

**BOARD FOR HEARING AID SPECIALISTS AND OPTICIANS**

**TENTATIVE AGENDA**

**August 14, 2024, 9:30 a.m. – Board Room 2, Second Floor**

**Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation Perimeter Center  
9960 Mayland Drive  
Richmond, Virginia 23233**

**PAGE**

<b>I. CALL TO ORDER</b>	
<b>II. EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURES</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA</b>	<b>1</b>
A. Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians Meeting Agenda August 14, 2024	
<b>IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b>	
A. Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians Minutes from March 13, 2024	<b>4</b>
B. Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians, Curriculum Review Committee Minutes from May 22, 2024	<b>8</b>
<b>V. INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS</b>	
<b>VI. COMMUNICATIONS</b>	
A. Email From- United Opticians Association concerning press release	<b>10</b>
<b>VII. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD*</b>	
<b>VIII. TRAINING</b>	
A. Post-Adjudication and Licensing	
<b>IX. CASES</b>	
1. 2024-01942              Patrice Ayesha Lee              Licensing	<b>12</b>
<b>X. REPORTS</b>	
A. Licensing Statistics	<b>14</b>
B. Examination Statistics	<b>15</b>
C. Regulatory Report	<b>17</b>
D. Executive Director Report	
<b>XI. OLD BUSINESS</b>	
A. Hearing Aid Specialist Practical Exam	

**XII. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. EPICx Update
- B. Board Elections

**XIII. REMINDERS**

- A. Next Board Meeting-October 30, 2024

**XIV. ADJOURN**

\* 5-minute public comment period, per person, with the exception of any open disciplinary or application files. Persons desiring to attend the meeting and requiring special accommodations/interpretive services should contact the board office at 804-367- 8590 at least 10 days prior to the meeting so that suitable arrangements can be made for appropriate accommodation. The Department fully complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

**2024 MEETING DATES:**

October 30, 2024

**2025 MEETING DATES:**

February 12, 2025

April 16, 2025

August 13, 2025

October 29, 2025

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

**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, March 13, 2024, at the Offices of the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, Perimeter Center, Board Room 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 9960 Mayland Drive, Richmond, Virginia 23233.

The following members were present for the meeting:

Kristina Green, Chair  
Debra Ogilvie, AuD, Vice Chair  
Kaytlyn Young  
Desire'e Lewis-Nelson  
Bruce Wagner  
Pamela Chavis, MD  
Stacey Brayboy  
Judith Canty

The following members were not present:

Pamela Smith  
Laura Lee Thompson  
Erik Meland  
Michael Armstrong, MD  
Darla All

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

Brian Wolford, Deputy Director  
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.

Ms. Green, Chair, determined a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

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

**EMERGENCY  
EGRESS**

The Board took the agenda under consideration.

**APPROVAL OF  
AGENDA**

Upon a motion by Ms. Brayboy and seconded by Dr. Chavis the Board voted to approve the agenda.

The members voting 'Aye' were Ms. Green, Dr. Ogilvie, Ms. Young, Mr. Wagner, Dr. Chavis, Ms. Brayboy, and Ms. Canty.

There were no negative votes. The motion carries.

The Board took the minutes from January 10, 2024, Board meeting under consideration.

**APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES**

Upon a motion by Dr. Ogilvie and seconded by Ms. Brayboy the Board voted to approve the minutes.

The members voting 'Aye' were Ms. Green, Dr. Ogilvie, Ms. Young, Mr. Wagner, Dr. Chavis, Ms. Brayboy, and Ms. Canty.

There were no negative votes. The motion carries.

Ms. Smith introduced new board member, Ms. Judith Canty.

**NEW BOARD  
MEMBER  
INTRODUCTION**

There were no public comments.

**PUBLIC  
COMMENT**

**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. Ms. Duncan informed the Board an email was received from American Board of Opticianry & National Contact Lens Examiners, Exam Coordinator. The ABO does not have capabilities to track the status if a test taker has passed on their first attempt or repeat attempts.

