

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

The Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians met on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at the Offices of the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, Perimeter Center, Board Room 4, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 9960 Mayland Drive, Richmond, Virginia 23233.

Board members present for the meeting:

Debra Ogilvie, AuD, Vice Chair  
Judith Canty  
LeighAnna Morris, AuD  
Kenneth Kirk, Ph.D  
Holly Law  
Jacqueline Kowal  
Desire'e Lewis-Nelson  
Jennifer Mundorff, AuD

Board members not present for the meeting:

Darla All, Chair  
Nikisha Richards, MD  
Maureen Sadak  
Francis Lunsford  
Michael Armstrong, MD  
Fitim Xhemali  
Jeffrey Grappone

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

Laura McClintock, Director  
Stephen Kirschner, Director Licensing and Regulatory Programs  
Ashley Reed, 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 at the meeting.

A Board for Professional and Occupational Regulation liaison was not present at the meeting.

Dr. Ogilvie, board vice chair, determined a quorum present and called **CALL TO ORDER** the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

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

Ashley Reed, Executive Director, explained the emergency egress procedure for board room 4.

**EMERGENCY  
EGRESS**

Mr. Kirschner introduced the new agency director and the new board executive director.

**INTRODUCTION OF  
DPOR DIRECTOR  
AND BOARD  
EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR**

The Board took the agenda into consideration.

**APPROVAL OF  
AGENDA**

Ms. Canty motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Dr. Morris.

The members voting 'Aye' were Dr. Ogilvie, Ms. Canty, Dr. Morris, Dr. Kirk, Ms. Law, Ms. Kowal, Ms. Lewis-Nelson, and Dr. Mundorff.

There were no negative votes. The motion carries.

The Board took the minutes from the Board meeting on October 29, 2025, under consideration.

**APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES AS A  
BLOCK**

Dr. Mundorff motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Law.

The members voting 'Aye' were Dr. Ogilvie, Ms. Canty, Dr. Morris, Dr. Kirk, Ms. Law, Ms. Kowal, Ms. Lewis-Nelson, and Dr. Mundorff.

There were no negative votes. The motion carries.

There were no public comments.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**CASES**

**Licensing**

In the matter of File Number **2025-02656, Thomas Arthur Casey**, 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-  
02656, Thomas Arthur  
Casey**

Thomas Casey did appear at the meeting in person. Mr. Casey did not address the Board.

Ms. Canty motioned to accept the recommendation and approve Thomas Casey's reinstatement application for hearing aid specialist's license, seconded by Dr. Morris.

There was no Board discussion.

The members voting ‘Aye’ were Dr. Ogilvie, Ms. Canty, Dr. Morris, Dr. Kirk, Ms. Law, Ms. Kowal, Ms. Lewis-Nelson, and Dr. Mundorff.

There were no negative votes. The motion carries.

## **REPORTS**

Ms. Garnett 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**

Ms. Reed presented the executive directors’ report, which was provided in the electronic agenda.

### **Executive Director Report**

## **REGULATORY ACTION AND BOARD GUIDANCE**

Ms. Reed informed the Board that Community College Workforce Alliance (CCWA) has discontinued offering the board-approved review course used to measure competency for opticians seeking reinstatement in accordance with 18 VAC 80-30-110.B. Ms. Reed suggested removing the review course and mirroring the Hearing Aid Specialist regulations concerning reinstatement, combining 18 VAC 80-30-110.B and C, and removing courses in 18 VAC 80-30-180.

### **Board-approved Review Course**

Ms. Canty motioned 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, seconded by Ms. Lewis-Nelson.

There was no Board discussion.

The members voting ‘Aye’ were Dr. Ogilvie, Ms. Canty, Dr. Morris, Dr. Kirk, Ms. Law, Ms. Kowal, Ms. Lewis-Nelson, and Dr. Mundorff.

There were no negative votes. The motion carries.

Ms. Reed requested a revision to 18 VAC 80-20-90.A Hearing Aid Specialist license renewal expires 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 monthly, consistent with agency practices in other regulated professions.

**Hearing Aid Specialist  
Renewal  
Requirements**

Dr. Morris motioned to adopt the proposed changes to 18 VAC 80-20-90.A as presented and authorized staff to initiate a fast-track regulatory action, seconded by Ms. Canty.

There was no Board discussion.

The members voting 'Aye' were Dr. Ogilvie, Ms. Canty, Dr. Morris, Dr. Kirk, Ms. Law, Ms. Kowal, Ms. Lewis-Nelson, and Dr. Mundorff.

There were no negative votes. The motion carries.

Mr. Houghwout informed the Board that notice requirements for license renewal in both Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians were incorporated into the General Review. The board can withdraw the renewal notification amendment regulatory action.

**Renewal Notifications  
Amendment**

Ms. Canty motioned to withdraw the renewal notifications amendment regulatory action, seconded by Ms. Lewis-Nelson.

There was no Board discussion.

The members voting 'Aye' were Dr. Ogilvie, Ms. Canty, Dr. Morris, Dr. Kirk, Ms. Law, Ms. Kowal, Ms. Lewis-Nelson, and Dr. Mundorff.

There were no negative votes. The motion carries.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Kirschner informed the Board that the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS) requested a partnership to advance the implementation of Virginia Code § 54.1-118. The Agency will continue discussions with DVS, creating internal processes to ensure substantially equivalent military training, education, and experience for the Military Occupational Specialties (MOS) that align with the professions.

**QUALIFICATIONS  
FOR LICENSURE-  
MILITARY  
TRAINING AND  
EDUCATION**

Mr. Kirschner presented an overview of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

**BOARD MEMBER  
PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

**REMINDERS**

Dr. Ogilvie reminded the Board of the next scheduled Board meeting on May 6, 2026.

**Next Schedule Board  
Meeting**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

**Adjourn**

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Darla All, Board Chair

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Laura McClintock, Board Secretary

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