DRAFT AGENDA and are not to be construed as regulating or official Board position.
DRAFT AGENDA

PERIMETER CENTER CONFERENCE CENTER
EMERGENCY EVACUATION OF BOARD AND TRAINING ROOMS
(Script to be read at the beginning of each meeting.)

PLEASE LISTEN TO THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT EXITING THE PREMISES IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY.

In the event of a fire or other emergency requiring the evacuation of the building, alarms will sound. When the alarms sound, leave the room immediately. Follow any instructions given by Security staff

Board Room 1

Exit the room using one of the doors at the back of the room. Upon exiting the room, turn **RIGHT**. Follow the corridor to the emergency exit at the end of the hall.

Upon exiting the building, proceed straight ahead through the parking lot to the fence at the end of the lot. Wait there for further instructions.

Board Room 2

Exit the room using one of the doors at the back of the room. (Point) Upon exiting the room, turn **RIGHT**. Follow the corridor to the emergency exit at the end of the hall.

Upon exiting the building, proceed straight ahead through the parking lot to the fence at the end of the lot. Wait there for further instructions.

You may also exit the room using the side door, turn **Right** out the door and make an immediate **Left**. Follow the corridor to the emergency exit at the end of the hall.

Upon exiting the building, proceed straight ahead through the parking lot to the fence at the end of the lot. Wait there for further instructions.

Board Rooms 3 and 4

Exit the room using one of the doors at the back of the room. Upon exiting the room, turn **RIGHT**. Follow the corridor to the emergency exit at the end of the hall.

Upon exiting the building, proceed straight ahead through the parking lot to the fence at the end of the lot. Wait there for further instructions.

Training Room 1

Exit the room using one of the doors at the back of the room. Upon exiting the room, turn **LEFT**. Follow the corridor to the emergency exit at the end of the hall.

Upon exiting the building, proceed straight ahead through the parking lot to the fence at the end of the lot. Wait there for further instructions.

Training Room 2

Exit the room using one of the doors at the back of the room. Upon exiting the doors, turn **LEFT**. Follow the corridor to the emergency exit at the end of the hall.

Upon exiting the building, proceed straight ahead through the parking lot to the fence at the end of the lot. Wait there for further instructions.

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

The Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians met on Wednesday, October 29, 2025, at the Offices of the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, Perimeter Center, Board Room 2, 2nd Floor, 9960 Mayland Drive, Richmond, Virginia 23233.

Board members present for the meeting:

Darla All, Chair
Debra Ogilvie, AuD, Vice Chair
Maureen Sadak
Judith Canty
Francis Lunsford
LeighAnna Morris, AuD
Kenneth Kirk, Ph.D
Michael Armstrong, MD
Holly Law
Jacqueline Kowal
Fitim Xhemali

Board members not present for the meeting:

Desire'e Lewis-Nelson
Nikisha Richards, MD
Stacey Brayboy
Jennifer Mundorff, AuD

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

James Wilkinson Jr., Director
Stephen Kirschner, Director Licensing and Regulatory Programs
Kelley Smith, Executive Director
Tamika Rodriguez, Regulatory Operations Administrator
Wendy Duncan, Licensing Operations Administrator
Heather Garnett, Administrative Coordinator
Joseph Haughwout, Regulation Affairs Manager

A representative from the Office of the Attorney General was present.

The board liaison was not present at the meeting.

Ms. All, board chair, determined a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. All read the mission statement of the Department of Professional & Occupational Regulations and announced several meeting reminders.

Materials contained in this agenda are proposed for discussion and are not to be construed as regulation or official Board position.

DRAFT AGENDA

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Tamika Rodriguez, Regulatory Operations Administrator, explained the emergency egress procedure for board room 2.

**EMERGENCY
EGRESS**

Agenda item X, Board Member Professional Development, will be moved to agenda item IV. The Board took the amended agenda into consideration.

**APPROVAL OF
AGENDA**

Ms. Canty motioned to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Mr. Xhemaili.

The members voting 'Aye' were Ms. All, Dr. Ogilvie, Ms. Canty, Ms. Lunsford, Dr. Morris, Dr. Kirk, Dr. Armstrong, Mr. Xhemaili, Ms. Law, Ms. Sadak, and Ms. Kowal.

There were no negative votes. The motion carries.

The Board took the minutes from the Board meeting on August 13, 2025, under consideration.

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES AS A
BLOCK**

Dr. Ogilvie motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Canty.

