

BOARD OR COMMISSION: Board of Examiners for Opticians
Regular Meeting of August 7, 2023
TIME: 8:30
LOCATION: Microsoft TEAMS

MINUTES

| Name | Member | Present (Y/N) | | DPH STAFF | Present (Y/N) |
|---------------------|----------------|---------------|--|--|---------------|
| Alden Mead, Esq | Board - Public | Y | | Alfreda Gaither, Legal Counsel to the Board | Y |
| Jenny T. Rivard, LO | Board - Public | Y | | Tyra Anne Peluso | Y |

CALL TO ORDER 8:30 am

1. Minutes

Review and approval of the minutes from May 22, 2023: Attorney Alden Mead moved to accept the minutes. Jenney Rivard seconded. Unanimously approved.

2. Old Business

A. Proposed Regulations Regarding Requirements for Education and Training for Apprentices Chris Andresen, Practitioner License and Investigation Section (PLIS)

Chris Andresen informed the Board that the Department does not intend to issue proposed regulations to add additional training requirements for apprentices; but rather, the Department is currently reviewing the licensing exam itself in light of the low pass rates for all applicants (not just apprentices) on two of the three portions of the exam.

Jenny Rivard suggested that additional information is needed relative to a historical pass rate going back approximately 10 years to look at what may have changed impacting the results. Also is it certain portion of the exam specifically or possibly by school.

3. New Business

A. Discussion of National Academy of Opticians Career Progression Program

Jenny Rivard stated this should be discussed when the board is closer to a decision on what is needed/wanted. Skip Rivard suggested they hear a discussion of programs in various states. Aarlan Acesto of Middlesex Community College (program coordinator) discussed high level concerns with test, specific to contact lens safety. Chris Andresen stated that the Department has no issue in using the national requirement. Jenny Rivard stated that additional board members are needed to properly assess and evaluate consistency among programs and decide.

4. Public Comment : None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn made by Alden Mead; Seconded by Ms. Rivard; VOTE: Unanimous

Adjourned at: 9:09 am