**Examination  
Statistics**

The Board discussed the Hearing Aid Specialist Exam Review Committee.

Ms. Lewis-Nelson arrived at the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

**Arrival of Board  
Member**

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

The Board discussed the regulatory report.

**REGULATORY  
ACTION AND  
BOARD  
GUIDANCE**

Ms. Smith presented the Board with amendments to the final draft language to expand training options for applicants. **Approval of Final  
Language for  
Amendment to  
Expand Training  
Options for  
Applicants**

The Board discussed the amendments. The amendments will be incorporated into the proposed language for the general review of hearing aid specialists regulatory action.

Upon a motion by Mr. Wagner and seconded by Dr. Ogilvie the Board voted to approve the final language as amended to expand training options for applicants for regulatory action and general review.

The members voting 'Aye' were Ms. Green, Dr. Ogilvie, Ms. Young, Mr. Wagner, Dr. Chavis, Ms. Brayboy, Ms. Canty and Ms. Lewis-Nelson.

There were no negative votes. The motion carries.

Ms. Green invited all Board members to stay and attend the regulatory and legislative training. Ms. Smith presented the training to the Board.

**REGULATORY  
AND  
LEGISLATIVE  
TRAINING**

Ms. Green reminded the Board of the upcoming new Board member training conference. **REMINDERS**

Ms. Green informed the Board the next scheduled Board meetings are March 13, and October 30, 2024. **Next Schedule Board  
Meeting**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m. **Adjourn**

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Kristina Green, Chair

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Kishore S. Thota, Board Secretary

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**BOARD FOR HEARING AID SPECIALISTS AND OPTICIANS  
CURRICULUM REVIEW COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians, Curriculum Review Committee met on Monday, May 22, 2024, at the Offices of the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, 9960 Mayland Drive, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Board Room 3, Richmond, Virginia.

The following board members of the Curriculum Review Committee were present:

Kristina Green  
Darla All

The following board members were not present:

Stacey Brayboy  
Erik Meland  
Kaytlyn Young

The following DPOR staff present:

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.

Kristina Green, Board Chair, called the Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians, Curriculum Review Committee meeting to order at 9:25 a.m.

**Call to Order**

Ms. Green read the Department of Professional & Occupational Regulations mission.

Ms. Smith, Executive Director, explained the emergency egress procedure for board room 3.

**EMERGENCY  
EGRESS**

The Committee took the agenda under consideration.

**APPROVAL OF  
AGENDA**

Ms. All motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Green.

The members voting “yes” were Ms. All and Ms. Green. There were no negative votes. The motion carried.

Kristina Green opened the Public Comment section of the meeting.

**PUBLIC  
COMMENT**

There was no public comment.



The Committee discussed the optician curriculum presented by Leonardo an online platform with Essilor Luxottuica.

**REVIEW OF CURRICULUM**

The Committee determined that the submission by Leonardo did not meet the requirements set forth by the Board for related technical instruction curriculum. The Committee requested that Board staff contact Leonardo and instruct them to use the criteria approved by the Board and resubmit their curriculum.

Ms. Green reminded the Committee of the next Board meeting scheduled for April 14, 2024.

**Reminder**

There being no further business, Kristina Green adjourned the meeting at 9:39 a.m.

**Adjourn**

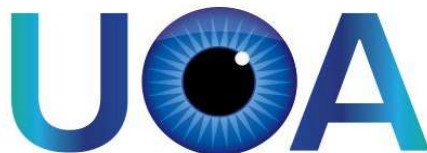
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Kristina Green, Board Chair

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Kishore S Thota, Board Secretary

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**UNITED OPTICIANS ASSOCIATION, INC.**

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LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY 40507

[www.opticians.org](http://www.opticians.org)

