

The Connecticut Board of Examiners for Opticians held a meeting on Tuesday February 9, 2016 at the Department of Public Health, 410 Capitol Avenue, Third Floor Conference Room "C", Hartford, CT.

Board Members Present: René"Skip" Rivard, LO, Chairperson
Daniel Denegre, LO
Donna K. Bojus (Public Member)

Board Members Absent: None

Also Present: Jeffrey Kardys, Administrative Hearings Specialist/Board Liaison, DPH; DPH; Gary Griffin, Practitioner Investigation Unit, DPH; Deborah Brown, DPH Health Program Assistant; Alfreda Gaither, Esq., Staff Attorney, Hearing Office, DPH

Chairperson René Rivard called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m.

Mr. Rivard requested that a new Item II be added to the agenda to allow for possible comments from the public, moving current Item II to Item III. **Motion: Bojus; Second, DeNegre. Motion Passed.**

I. Minutes -

A. Motion to accept minutes from the meeting of November 17, 2015 **Motion: Bojus; Second, Denegre. Motion Passed.**

II. Audience Participation

A. No comments from the public

III. Department of Health Updates

A. Investigations Update - *Gary Griffin, Practitioner, Investigation Unit, DPH*

1. Mr. Griffin reported one case under investigation. One new case regarding possible unlicensed activity has been opened. He reported that alleged optician activity at Opticare is still under investigation. No previous cases have been closed.

2. As first referenced in the Board meeting of November 17, 2015, the investigation of a three location ophthalmology practice allegedly using unlicensed personnel dispensing eyewear is ongoing. The practice has one location holding an optical selling permit. Claiming that although optical goods are displayed at the other two locations, nothing is dispensed. Mr. Griffin acknowledged that Kathleen Boulware, Practitioner Licensing and Investigations Section, DPH, is reviewing the situation. Mr. DeNegre suggested an unannounced on-site inspection. Detailed discussion followed.

3. Chairperson Rivard respectfully requested expeditious resolutions to all pending investigations.

- B. Examination Update: Deborah Brown, *DPH Health Program Assistant*
1. Ms. Brown announced the results of the December 2015 licensing exams.
 - a. Contact Lens Exam
 - (1) 14 candidates
 - (a) 2 Did not attend
 - (b) 7 Failed
 - (c) 5 Passed
 - b. Eyewear Exam
 - (1) 22 candidates
 - (a) 2 Did not attend
 - (b) 15 Failed
 - (c) 5 Passed

IV. **Application deadline for Spring exams is March 31, 2016.**

V. **Additional Agenda Items:**

A. None

VI. **Examination Appeals**

A. Mr. Rivard explained to those in attendance the process of examination appeals. He invited those wishing to appeal their exams results to address the Board. Ms. Brown explained the notification process from the DPH.

1. Several candidates took the opportunity to address the Board and question the exam process.

B. Executive Session to Discuss Exam Appeals at 11:49 a.m. **Motion: Bojus; Second, Denegre. Motion Passed.**

C. Motion to Exit Executive Session 1:50 p.m. **Motion: Bojus; Second, Denegre. Motion Passed.**

VII. Adjourn

A. **Motion: DeNegre, Second Bojus. Motion Passed.** Meeting adjourned at 1:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

René R. Rivard
Connecticut Board of Examiners for Opticians

The Connecticut Board of Examiners for Opticians held a meeting on Tuesday May 10, 2016 at the Department of Public Health, 410 Capitol Avenue, Third Floor Conference Room "C", Hartford, CT.

Board Members Present by Telephone Conference: René "Skip" Rivard, LO, Chairperson
Daniel Denegre, LO
Donna K. Bojus (Public Member)

Board Members Absent: None

Also Present: Jeffrey Kardys, Administrative Hearings Specialist/Board Liaison, DPH; Joanne Yandow., Staff Attorney, Hearing Office, DPH.

Chairperson René Rivard called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

I.Minutes -

A.Motion to accept minutes from the meeting of February 9, 2016 **Motion: Bojus; Second, Denegre. Motion Passed.**

II.Department of Health Updates

A.Investigations Update - *Mr. Kardys reported for Mr. Griffin*

1.There are four ongoing investigations being conducted by the Department.
No other information was available.

