

**BOARD OF OPTOMETRY
FULL BOARD MEETING
October 16, 2020**

TIME AND PLACE: The Virginia Board of Optometry (Board) meeting was called to order at 10:33 a.m. at the Department of Health Professions (DHP), Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, 2nd Floor, Board Room 4, Henrico, Virginia 23233.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Fred E. Goldberg, O.D., President

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Lisa Wallace-Davis, O.D., Vice-President
Devon Cabot, Citizen Member
Steven A. Linas, O.D.
Clifford A. Roffis, O.D.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Helene Clayton-Jeter, O.D.

STAFF PRESENT: Leslie L. Knachel, Executive Director
Charis Mitchell, Assistant Attorney General, Board Counsel
Barbara Allison-Bryan, DHP Chief Deputy Director
Elaine Yeatts, DHP Senior Policy Analyst
Amy Davis, Executive Assistant
Celia Wilson, Operations Administrative Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT: Mark Hickman, Virginia Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM: There were five (5) Board Members present constituting a quorum for conducting Board business.

PUBLIC HEARING: At 10:36 a.m. Dr. Goldberg stated “in accordance with §54.1-3223 of the *Code of Virginia*, a public hearing is being held to receive comments on proposed amendments to include alpha-adrenergic agonists in the categories of topically administered Schedule VI agents in the TPA-Formulary. The proposed amendment was published in the notice of public hearing. If adopted by the Board after the public hearing today, the final amendment to the TPA-Formulary will become effective upon filing with the Registrar.”

As there was no one present to speak, the public hearing was concluded.

ORDERING OF AGENDA:

Ms. Knachel requested that continuing education requirements be added to “Discussion Items.”

Dr. Wallace-Davis moved to accept the changes to the agenda. Ms. Cabot seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous aye vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment on agenda items.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ms. Cabot moved to approve the minutes of the following:
July 13, 2020 – Board Member Virtual Training
July 17, 2020 – Virtual Board Meeting
September 14, 2020 – Virtual TPA-Formulary Committee Meeting

Dr. Roffis seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous aye vote.

DIRECTORS REPORT:

Dr. Allison-Bryan provided information on the following:

- Appreciation to the board members for attending the in-person meeting and for adapting to the new process required to conduct in-person meetings observing COVID-19 precautions;
- Activities of the Board of Health Professions;
- Approximately 75% of DHP staff are teleworking and essential functions are being met;
- DHP has no jurisdiction on complaints received about practitioners not following the Governor’s Executive Order regarding COVID-19 precautions; however, DHP worked with VDH to send a letter to licensees with reminders of the precautions;
- Three workgroups related to cannabis; and
- Participation in the group discussing the distribution and administration of a COVID-19 vaccine once available.

REGULATORY ACTIONS:

Adoption of Proposed Regulations for Waiver of Electronic Prescribing

Elaine Yeatts provided information regarding the regulatory action to replace emergency regulations with final regulations.

Dr. Linas moved to adopt the proposed regulations for waiver of electronic prescribing to preplace emergency

regulations. Ms. Cabot seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous aye vote.

Repeal of 18VAC105-20-50 Professional Designations

Ms. Yeatts stated the effective date of the repeal of Professional Designations is October 29, 2020. Ms. Knachel stated the application has been removed from the website and a mass email will be sent to licensees notifying them of the repeal.

Adoption of Exempt Action on Addition to the TPA-Formulary

Ms. Yeatts presented the regulatory action for the Board's consideration.

Dr. Roffis moved to adopt the exempt action to add alpha-adrenergic agonists to the TPA-Formulary. Dr. Wallace-Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous aye vote.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Amendments to the Federal Contact Lens Rule

Ms. Knachel reviewed the information regarding amendments to the Federal Contact Lens Rule that became effective on October 16, 2020. After discussion, the Board took no regulatory action and asked for the item to be on the agenda for the next board meeting.

Continuing Education

At its last meeting, the Board requested that the issue of continuing education be on the agenda for the discussion at the next meeting. Ms. Knachel highlighted the minutes from the July 17, 2020, board meeting where the Board determined that no action would be taken to modify CE requirements for the current licensure period. The Board again discussed that no action would be taken because there are numerous opportunities for licensees to attend online courses where the licensee and the lecturer may communicate with one another as required by regulations. The Board agreed that Ms. Knachel should send out a mass email indicating that no changes are being made to the CE requirements and to highlight the regulatory requirements.

BOARD COUNSEL REPORT:

Ms. Mitchell had no information to report.

PRESIDENT REPORT:

Dr. Goldberg stated that it has been a positive, active year for the Board.

**BOARD OF HEALTH
PROFESSIONS REPORT:**

Dr. Allison-Bryan provided a report during the Director's Report in the absence of Dr. Clayton-Jeter.

STAFF REPORTS:

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Knachel reviewed information on the following:

- Statistics
- Outreach activities
- Ms. Knachel will send a mass email to licensees regarding the addition to the TPA-Formulary
- NBEO update
- Discipline Report

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business to discuss.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT:

Dr. Goldberg adjourned the meeting at 11:57 a.m.

Fred Goldberg, O.D.
Chair

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