Telephone: 2-OPTICIANS

**Press Release**

**For Immediate Release: EMBARGOED UNTIL July 9, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. EDT**

**Contact:** Nicole McGinnis, Chief Operating Officer American Board of Opticianry & National Contact Lens Examiners (ABO & NCLE) Email: [nmcginnis@abo-ncle.org](mailto:nmcginnis@abo-ncle.org)

Naomi Mundy, United Opticians Association Director of Industry Relations, Marketing & Membership (UOA) Email: [nmundy@opticians.org](mailto:nmundy@opticians.org)

**Introducing the United Opticians Association: Complimentary One-Year Membership for All ABO & NCLE Certificants, Opticians Association of America (OAA) Fellows, OAA Guild Members, and All NFOS Students**

**Lexington, Kentucky – July 9, 2024** – The American Board of Opticianry & National Contact Lens Examiners (ABO & NCLE) and National Federation of Opticianry Schools are both thrilled to announce the formation of the United Opticians Association (UOA), a groundbreaking international organization dedicated to serving the Spectacle and Contact Lens Optician professions.

The UOA is the result of years of dedicated efforts by leaders across the world of Opticianry to create a unified body that supports and advances the profession in numerous exciting ways. This innovative association brings together national organizations such as the Opticians Association of America, the National Federation of Opticianry Schools, and the Government and Industry Relations expertise of the ABO & NCLE.

To celebrate this momentous occasion, **the ABO & NCLE Board and the National Federation of Opticianry Schools are both offering all ABO & NCLE Certificants and current NFOS Students a complimentary one-year membership to the UOA, valued at \$199 and valid through July 1, 2025.** This gesture of appreciation is designed to help ABO & NCLE Certificants and NFOS Students take full advantage of the extensive benefits the UOA has to offer.

**A United Voice for Opticianry**

Ronnie Harbert, the current President of UOA, emphasized the importance of this unification: “By bringing together all of these organizations, we can better spearhead the representation and protection of

the opticianry profession. The UOA unites the best of each organization, focusing efforts to provide **one United Opticians Association** protecting all spectacle and contact lens opticians.”

## Membership Benefits

The UOA offers an array of benefits tailored to support professional growth, enhance patient care, and ensure members remain at the forefront of the field. Key benefits include:

- **Professional Growth and Education:** Access to state society meetings, workshops, webinars, and leadership conferences. Support for ABO & NCLE Certification, state licensing, and educational grants and scholarships.
- **Advocacy and Government Relations:** Representation in legislative and regulatory matters, with efforts to protect and expand the scope of practice for opticians.
- **Networking and Community:** Opportunities to connect with over 140,000 Spectacle and Contact Lens Opticians and more than 39,000 UOA members. Discounts on conference registration fees and access to industry innovations.
- **Support for Research and Innovation:** Access to research grants and leading opticianry-related publications.
- **Public Awareness and Outreach:** Campaigns to raise the profile of the profession and promote the value of vision care services.
- **Exclusive Member Services:** Job placement assistance, discounts on optical products, and professional liability insurance.

We invite all ABO & NCLE Certificants and NFOS Students to activate their complimentary membership and join us in this exciting new chapter for the profession. For more information, please visit our membership page at [www.opticians.org](http://www.opticians.org) or contact us at [membership@opticians.org](mailto:membership@opticians.org).

Together, we can help the world see!

**For questions regarding UOA individual membership or membership benefits, please contact:**

Johnna Little, Director of Membership Administrative and Technical Systems Email:

[jlittle@opticians.org](mailto:jlittle@opticians.org)

**For questions regarding UOA industry relations or marketing, please contact:** Naomi Mundy,

Director of Industry Relations, Marketing & Membership Email: [nmundy@opticians.org](mailto:nmundy@opticians.org)

**For questions regarding UOA Student relations, please contact:** Bob Alexander, ABOM, NCLEM,

Director of Membership Education Email: [balexander@opticians.org](mailto:balexander@opticians.org)

**About the United Opticians Association (UOA):** The United Opticians Association (UOA) is an international organization formed to support and advance the professions of Spectacle and Contact Lens Opticians. By uniting multiple national organizations, the UOA represents and protects the interests of opticians, fostering collaboration and innovation within the industry.

