

Vermont Secretary of State
Office of Professional Regulation
BOARD OF OPTOMETRY
89 Main St, 3rd Fl, Montpelier, VT 05620-3402
Approved Minutes
Meeting of October 2, 2015

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 A.M.

Board Members Present: Daniel M. DaPolito, OD, Chair; Bonnie Liberty, Public Member, Secretary; Albert Pristaw, OD, Vice Chair; Francis Pinard, OD; and Jean Peterson, Public Member

OPR Staff present: Larry Novins, Board Counsel and Aprille Morrison, Licensing Board Specialist

2. **Approval of Minutes**

Dr. DaPolito called for approval of the Minutes of the March 6, 2015 meeting. Dr. Pinard made a motion, seconded by Ms. Liberty, to approve the minutes of the March 6, 2015 meeting as presented. Motion passed.

3. **Case Manager's Report:**

Aprille Morrison reported to the Board that they have two cases, one is ready for Investigative Team meeting and one is being presented as a closing report at today's meeting.

Report of concluded investigation in the matter of 2015-20. Dr. DaPolito made a motion to accept the report as presented. Dr. Pristaw seconded the motion. Motion passed. Dr. Pinard did not participate in the vote as he was the Investigative Team member.

4. **Election of Officers**

Dr. Pinard made a motion to keep the current slate of officers, Dr. DaPolito as Chair, Dr. Pristaw as Vice Chair and Ms. Liberty as Secretary. Ms. Peterson seconded the motion. Motion passed

5. **Formal Application Approval**

Dr. Pinard made a motion to formally approve the following applicants for licensure in Vermont. Ms. Liberty seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Brooke Donaher
Kenneth Lawenda

Ellen Chasens
Laura Werner

Eric Syverson

6. **Continuing Education Approvals:**

Dr. Pinard made a motion to approve Betty Rodriguez's request for the American Academy of Optometry's 2015 Annual meeting for forty-seven (47) hours of continuing education. Dr.

DaPolito seconded the motion. Motion passed. The meeting will be held October 7-8, 2015.

7. **Legislation/Rule Making:** Mr. Novins spoke to the Board regarding Optometrists prescribing rights with the DEA. The language currently in the Optometry statutes refers to therapeutic pharmaceutical agents but the DEA feels this does not include schedule 2 drugs. Mr. Novins will reach out to Government Operations to see the possibility of either amending the statute language or if a letter from them directed to the DEA will take care of this matter.

8. **Discussion Item(s):**

8:30 am – Dr. Robert Cotter. Dr. Cotter addressed the Board regarding amending Administrative Rule 3.2b to allow two hours of practice management continuing education credits to be allowed within the forty hours of continuing professional education currently required for Optometrists. General Counsel, as well as Board members, explained to Dr. Cotter that the Board cannot change their Administrative Rules at will and the purpose of the Board is to regulate the practice of Optometry to protect the public. The Board informed Dr. Cotter that when they are ready for their next Administrative Rules rewrite they will review the current Administrative Rules pertaining to continuing education to see if changes need to be made as well as hold public hearings to get the profession's input on changes.

9:30 am – Colin Benjamin, Director of OPR. Mr. Benjamin informed the Board of their current budget status. The Office recommends the Board monitor their budget over the next year and if they are still on track they may want to consider lowering fees. Dr. Pinard made a motion to keep fees where they are for this fiscal year and review again in 2016. Dr. Pristaw seconded the motion. Motion passed.

9. The next scheduled meeting of the Board will be Friday, March 4, 2016 at 8:30 am. The additional 2016 meeting dates are June 3rd and October 7th.
10. **Adjournment:** Dr. DaPolito made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:03 am. Dr. Pristaw seconded the motion. Motion passed.