



Ohio Vision Professionals Board

77 South High Street, 16th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Board Meeting Minutes of Thursday, April 16, 2020

The Special Business Meeting of the Ohio Vision Professionals Board was called to order at 1:04 p.m., held via teleconference by President Nye.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Cheryl Archer, O.D., Thomas Barracato, Jacqueline Davis, O.D., Darrell Dye, O.D., Kimberly A. Mermis, Brian J Miller, and Thomas E. Nye, O.D. A roll call vote was taken by Dr. Davis to verify all members in attendance.

STAFF MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Marlene Anielski, Executive Director, Emily Pelphrey, AAG, Matthew Paulini, Investigator, Adela Lopez-Wellman, Administrative Professional, and Wilma Simmons, Administrative Professional. Verified by Director Anielski

President Nye requested any guest to identify themselves and that everyone then please mute their phones.

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE:

Executive Director Keith Kerns, Esq., OOA, President David Corey, PACA, President John Bruening, OAO, Executive Director Shirley Earley, OAO The guests listed verbally identified themselves.

ORDERING OF THE AGENDA:

Cheryl Archer, O.D. moved to accept the agenda for the April 16, 2020 meeting as written. Darrell Dye, O.D. seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken by Dr. Davis. The motion passed unanimously.

President Nye addressed the Board as follows: During this unprecedented time, the Ohio Vision Professionals Board wants to ensure that all Ohioans will have access to needed eye and vision care. The Board is committed to supporting its licensees so they may be prepared for, and able to respond to, the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, there were three items of business that the board wants to address at the meeting today.

First, on agenda Item #4, Executive Director Marlene Anielski would like to bring the board up to date on the enactment of House Bill 197 and how it affects our licensees.

COVID-19 UPDATE: HB 197 SIGNED IN LAW ON MARCH 27, 2020:

Amended substitute House Bill 197 which was signed into law on March 27th, does affect the Vision Professionals Board.

One item in the enacted emergency pandemic law is that any expiration date which has or will occur during the emergency pandemic period has been extended 90 days or to December 1st which is sooner.

Therefore, the newly passed law affects The Vision Professionals Board:

1. Previously, any optician that has not completed the renewal of their 2020 license as a LATE RENEWAL by March 30th, of 2020, had to retake the national exam as a requirement to receive an active license. With the new enacted law of HB197, the optician now has until June 30th of 2020 to renew their 2020 license, which is still considered a LATE RENEWAL.

All affected inactive opticians have received an email indicating the extended timeframe of a late 2020 renewal. As long as the renewal application is completed, the optician may still receive a 2020 license. Currently, there are 77 inactive opticians that have not renewed.

2. Currently, apprentices are registering via the new automated system of receiving their registration cards via a pdf attached to an email versus the old method of receiving their registration cards in the mail. Since the apprentice registration cards expire on June 30th, 2020, that deadline may be extended for 90 days if the State of Ohio still in the emergency pandemic period.
3. Optometrists that have not completed a LATE renewal by April 30th, 2020 for their 2020 license now have until July 30, 2020 to renew. Currently, there are 14 inactive optometrists that have not renewed.

All of the three items that I addressed will be reassessed as to expiration timeframes since the emergency pandemic period is still a developing situation.

President Nye then addressed that next, agenda item #5, is the Board's consideration of the emergency rule for Telehealth Communication. I would like to thank Governor DeWine in his consideration of addressing the needs of our licensees through an executive order. As essential health care workers, it is important that optometrists have the tools they need to care for the citizens of Ohio and adoption of this rule will allow eyecare delivery to keep pace with patient needs and evolving technology. The telehealth communication rule is 4725-25-01. I will entertain a motion relative to the consideration of this rule change.

EMERGENCY OAC RULE 4725-25-01 – TELEHEALTH COMMUNICATION:

Darrell Dye, O.D. moved that the Board approve the submission of Emergency Rule 4725-25-01 and that the rule be sent to Governor DeWine for executive order consideration. Thomas Barracato seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken by Dr. Davis. The motion passed unanimously.



Lastly, President Nye addressed agenda item #6 stating as follows; it is the Board's consideration of addressing the twenty-five continuing education hours that optometrists are required to obtain every year by September 30th. In recognition of the cancellation of many in-person events that typically provide continuing education for Vision Professionals Board licensees, as well as the need to have Ohio's optometrists readily available to assist in the current state of emergency, I would like the board's consideration of a waiver relative to the current limitation of 10 hours of online education. The waiver would be addressing the need of our licensees, while still protecting the citizens of Ohio. With this proposal, 25 hours of continuing education would still be required by our licensees, but those 25 hours would be allowed to be completed either in person or online, with no limitation as to the number of online hours during this educational cycle. The 25-hour CE requirement is established in the Ohio Revised Code, but the current 10-hour limitation has been established in our Rules. I will entertain a motion relative to this consideration.

OAC RULE 4725-9-03 – BOARD APPROVAL OF CONTINUING EDUCATION:

As a result of the current pandemic, for the year 2020, I Cheryl Archer, O.D. move that the Board recognizes optometrists do not have the ability to attend live or on site courses and that the Board accepts COPE or Board approved online continuing education courses to fulfill the annual continuing education requirements through September 30, 2020. Darrell Dye, O.D. seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken by Dr. Davis. The motion passed unanimously.

Hearing no other issues for discussion, President Nye requested a motion to adjourn the Board Meeting.

It was moved by Darrell Dye, O.D. and seconded by Brian Miller that the April 16, 2020, meeting of the Ohio Vision Professionals Board be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously.

President Nye adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting at 1:22 p.m. April 16, 2020.

ATTESTED:

PRESIDENT, DR. THOMAS NYE

SECRETARY, DR. JACQUELINE DAVIS

Future Board Meeting Dates:

- May 21, 2020
- August 13, 2020
- November 19, 2020