The members voting 'Aye' were Ms. All, Dr. Ogilvie, Ms. Canty, Ms. Lunsford, Dr. Morris, Dr. Kirk, Dr. Armstrong, Mr. Xhemaili, Ms. Law, Ms. Sadak, and Ms. Kowal.

There were no negative votes. The motion carries.

Mr. Kirschner presented an overview of Robert's Rules.

**BOARD MEMBER
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT**

Ms. All read the resolution of Dr. Pamela S. Chavis.

RESOLUTIONS

**Department of Professional and
Occupational Regulation**

**Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and
Opticians**

Resolution To

Pamela S. Chavis, M.D.

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WHEREAS, Pamela S. Chavis, M.D., faithfully and diligently served as a member of the Virginia Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians from 2012 to 2024; and

WHEREAS, Pamela S. Chavis, M.D., has given generously of her knowledge, time, and talent to the Board, including serving on numerous committees, the Board's Ad Hoc Committee on Optician Apprenticeships, the Hearing Aid Specialists Training Committee, the Optician Regulatory Review Committee, and providing expertise to the Board as needed; and

WHEREAS, Pamela S. Chavis, M.D., 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 Pamela S. Chavis, M.D., 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 twenty-ninth day of October, in the year two-thousand and twenty-five, that Pamela S. Chavis, M.D., be given all honors and respect due 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.

Ms. All read the resolution of Ms. Pamela Smith.

**Department of Professional and
Occupational Regulation**

**Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and
Opticians**

Resolution To

Pamela Smith

Materials contained in this agenda are proposed for this session and are not to be construed as regulation or official Board position.

WHEREAS, Pamela Smith faithfully and diligently served as a member of the Virginia Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians from 2020 to 2024; and

WHEREAS, Pamela Smith has given generously of her knowledge, time, and talent to the Board, and has provided expertise to the Board as needed; and

WHEREAS, Pamela Smith 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 Pamela Smith, 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 twenty-ninth day of October in the year two-thousand and twenty-five, that Pamela Smith be given all honors and respect due 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.

Ms. All read the resolution of Ms. Kaytlyn Young.

**Department of Professional and
Occupational Regulation**

**Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and
Opticians**

Resolution To

Kaytlyn Young

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WHEREAS, Kaytlyn Young faithfully and diligently served as a member of the Virginia Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians from 2020 to 2024; and

WHEREAS, Kaytlyn Young has given generously of her knowledge, time, and talent to the Board, including serving as the Board's Chair, the Board's Optician Regulatory Review Committee, the Board's Curriculum Review Committee, and providing expertise to the Board as needed; and

WHEREAS, Kaytlyn Young 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 Kaytlyn Young, 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 twenty-ninth day of October, in the year two-thousand and twenty-five, that Kaytlyn Young be given all honors and respect due 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.

There were no public comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT

CASES

Licensing

In the matter of File Number **2025-02185, Grace Catherine Meyer**, board members reviewed the record of the Informal Fact-Finding Conference, which consisted of the informal fact-finding conference summary, transcript, and exhibits.

File Number 2025-02185, Grace Catherine Meyer

Grace Catherine Meyer did not appear at the meeting in person, by counsel, or by any other qualified representative.

Materials contained in this agenda are proposed for discussion and are not to be continued as regulation or official Board position.

Ms. Canty motioned to accept the recommendation and approve Grace Catherine Meyer's application for an optician's license, seconded by Dr. Oglivie.

There was no Board discussion.

The members voting 'Aye' were Ms. All, Dr. Ogilvie, Ms. Canty, Ms. Lunsford, Dr. Morris, Dr. Kirk, Dr. Armstrong, Mr. Xhemaili, Ms. Law, Ms. Sadak, and Ms. Kowal.

There were no negative votes. The motion carries.

REPORTS

Ms. Rodriguez presented the licensing statistics that were provided in the electronic agenda.

Licensing Statistics

Ms. Duncan presented the examination statistics that were provided in the electronic agenda.

Examination Statistics

Ms. Rodriguez presented the current regulatory actions that were provided in the electronic agenda.

Regulatory Report

Mr. Haughwout stated the final Optician's regulations will be published on November 17, 2025, effective date of December 29, 2025.

Ms. Smith presented the executive directors' report, which was provided in the electronic agenda.

