

Vermont Secretary of State
Office of Professional Regulation
BOARD OF OPTOMETRY
National Life Building, North, FL 2, Montpelier, Vermont
Approved Minutes
Meeting of June 3, 2009
Via Phone Conference

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:33 A.M.

Members participating: Jon D. Eriksson, O.D. Chairman; Lois M. Shiozawa, O.D.; Daniel M. DaPolito, O.D. and Joyce E. Zampieri.

OPR Staff present: Carla Preston, Unit Administrator and Kristy Kemp, Administrative Assistant.

2. The Chair called for approval of the Minutes of the March 18th meeting. On page 1, the spelling of Karena Shippee's name was corrected, and on page 2, the 2nd sentence in the 5th paragraph was deleted so that the paragraph now reads: The Board and the VOA both agreed that raising the standards over time is good and will work together to ensure that it is fair and equal. The VOA is welcome to prepare and submit draft legislation to the Board for consideration.

Dr. DaPolito made a motion, seconded by Dr. Shiozawa, to approve the Minutes of the March 18, 2009 meeting as corrected. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Reports
4. Hearings/Stipulations/Reports of Concluded Investigations

2008-496 (OD01-1208) – The Board reviewed the Report of Concluded Investigation. Chairman Eriksson made a motion, seconded by Dr. Shiozawa, to accept the Investigative Team's recommendation and conclude this case without charges. The question was called and the motion passed. Dr. DaPolito, Investigating Member, did not participate in the vote.

5. Legislation/Rules

Ms. Preston reported that the OPR bill, H.86, passed the Legislature. The Board's proposed legislative changes will become effective on July 1, 2009. Ms. Preston and Board Counsel will review the application for licensure to determine if changes are needed based on the amended statutes. The revised application will be forwarded to members for review and comment.

6. Licensing

Andrew P. Kluka, O.D. – The Board reviewed Dr. Kluka's application and supporting documentation which included prior disciplinary action(s). Ms. Kemp will verify the status of his licenses in other states and compliance with any conditions. The Board voted to approve Dr. Kluka for licensure with endorsements for Therapeutic Pharmaceutical Agents and Diagnostic Pharmaceutical Agents subject to verification that he is in good standing in the State of Illinois where the disciplinary action occurred. The Board determined that he was not eligible for the Glaucoma endorsement.

7. Newsletter topics

The Board plans to prepare a fall newsletter. Dr. Eriksson will cover the results of the audit for co-management and treating glaucoma in his Chairman's report. Other topics would include the results of requests for additional drugs on the formulary, proposed legislative changes, a reminder for licensees to contact the Secretary of State's Office versus Board members independently, OPR's new licensing system (eLicense), statistics, etc. The Board will also encourage licensees to voluntarily send in their evidence of having treated five newly diagnosed glaucoma patients in collaboration with an ophthalmologist prior to renewal time.

8. Correspondence

The Board reviewed the March 26, 2009 Memorandum from Sue Weingartner, Executive Director of the Montana Optometric Association, announcing the MOA 2009 Annual Educational Conference & Exposition to be held May 6-9, 2009 in Montana. Since the program was approved by The Council on Optometric Practitioner Education (COPE), it did not also need approval for continuing education from the Board.

9. Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry, Inc. - Correspondence

The Board reviewed the May 12, 2009 Memorandum regarding Optometric Guidelines for Independent Continuing Education (ICE) Press Release. Ms. Kemp will forward this information to members for review and comment.

10. American Optometric Association - Correspondence

11. National Board of Examiners in Optometry - Correspondence

12. Public Comment

13. Other Business Introduced by the Board

The Board discussed the national move toward board certification for optometrists which will be discussed at the upcoming Vermont Optometric Association meeting. The Board decided to let it play out and see how the average optometrist feels about it. States will weigh in on the matter. The Board indicated that it appears to be a political push by the federal government and insurance/third parties are directing the issue. The Board feels that the current process ensures competency. The Board will continue to monitor the issue.

14. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Wednesday, September 30, 2009 at 8:30 AM.

15. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Preston, Unit Administrator
Office of Professional Regulation