

A meeting of the **Connecticut Board of Examiners for Opticians** was held on **March 1, 2021**.

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BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Daniel Denegre, LO  
Jenney Rivard, L.O  
Alden Mead, JD, Public Member

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Jeffrey Kardys, Board Liaison

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The meeting was called to order at 8:02 a.m. Participants were present via Microsoft Teams.

**I. MINUTES**

The minutes from the December 7, 2020 were approved as edited on a motion by Ms. Rivard, seconded by Mr. Denegre.

**II. Examination Update**

Deborah Brown, Health Program Associate, DPH Practitioner Licensing and Investigations Section provided an examination update.

At this time there is no new guidance regarding the administration of the State Practical Examination.

There was discussion of preparing for the resumption of the practical examination upon an easing of the COVID pandemic.

There was also discussion regarding the continuing education requirement exemption during the pandemic.

**III. Additional Business**

Lisa Tinson, LO asked the Board to address an email she sent on February 26, 2021 concerning the Connecticut opticianry statutes and her eligibility for licensure in Connecticut.

Ms. Tinson was informed that the Board does not have jurisdiction with regard to initial licensure eligibility and that her email was forwarded to the Department of Public Health Office of Practitioner licensing for review and a response.

**IV. Adjourn**

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 a.m. on motion by Ms. Rivard.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jenney Rivard, LO  
Connecticut Board of Examiners for Opticians

A meeting of the **Connecticut Board of Examiners for Opticians** was held on **June 7, 2021**.

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BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jenney Rivard, L.O  
Alden Mead, JD, Public Member

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Jeffrey Kardys, Board Liaison

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The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. Participants were present via Microsoft Teams.

I. **MINUTES**

The minutes from the March 1, 2021 were approved as written on a motion by Ms. Rivard, seconded by Mr. Mead.

II. **Department of Public Health Updates**

Stephen Carragher, Public Health Services Manager, DPH Practitioner Licensing and Investigations Section reported that 27 new optician licenses have been issued since December 2020 and nine applications have been filed since January 2021 and are currently pending.

Following discussion pertaining to the practical licensing examination, Ms. Rivard made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mead that individuals who submit their application for licensure prior to August 1, 2021 will be allowed to take the virtual examination offered by the American Board of Opticianry & National Contact Lens Examiners and that individuals who submit their licensure application on or after August 1, 2021 will take the in-person hands on practical examination administered by the Department of Public Health. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Rivard asked that after the current Board vacancy is filled by the Office of the Governor that the Board and the department coordinate a review of the hands on practical examination content and scoring.

Mr. Carragher reported that at this time there has not been a determination made regarding continuing education compliance time frames that were waived during the COVID pandemic. Ms. Rivard reiterated that virtual continuing education must be taken in a live session that allows for the taking of attendance

Michelle Clement, LO addressed the Board and the Department concerning the administration of the hands on practical examination and suggested that improvements in the process need to be made.

III. **Adjourn**

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:57 a.m. on motion by Ms. Rivard.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jenney Rivard, LO  
Connecticut Board of Examiners for Opticians

A meeting of the **Connecticut Board of Examiners for Opticians** was held on **September 20, 2021**.

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BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jenney Rivard, L.O  
Alden Mead, JD, Public Member

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Jeffrey Kardys, Board Liaison

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The meeting was called to order at 8:31 a.m. Participants were present via Microsoft Teams.

I. **Minutes**

The minutes from the June 7, 2021 meeting were approved a motion by Ms. Rivard, seconded by Mr. Mead.

II. **Department of Public Health Updates**

Stephen Carragher, Public Health Services Manager, DPH Practitioner Licensing and Investigations Section reported that no applications for the virtual examination have been received after August 1, 2021.

Mr. Carragher also reported that the continuing education waiver due to the COVID pandemic is still in effect.

III, **Public Act 21-152**

Stephen Carragher, Public Health Services Manager, DPH discussed Section of Public Act 21-152 which requires the Commissioner of the DPH, not later than January 15, 2022, to submit a report the General Assembly, after consultation with Boards and Commissions, as to whether would be in the best interest of the state (1) for any examination administered by the state to be administered by a national organization acceptable to the Department of Public Health, and (2) to reduce any experience and training requirements while increasing any such examination's ability to test applicants' knowledge or skills.

The Board commented that it does not concur with the use of a national examination. The Board also commented it is not in favor of have separate licenses for eyewear and contact lenses.

IV. **Adjourn**

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jenney Rivard, LO  
Connecticut Board of Examiners for Opticians

A meeting of the **Connecticut Board of Examiners for Opticians** was held on **December 6, 2021**.

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BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:	Jenney Rivard, L.O Alden Mead, JD, Public Member
BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:	None
ALSO PRESENT:	Alfreda Gaither, Hearing Officer Stephen Carragher, Public Health Services Manager, DPH Judith Bailey, DPH, Practitioner Licensing and Investigations Section

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The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. Participants were present via Microsoft Teams.

**I. Minutes**

The minutes from the September 20, 2021 meeting were approved as edited on a motion by Ms. Rivard, seconded by Mr. Mead.

**II. Department of Public Health Updates**

Judith Bailey, Department of Public Health reported that two new licensure applications are pending review. Stephen Carragher, Public Health Services Manager, DPH Practitioner Licensing and Investigations Section reported there are still seven licensure applications pending that were received prior to August 1, 2021.

The Board expressed its concern about the length of time applications are pending

Mr. Carragher explained most pending applications are awaiting the submission of documentation for the determination of licensure eligibility

Skip Rivard on behalf the Connecticut Opticians Association commented that applications that are pending for a lengthy period of time and should be rejected by the Department.

**III. Practical Examination**

The Board asked that a practical examination be scheduled for June 2022. The application deadline for this examination will be May 1, 2022

**IV. Continuing Education**

Mr. Carragher reported that continuing education requirements are still suspended due to COVID policies

**V. Meeting Dates for 2022**

The following are the meeting dates for 2022.

March 7, 2022

June 6, 2022

September 12, 2022

December 5, 2022

All meetings will be scheduled for 8:30 a.m.

**VI. Other Discussion**

Ms. Rivard inquired about a recent matter involving an optical establish that was penalized due to insurance fraud.

The Department did not have any information to offer.

**VII. Adjourn**

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jenney Rivard, LO  
Connecticut Board of Examiners for Opticians