Executive Director Report

REGULATORY ACTION AND BOARD GUIDANCE

Mr. Haughwout explained that regulations require the Board to review the criminal history of applicants pursuant to Code of Virginia §54.1-204. Senate Bill 826 allows applicants to request a pre-application review. Mr. Haughwout explained that changes to the Application Review Matrix reflect the Board's preference for fewer individuals required to have a predetermination or licensing IFFs.

Application Review Matrix

Mr. Xhemaili motioned to adopt the Application Review Matrix, seconded by Ms. Canty.

There was no Board discussion.

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The members voting ‘Aye’ were Ms. All, Dr. Ogilvie, Ms. Canty, Ms. Lunsford, Dr. Morris, Dr. Kirk, Dr. Armstrong, Mr. Xhemaili, Ms. Law, Ms. Sadak, and Ms. Kowal.

There were no negative votes. The motion carries.

At the August 2025 Board meeting, the Board requested additional research on the term “order the use of.” Ms. Smith informed the Board that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration rule does not authorize Hearing Aid Specialists to prescribe hearing aids, rather the FDA left that authority to the states.

Discussion on “Order the use of”

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Rodriguez informed the Board, that the Regulatory Review Committee recommended changing the term “temporary permit” to “training permit.” In addition, the Committee suggested creating a new work permit allowing approved exam candidates to work under the direct supervision of their sponsor for a specified period.

2026 General Assembly Wishlist

REMINDERS

Ms. All reminded the Board of the next scheduled Board meeting on March 4, 2026.

Next Schedule Board Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

Adjourn

Darla All, Board Chair

, Board Secretary

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DRAFT AGENDA
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Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians BOARD STATISTICS

Licenses and Temporary Permits Issued	1-1-2025 To 12-31-2025	1-1-2026 to 2-1-2026
Hearing Aid Specialist by Exam	43	2
Hearing Aid Specialist Doctor of Audiology Exam Waived	29	2
Hearing Aid Specialist by Endorsement	8	0
Hearing Aid Specialist Temporary Permits	49	4
Optician by Exam	22	1
Optician by Endorsement	16	1
CLE by Exam	0	0
CLE by Endorsement	1	1
Optician License App Criminal History Review (Pass Matrix)	0	0
Regulant Populations	12-31-2025	2-1-2026
Hearing Aid Specialist Temporary Permits	45	48
Hearing Aid Specialists	848	851
Opticians	1,699	1,699

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HEARING AID SPECIALISTS

GENERAL EXAM STATISTICS REPORT - PRACTICAL

EXAM DATE	TOTAL			FIRST TIME			RE-EXAM			TOTAL EXAMINEES SCHEDULED
	EXAMS TAKEN	EXAMS PASSED	PERCENT PASSED	EXAMS TAKEN	EXAMS PASSED	PERCENT PASSED	EXAMS TAKEN	EXAMS PASSED	PERCENT PASSED	
NOV 2025	12	07	58.33%	07	04	57.14%	05	03	75.00%	12

CONTENT DESCRIPTION	EXAMS TAKEN	EXAMS PASSED	PERCENT PASSED
AUDIOMETRIC	02	05	41.66%
MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR	08	05	62.50%
SPEECH TESTING	09	06	66.66%
EARMOLD IMPRESSIONS	08	08	100.00%

HEARING AID SPECIALISTS

GENERAL EXAM STATISTICS REPORT – WRITTEN

EXAM DATE	CONTENT DESCRIPTION	EXAMS TAKEN	TOTAL EXAMS PASSED	PERCENT PASSED
NOV 5, 2025 THROUGH DEC 31, 2025	RULES & REGULATIONS	11	08	72.72%
	ILE -THEORY	11	06	54.54%

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OPTICIANS STATISTICS REPORT

COMPUTER BASE TESTING (CBT)

EXAM DATE WRITTEN-ABO	TOTAL EXAMS TAKEN	TOTAL EXAMS PASSED	TOTAL PERCENTAGE PASSED
JANUARY 2024	06	04	67.66%
FEBRUARY 2024	05	05	100.00%
MARCH 2024	05	04	80.00%
APRIL 2024	03	03	100.00%
MAY 2024	05	04	80.00%
JUNE 2024	06	05	83.33%
JULY 2024	00	00	00.00%
AUGUST 2024	03	03	100.00%
SEPTEMBER 2024	05	05	100.00%
OCTOBER 2024	05	03	60.00%
NOVEMBER 2024	02	02	100.00%
DECEMBER 2024	05	02	40.00%
WRITTEN TOTAL 2024	50	40	80.00%
PRACTICAL			
JANUARY 2024	11	06	54.54%
FEBRUARY 2024	02	01	50.00%
MARCH 2024	04	02	50.00%
APRIL 2024	02	00	00.00%
MAY 2024	06	04	66.66%
JUNE 2024	09	05	55.55%
JULY 2024	03	02	66.66%
AUGUST 2024	04	04	100.00%
SEPTEMBER 2024	08	05	62.50%
OCTOBER 2024	04	03	75.00%
NOVEMBER 2024	02	02	100.00%
DECEMBER 2024	02	02	100.00%
PRACTICAL TOTAL 2024	57	36	63.16%