\*\*###

This press release is under embargo until July 9, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. EDT. For media inquiries, please contact Nicole McGinnis at [nmcginnis@abo-ncle.org](mailto:nmcginnis@abo-ncle.org) or Naomi Mundy at [nmundy@opticians.org](mailto:nmundy@opticians.org).

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## Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians BOARD STATISTICS

<b>Licenses and Temporary Permits Issued</b>	<b>1-1-2023 To 12-31-2023</b>	<b>1-1-2024 To 7-1-2024</b>
Hearing Aid Specialist by Exam	50	15
Hearing Aid Specialist Doctor of Audiology Exam Waived	34	18
Hearing Aid Specialist by Reciprocity	11	2
Hearing Aid Specialist Temporary Permits	46	39
Optician by Exam	34	12
Optician by Reciprocity	10	5
CLE by Exam	2	1
CLE by Reciprocity	2	0
Optician License App Criminal History Review (Pass Matrix)	0	0
<b>Regulant Populations</b>	<b>12-31-2023</b>	<b>7-1-2024</b>
Hearing Aid Specialist Temporary Permits	54	69
Hearing Aid Specialists	828	877
Opticians	1,730	1,746

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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	
MAY 2024	19	06	37.50%	11	02	18.18%	08	04	50.00%	19
							<b>EXAMS TAKEN</b>	<b>EXAMS PASSED</b>	<b>PERCENT PASSED</b>	
	<b>CONTENT DESCRIPTION</b>									
							16	08	50.00%	
							11	06	54.54%	
							14	10	71.42%	
							12	10	83.33%	

## HEARING AID SPECIALISTS

### GENERAL EXAM STATISTICS REPORT – WRITTEN

EXAM DATE	CONTENT DESCRIPTION	EXAMS TAKEN	TOTAL	
			EXAMS PASSED	PERCENT PASSED
FEB 1, 2024 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2024	RULES & REGULATIONS	08	07	87.50%
	ILE -THEORY	11	08	72.72%

NOTE: Written Stats for May-June 2024 will be available for the October 30, 2024, Board Meeting.

# OPTICIANS STATISTICS REPORT

## COMPUTER BASE TESTING (CBT)

EXAM DATE WRITTEN-ABO	TOTAL EXAMS TAKEN	TOTAL EXAMS PASSED	TOTAL PERCENTAGE PASSED
FEBRUARY 2024	05	05	100.00%
MARCH 2024	05	04	80.00%
APRIL 2024	03	03	100.00%
MAY 2024	05	04	80.00%
OPTICIAN'S PRACTICAL			
FEBRUARY 2024	02	01	50.00%
MARCH 2024	04	02	50.00%
APRIL 2024	02	00	00.00%
MAY 2024	06	04	66.66%

EXAMS  
6/18/2024  
RSTARR

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**Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians**  
**Current Regulatory Actions**  
**as of August 14, 2024**

**In the Governor’s Office**

None

**In the Secretary’s Office**

None

**At Department of Planning and Budget (DPB)/OAG**

None

**Public Comment:**

None

**Completed Public Comment and awaiting proposed regulatory stage:**

VAC	Stage	Subject Matter	Proposed Stage	Notes
18 VAC 80-20	NOIRA to Proposed Stage.	General review of Hearing Aid Specialists regulations	Pending Review	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	NOIRA to Proposed Stage.	General review of Opticians regulations	Pending Review	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.

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**Completed Public Comment and awaiting final regulatory stage:**

VAC	Stage	Subject Matter	Final Stage	Notes
18 VAC 80-20	Proposed to Final Stage	Amendment to expand training options for applicants	Pending Review	The temporary permit rules were amended in the hearing aid specialists' regulations. The board also created an additional method for qualifying for a hearing aid specialists' license.

**Withdrawn**

VAC	Stage	Subject Matter	Date Withdrawn	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.

**Recently effective**

None

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