

ANNUAL REPORT

STATE FISCAL YEAR (SFY) 2019

July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019



**Ohio Vision Professionals Board
77 South High Street, 16th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215**

www.Vision.Ohio.gov

614.466.9709 office

614.995.5392 fax

Table of Contents

Ohio Vision Professionals Board (VPB).....	3
Finances.....	5
Licensee Activities.....	6
Investigator Activities.....	7



Ohio Vision Professionals Board

MISSION

The mission of the Vision Professionals Board is to protect and serve the public of Ohio by effectively regulating the practices of Optometry, Opticianry and Ocularistry in Ohio. We strive to be a national leader for the establishment of professional practice standards and licensure of Optometrists, Opticians, and Ocularists.

HISTORY

The Ohio Vision Professionals Board came into existence on January 21, 2018. House Bill 49 of the 132nd General Assembly consolidated the State Board of Optometry and the Optical Dispensers Board into the Vision Professionals Board. The Board currently licenses and regulates over 7,000 optometrists, optical dispensers, ocularists and apprentices.

BOARD MEETINGS

Four meetings were held during the SFY 2019. All meetings are open to the public with upcoming dates and times listed on the website. The minutes of the meetings are posted on the website.

BOARD MEMBERS

The Board fulfills numerous duties to make certain that the citizens of the state of Ohio receive care from qualified optometrists, opticians, and ocularists. Those duties include overseeing activities of licensing the professions, adopting rules and policies, and deciding disciplinary issues of licensees.

The Board is comprised of four (4) optometrists, two (2) opticians and one public member. The Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoints members to three-year (3) terms. Members are eligible to serve only three consecutive terms. Board members are compensated for actual time devoted to the Board's affairs and are reimbursed for travel expenses. During SFY 2019 the Board consisted of the following members:

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Appointed</u>	<u>Term Expiration</u>
Cheryl Archer, O.D., President, Bowling Green	March 23, 2019	March 22, 2022
Brian J. Miller, BCO, Secretary, Toledo	January 21, 2018	March 22, 2021
Thomas Barracato, Akron	March 23, 2019	March 22, 2022
Jacqueline Davis, O.D., Columbus	March 23, 2019	March 22, 2022
Darrell Dye, O.D., Dublin	January 21, 2018	March 22, 2021
Kimberly Mermis, Public Member, Columbus	January 21, 2018	March 22, 2020
Thomas Nye, O.D., Hamilton	January 21, 2018	March 22, 2020

Ohio Vision Professionals Board

BOARD STAFF

The staff fulfills numerous duties to make certain that the citizens of the state of Ohio receive care from qualified optometrists, opticians, and ocularists. Those duties include annually licensing optometrists, opticians, and ocularists, registering apprentices, investigating complaints, compliance initiatives, and monitoring. The staff also performs numerous activities and services such as clarifying laws and rules, administrative rule filings, legislative activities, fulfilling public records requests, and administrative functions including answering inquiries, fiscal, human resources, records retention, inventory and asset management.

Staff

Marlene Anielski, Executive Director

Dave Bailey, Enforcement Investigator

Adela Lopez-Wellman, Administrative Professional 4

Wilma Simmons, Administrative Professional 4



Finances

BUDGET

The Board is self-supported through revenue generated from application and annual renewal fees. The Board does not receive any funds from the State's General Revenue Fund. As required by ORC 4734.54, all receipts of the Board are deposited into the Occupational and Professional Licensing Fund (4K9). The joint fund is the depository for revenue from various licensing boards.

The following illustrates the Board's revenues and expenditures for SFY 2019:

REVENUES

<u>Description</u>	<u>Revenue</u>
Licenses and renewals.....	\$767,006
Fines and penalties.....	19,800
TOTAL	<u>\$786,806</u>

EXPENDITURES

<u>Description</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>
500 and 510 Account (e.g. payroll, hearing examiners, experts, court reporters, membership dues).....	\$353,120
520 Account (e.g. maintenance fees, rent, supplies, travel, credit card processing, printing).....	134,526
TOTAL	<u>\$487,646</u>

APPROPRIATIONS

<u>SFY</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
2019.....	\$656,595
2018.....	\$663,521
2017.....	\$648,734

Licensee Activities

Licenses for State Fiscal Years ending June 30th

Type of license	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
General Optometrist.....	12	14
Diagnostic Optometrist.....	11	13
Military.....	14	14
Therapeutic Optometrist.....	<u>2,299</u>	<u>2,276</u>
TOTAL OPTOMETRISTS.....	<u>2,336</u>	<u>2,317</u>
Optician (Contact).....	18	15
Optician (Spectacle).....	2,033	2,028
Optician (Dual).....	993	1,019
Ocularist.....	8	8
Apprentice Optician (multiple registrations).....	1,880	<u>2,016</u>
TOTAL OPTICIANS / OCULARISTS / APPRENTICES.....	<u>4,932</u>	<u>5,086</u>
GRAND VPB TOTAL.....	<u>7,268</u>	<u>7,403</u>

Investigator Activities

Enforcement

The investigator for the Ohio Vision Professionals Board serves the public through enforcement of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) and Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) sections related to the practices of optometry, opticianry, ocularistry and registering optician apprentices. Other primary functions of the investigator include the examination and resolution of complaints, unannounced site inspections, profession inquiries and reviewing advertisements of practices throughout the state. The inspections ensure compliance with applicable laws and rules relating to the professions in protecting the public. During inspections the investigator focuses on the overall condition of the office, equipment requirements and other practice related matters. Board decisions on discipline and administrative hearings are entered into the National Practitioners Data Bank (NPDB). The investigator presents laws and rules training sessions accompanied with a proficiency test for newly graduated optometrists and doctors seeking licensure in Ohio from other states.

Statistics of Investigative Complaints

PRIORITY LEVEL – A level assigned to each complaint illustrating the amount of investigation efforts necessary to resolve the complaint.

- **High** - Review by board member and AAG, interviews complainant, respondent, and witnesses, obtains reports, may include inspection, collection and assembling evidence, and usually ends in consent agreement or a higher resolve.
- **Moderate** - Review by board member and AAG, closed in a timely manner after minimal investigation.
- **Low** - Usually closed after an understanding is reached from complainant and respondent without extensive investigation.

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Investigations*.....	67	55

Statistics of Inspections

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Inspections*.....	8	54

*Calendar year data.