EXAMS
 March 24, 2025
 RSTARR

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 Proposed topics for discussion and are not to be construed as a rule of official Board position.

OPTICIANS STATISTICS REPORT

COMPUTER BASE TESTING (CBT)

EXAM DATE WRITTEN-ABO	TOTAL EXAMS TAKEN	TOTAL EXAMS PASSED	TOTAL PERCENTAGE PASSED
JANUARY 2025	03	03	100.00%
FEBRUARY 2025	01	01	100.00%
MARCH 2025	03	03	100.00%
APRIL 2025	00	00	00.00%
MAY 2025	05	03	60.00%
JUNE 2025	08	06	75.00%
JULY 2025	02	01	50.00%
AUGUST 2025	07	06	85.71%
SEPTEMBER 2025	04	02	50.00%
OCTOBER 2025	08	03	37.50%
NOVEMBER 2025	05	05	100.00%
DECEMBER 2025	03	03	100.00%
WRITTEN TOTAL 2025	49	36	73.46%
PRACTICAL			
JANUARY 2025	04	03	75.00%
FEBRUARY 2025	04	04	100.00%
MARCH 2025	04	01	25.00%
APRIL 2025	06	04	66.66%
MAY 2025	03	03	100.00%
JUNE 2025	10	03	30.00%
JULY 2025	02	01	50.00%
AUGUST 2025	07	03	42.85%
SEPTEMBER 2025	05	03	60.00%
OCTOBER 2025	10	05	50.00%
NOVEMBER 2025	02	00	00.00%
DECEMBER 2025	10	06	60.00%
PRACTICAL TOTAL 2025	37	36	97.29%

EXAMS
January 29, 2026
RSTARR

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OPTICIANS STATISTICS REPORT

COMPUTER BASE TESTING (CBT)

EXAM DATE WRITTEN-ABO	TOTAL EXAMS TAKEN	TOTAL EXAMS PASSED	TOTAL PERCENTAGE PASSED
JANUARY 2026	01	01	100.00%
FEBRUARY 2026			
MARCH 2026			
APRIL 2026			
MAY 2026			
JUNE 2026			
JULY 2026			
AUGUST 2026			
SEPTEMBER 2026			
OCTOBER 2026			
NOVEMBER 2026			
DECEMBER 2026			
WRITTEN TOTAL 2026			
PRACTICAL			
JANUARY 2026	06	04	66.66%
FEBRUARY 2026			
MARCH 2026			
APRIL 2026			
MAY 2026			
JUNE 2026			
JULY 2026			
AUGUST 2026			
SEPTEMBER 2026			
OCTOBER 2026			
NOVEMBER 2026			
DECEMBER 2026			
PRACTICAL TOTAL 2026			

EXAMS
 January 29, 2026
 RSTARR

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Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians
Current Regulatory Actions
as of March 4, 2026

In the Governor’s Office:

None

In the Secretary’s Office: Proposed stage not approved by the Secretary of Labor

VAC	Stage	Subject Matter	Date Pended	Notes
18 VAC 80-30	NOIRA to Proposed Stage.	Opticians Fee Increase	7/16/24	Amend the opticians regulations to adjust the application, renewal, late renewal, and reinstatement fees for optician licenses.

At Department of Planning and Budget (DPB)/OAG

None

Public Comment:

None

Completed Public Comment and awaiting final regulatory stage:

None

Approved Regulatory Actions:

VAC	Stage	Subject Matter	Effective Date	Notes
18 VAC 80-20	Final	General review of Hearing Aid Specialists regulations	December 29, 2025	A general review of the hearing aid specialists’ regulations was necessary due to the Executive Directive Number One (2022). The board reviewed and ensured the regulations provides minimum burdens on regulants while still protecting the public.
18 VAC 80-30	Final	General review of Opticians regulations	January 1, 2026	A general review of the opticians’ regulations was necessary due to the Executive Directive Number One (2022). The board reviewed and ensured the regulations provides minimum burdens on regulants while still protecting the public.



