

ANNUAL REPORT



FY 2018

January 21, 2018 – June 30, 2018

Ohio Vision Professionals Board
77 South High Street, Suite 1670
Columbus, OH 43215
Tel (614) 466-9709
Fax (614) 995-5392
www.Vision.Ohio.gov

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contents

About the Board_____	1
Board Members & Meetings_____	2
Budgetary Matters_____	3
Examination & License Activity_____	4
Enforcement Statistics & Discipline_____	5

ABOUT THE BOARD

About the Board

MISSION OF THE BOARD

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 OF THE BOARD

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 regulates over 6,500 optometrists, optical dispensers, apprentices and ocularists. The Board enjoys excellent working relationships with the regulated community as well as The Ohio State University College of Optometry, the Ohio Optometric Association, the Opticians Association of Ohio, and major employers. The cooperative effort allows for a proactive approach to solving mutual issues, advancing the profession, and simultaneously assuring proper protection for Ohioans.

DUTIES OF THE BOARD

The Board fulfills numerous duties to make certain that the citizens of the state of Ohio are afforded care from qualified optometrists, opticians, and ocularists. Those duties include licensing optometrists, opticians, and ocularists, annual license renewal, investigating complaints, compliance initiatives and discipline and monitoring. The Board also performs numerous other activities and services such as clarifying and interpreting its laws and rules, administrative rules filings and development, filling public record requests, legislative activities, and administrative functions including fiscal, human resources, payroll processing, records retention, inventory and asset management.

BOARD STAFF

Board Staff

The Board employed 5 full time employees during FY 18 to carry out its duties and responsibilities.

Katie Eagan, Executive Director

Wilma Simmons, Administrative Professional 4

Adela Lopez, Administrative Professional 4

Dave Bailey, Enforcement Investigators

Eric Spence, Enforcement Investigators (resigned 6/29/2018)

Board Meetings

The Board conducted three meetings during Fiscal Year 2018 on the following dates: January 21, 2018, February 28, 2018 and May 24, 2018. All scheduled meetings of the Board are posted on the Board's website and open to the public. Upon request, any person may obtain advance notification of the time, place and purpose of all meetings of the Board.

The Board is comprised of optometrists, opticians, an ocularist, and a public member. The Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoints members to three-years, with each term commencing on the twenty-third of March and ending on the twenty-second day of March. Each member shall hold office from the date of appointment until the end of the term for which the member was appointed, except that a member shall continue in office after the expiration date of the member's term until the member's successor takes office. No member shall serve more than three consecutive terms. Board members are compensated hourly for actual time devoted to the Board's affairs and are reimbursed for their travel expenses. During Fiscal Year 2018 the Board consisted of the following members:

Brian J. Miller, BCO, President

Toledo, OH

Appointed: 1/21/2018

Term Expires: 3/22/2021

Cheryl Archer, O.D., Secretary

Bowling Green, OH

Appointed: 1/21/2018

Term Expires: 3/22/2019

Thomas Barracato

Akron, OH

Appointed: 1/21/2018

Term Expires: 3/22/2019

Darrell Dye, O.D.

Dublin, OH

Appointed: 1/21/2018

Term Expires: 3/22/2021

Jacqueline Davis, O.D.

Columbus, OH

Appointed: 1/21/2018

Term Expires: 3/22/2019

Thomas Nye, O.D.

Hamilton, OH

Appointed: 1/21/2018

Term Expires: 3/22/2020

Kimberly Mermis, Public Member

Columbus, OH

Appointed: 1/21/2018

Term Expires: 3/22/2020

BUDGETARY MATTERS

Budgetary Matters

The Board is self-supported primarily through revenue generated from application and renewal fees. The Board does not receive any funds from the State's General Revenue Fund. As required by the Ohio Revised Code, ORC 4734.54, all receipts of the Board are deposited into the Occupational and Professional Licensing Fund (4K90).

FISCAL SUMMARY

The following table illustrates the Board's revenues and expenditures for FY 2018.

REVENUES	
DESCRIPTION	REVENUE
Licenses & Renewal Fees	\$33,7601
Rosters & Records	\$0
Fines & Penalties	\$2,150
TOTAL	\$35,910

EXPENDITURES	
DESCRIPTION	EXPENSE
500 & 510 Account (e.g.: payroll, hearing examiner, experts, court reporters, membership dues)	\$181,640
520 Account (e.g.: state maintenance fees, rent, supplies, travel, credit card processing, printing)	\$50,506
530 Account (e.g.: computers, equipment)	\$0
TOTAL	\$232,146

APPROPRIATIONS	
FISCAL YEAR	APPROPRIATION
2016	\$630,775
2017	\$648,734
2018	\$663,521

EXAMINATION & LICENSE ACTIVITY

Examination & License Activity

The Board requires all applicants for licensure to successfully take and pass an online Jurisprudence examination. Applicants are permitted to take the exam once they have met all of the Board's filing requirements and their application is approved.

LICENSE ACTIVITY AS OF JUNE 30, 2018

TYPE OF LICENSE	TOTAL ACTIVE
Optometrists	2,200
Opticians	3,081
Ocularist	8
Apprentice Opticians	1,572

Enforcement Statistics & Discipline

The investigator for the Ohio Vision Professionals Board serves the public through enforcement of ORC sections related to the practices of optometry, opticianry, and ocularistry. While the primary function of the investigator is the examination of patient complaints, the investigator also conducts unannounced on-site inspections of practices throughout the state. These visits ensure compliance with applicable laws and rules relating to these disciplines. During inspections, the investigator focuses on the overall condition of the office, equipment requirements, and other practice related matters. The investigator also inspects advertising by optometrists for compliance. The investigator presents laws and rules training sessions for newly licensed optometrists throughout the year and biannually at The Ohio State University (OSU) College of Optometry.

During 2018, there were a total of fifty-two formal complaints received. All complaints were investigated and finalized. There were also sixty-five informal complaints received in 2018. All of these informal complaints were satisfactorily resolved through mediation or referral to other agencies. Fifty-four on-site inspections were performed during the year 2018 in various counties across the state, generating 2,217 travel miles.

The board investigator presented live laws and rules training sessions to two applicants/licenseses on various dates throughout the year, plus approximately sixty-five students were also trained at the OSU College of Optometry during two separate evening sessions. Seventy-seven applicants received laws and rules training electronically via a PowerPoint presentation designed for that purpose. A proficiency test is also given in conjunction with this electronic course.

There were two formal disciplinary actions taken by the board for the year. One licensee received a notice of hearing after an investigation revealed habitual illegal drug abuse and other improper conduct. The licensee was unable to renew their license and subsequently closed their business. The other action involved an optometrist who failed to disclose critical information during their license renewal process. Further investigation revealed additional issues, which resulted in the optometrist being placed under a consent agreement. The board investigator offered support to the Ohio State Medical Board and the Ohio Attorney Generals Office.

<u>Actions (Calendar Years)</u>	<u>2017*</u>	<u>2018+</u>
Formal Complaints Investigated	60	52
Miscellaneous Investigations	66	65
Total Investigations	95	117
On-Site Inspections	<u>59</u>	<u>54</u>
Total	280	288

*Former State Board of Optometry and Optical Dispensers Board
+Vision Professionals Board