TO: Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians
FROM: Stephen Kirschner, Director Licensing and Regulatory Programs
SUBJECT: Director Licensing and Regulatory Programs Report
DATE: February 17, 2026

Application Statistics

The table below outlines the number of applications received per calendar year (Jan. 1 - Dec. 31) since 2019 for HASOPT.

2025 ¹	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
1,100	2,875	1,442	2,706	1,318	2,677	1,308

Call Center Telephone Statistics

The table below outlines the number of telephone calls received through BCHOP’s call center per fiscal year (July 1 – June 30).

2026 ²	2025	2024	2023 ³	2022	2021	2020
23,116	31,750	19,778	33,894	43,063	36,074	41,837

Call Center Summary – 12/01/25 – 12/31/25

	Average Wait Time	Average Speed of Answer	Average Abandonment Time	Average Staff	Number of Calls	Call Duration
BCHOP	00:00:00	00:00:00	00:00:00	1.49	968	
BCHOP – B	00:01:26	00:01:35	00:03:27	1.49	3003	
SUMMARY	00:01:26	00:01:35	00:03:27	2.94	3971	00:05:51

Call Center Summary – 1/01/2026-1/31/2026

	Average Wait Time	Average Speed of Answer	Average Abandonment Time	Average Staff	Number of Calls	Call Duration
BCHOP	00:00:00	00:00:00	00:00:00	0.95	1037	
BCHOP – B	00:00:55	00:01:05	00:05:13	0.95	3436	
SUMMARY	00:00:55	00:01:05	00:05:13	1.9	4473	00:05:23

¹ As of 12/31/25

² As of 1/31/26

³ Missing totals for May 2023 through August 2023

Email Statistics

The table below outlines the number of emails received through BCHOP's email addresses per calendar year (Jan 1 – Dec 31).

2026 ⁴	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
1,806	26,485	21,319	22,638	28,441	18,164	14,580	11,071

Board Case Statistics

Since 2020, the Board has adjudicated 9 cases: 2 Disciplinary and 7 Licensing

Disciplinary

Cases - 2: Final Orders - 1; Consent Orders – 1

2 disciplinary cases resulted in the sanctions below:

Revocations - 1
Suspensions - 0
Probation - 0
Fines - \$33,300
Board cost - \$150

Licensing

Cases – 7
Denied – 0
Conditional approvals – 0

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⁴ As of 1/31/26



TO: VIRGINIA BOARD FOR HEARING AID SPECIALISTS AND OPTICIANS
FROM: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: OPTICIANS BOARD APPROVED REVIEW COURSE
DATE: DECEMBER 17, 2025

The Community College Workforce Alliance (CCWA) has discontinued its offering of the board-approved review course previously used to measure current competency for opticians seeking license reinstatement in accordance with 18 VAC 80-30-110.B.

Under this regulation, individuals whose licenses have expired for twenty-four (24) months but less than sixty (60) months must either:

1. Provide proof of continuous, active, ethical, and legal practice outside of Virginia, **or**
2. Complete a board-approved review course that measures current competence.

As CCWA was the only provider approved by the Board and no longer offers this course, the Board must either seek alternative board-approved providers to fulfill this requirement or remove the requirement. Board staff recommends removing the option and mirroring the Hearing Aid Specialist regulations concerning reinstatement.

The Hearing Aid Specialist regulations require any individual who allows their license to lapse longer than two years after the expiration date to apply as a new applicant for licensure, meeting all educational, examination and experience requirements as listed current at the time of reapplication.

Staff recommends combining 18VAC80-30-110.B. and C. to read:

B. Twenty-four months after the expiration of the license, the individual may be reinstated if the individual can show proof of continuous, active, ethical, and legal practice outside of Virginia. If not, the individual must apply as a new applicant for licensure. The individual will be required to meet all current education requirements and retake the board's written and practical examinations.

In addition to removing the option of the board-approved review course that measures current competence, Board staff recommends removing the corresponding approval process for these courses found in 18VAC80-30-180.

The Board can adopt these changes with a motion “to adopt the proposed changes to 18 VAC 80-30-110 and 18 VAC 80-30-180 as presented and authorize staff to begin a fast-track regulatory action (or Notice of Intended Regulatory Action) in conjunction with the revisions to the hearing aid specialist renewal requirements.”

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DRAFT AGENDA
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From: Kristina F. Green

Sent: Monday, October 6, 2025 10:13 AM

To: Garnett, Heather (DPOR) <heather.garnett@dpor.virginia.gov>; Smith, Kelley (DPOR) <kelley.smith@dpor.virginia.gov>

Subject: Optician's Reinstatement Course

Hello Ladies,

I am writing to let you know that I was just told that CCWA (Community College Workforce Alliance) has made the decision to not offer open enrollment courses anymore. There is one optician that is currently working on completing the course, but I was told that they will not register anyone else after this month.

HASOPT will need to find another vendor to provide an option for opticians moving forward. As I developed and teach that course, I am willing to continue to offer it but is that something I can do as an individual? I would not be able to run a stand-alone open enrollment course through Reynolds.

Best Regards,

Kristina F. Green
Associate Dean
Reynolds Community College | School of Health Professions



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Re: Optician's Reinstatement Course

From Smith, Kelley (DPOR) <Kelley.Smith@dpor.virginia.gov>

Date Thu 12/11/2025 3:26 PM

To Kristina F. Green <[REDACTED]>; Garnett, Heather (DPOR) <heather.garnett@dpor.virginia.gov>

 1 attachment (5 KB)

Outlook-5o13ehvj;

Good afternoon Ms. Green,

We're going to take this before the board at their next meeting and determine the best course of action.

Thank you for letting us know about the situation.

Kelley

Kelley Smith, J.D.
Executive Director
Board for Barbers and Cosmetology
Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians



Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation

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From: Kristina F. Green <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Thursday, December 11, 2025 1:34 PM

To: Garnett, Heather (DPOR) <heather.garnett@dpor.virginia.gov>; Smith, Kelley (DPOR) <kelley.smith@dpor.virginia.gov>

Subject: RE: Optician's Reinstatement Course

Good Afternoon Kelly,

I have been contacted by a VA optician that needs to get their license reinstated. I shared with them that CCWA no longer offers that course and that they would need to contact DPOR for guidance.

Just wanted to let you know in case the board has not addressed this issue yet.

Best Regards,



Kristina F. Green
Associate Dean | School of Health Professions





TO: VIRGINIA BOARD FOR HEARING AID SPECIALISTS AND OPTICIANS
FROM: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: HEARING AID SPECIALIST RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS
DATE: DECEMBER 17, 2025

During the Board's General Review of Hearing Aid Specialists Regulations, the language for license renewal found in 18 VAC 80-20-90.A was revised from:

“Licenses issued under this chapter shall expire on December 31 of each even-numbered year as indicated on the license,”

to :

“Licenses issued under this chapter will expire two years from the license effective date.”

While this change established a rolling renewal period, it has had the unintended effect of significantly increasing the frequency with which renewal notices must be issued. Under the current language, renewal notices for Hearing Aid Specialists must be generated on an almost daily basis, creating an administrative process that is inconsistent with DPOR's standard renewal practices and misaligned with the renewal cycles used by other DPOR-regulated professions.

To address this issue, Board staff recommends revising the renewal language to the following:

“Licenses issued under this chapter will expire two years from the last day of the month in which the license was issued.”

This revision preserves the two-year renewal period while allowing DPOR to issue renewal notices in monthly batches, consistent with established agency practices and other regulated professions. The proposed change improves administrative efficiency without altering the substantive length of licensure or impacting public protection.

The Board may adopt this recommendation by motion “to adopt the proposed changes to 18 VAC 80-20-90.A as presented and authorize staff to initiate a fast-track regulatory action (or Notice of Intended Regulatory Action), in conjunction with revisions to the Optician Board-approved Review Course.”



TO: BOARD FOR HEARING AID SPECIALISTS AND OPTICIANS
FROM: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: RENEWAL NOTIFICATIONS AMENDMENT
DATE: DECEMBER 17, 2025

On April 16, 2025, the Board voted to approve the notice requirements for license renewal in both the Hearing Aid Specialists and Optician Regulations. Since that meeting, the Board adopted language for the final stages of its general review regulatory actions. During the general reviews, the Board incorporated the language from the renewal notifications amendment action into the final regulations. As a result, the Board can withdraw the renewal notifications amendment regulatory action.

If the Board wishes to proceed, the Board can make a motion “to withdraw the renewal notifications amendment regulatory action.”

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