B.Examination Update: *Mr. Kardys reported for Deborah Brown.*

1.Eligible candidates for the upcoming exams were announced.

a.Contact Lens Exam

(1)34 candidates

(a)26 new candidates

(b)8 retake candidates

b.Eyewear Exam

(1)44 candidates

(a)26 new candidates

(b)18 retake candidates

(c)State Law

i)26 candidates

2.Scheduling and staffing of the upcoming exams were discussed in detail.

III.Additional Agenda Items:

A.None

IV.Public Participation

A.A member of the audience asked to be recognized. Motion to add Public Participation to the Agenda. **Motion: Denegre; Second, Bojus. Motion Passed.**

V.Public Participation

1.Mr. Rivard recognized Mr. Marvin Key

a.Mr. Key asked if optical personnel training in an office which does not have an Optical Selling Permit would be granted apprentice hours towards licensing. In particular he questioned if hours are approved if the "optical selling permit was obtained fraudulently."

Mr. Rivard explained how apprentice training is recognized.

Ms. Yandow and Mr.Kardys explained that any questions regarding interpretation of training should be directed to the DPH licensing section.

2.Mr. Rivard recognized Mr. Ohan Karagozian.

a.Mr. Karagozian requested an update and the accreditation status of the optical program at Goodwin College.

Mr. Rivard explained that Goodwin College has a program offering a degree in Ophthalmic Science. He referred him to the college to check their accreditation status.

VI.Adjourn

A.**Motion DeNegre, Second Bojus. Motion Passed.** Meeting adjourned at 9:49 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

René R. Rivard

Connecticut Board of Examiners for Opticians

The Connecticut Board of Examiners for Opticians held a meeting on Wednesday September 21, 2016 at the Department of Public Health, 410 Capitol Avenue, Third Floor Conference Room "C", Hartford, CT.

Board Members Present by Telephone Conference: René "Skip" Rivard, LO, Chairperson
Daniel Denegre, LO
Donna K. Bojus (Public Member)

Board Members Absent: None

Also Present: Jeffrey Kardys, Administrative Hearings Specialist/Board Liaison, DPH; Deborah Brown, DPH Health Program Assistant; Judith Bailey, DPH Licensing Application Analyst; Celeste Dowdell, DPH Licensing Application Analyst; Alfreda Gaither, Esq., Staff Attorney, Hearing Office, DPH

Chairperson René Rivard called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

- I. Minutes -
 - A. Motion to accept minutes from the meeting of May 10, 2016 **Motion: Bojus; Second, Denegre. Motion Passed.**
- II. Department of Health Updates
 - A. Investigations Update - *Mr. Kardys reported for Mr. Griffin*
 1. There are three open investigations being conducted by the Department.
 - a. Cohens Fashion Optical - Danbury - investigation opened Mar 14, 2016
 - b. Cohens Fashion Optical - West Farms Mall - investigation opened Mar 15, 2016
 - c. Cohens Fashion Optical - Waterford - investigation opened Mar 13, 2016

Referring to the minutes of May 10, 2016, Mr. Rivard noted there were four cases under investigation. He reminded Mr. Kardys that the Board had previously requested they be informed of all closed cases as well as pending investigations. He will pass the request to Mr. Griffin.

Mr. Denegre asked the permit status of an optical shop in Bloomfield, CT. Mr. Rivard checked eLicense online and verified an Optical Selling Permit was valid.

- B. Examination Update: *Deborah Brown, DPH Health Program Assistant*
 1. Ms. Brown reported on the examination conducted in June 2016.
 - a. Contact Lens Exam - June 23
 - (1) 34 candidates
 - (a) 20 Passed
 - (b) 11 Failed
 - (c) 3 Did Not Attend
 - b. Eyewear Exam June 16 & 23
 - (1) 43 candidates
 - (a) 17 Passed
 - (b) 24 Failed
 - (c) 2 Did Not Attend
 - (2) State Law
 - (a) 26 candidates
 - i) 4 Failed

Ms. Brown will forward a breakdown of content area scores to the Board.

Mr. Rivard asked for a breakdown of candidates taking the exams for the first time in each of the three exams, and if possible, the number of times for each section all other candidates had retaken the exams.

2. Ms. Brown reported on applications for the Fall exams.
 - a. Eyewear
 - (1) 19 candidates
 - b. Contact Lens
 - (1) 9 candidates
 - c. State Law.
 - (1) 7 candidates
 - (a) 3 first time
 - (b) 4 repeat takers

Mr. Rivard commented that based on State Law candidates, it appears only 3 applicants for licensure will be taking the exams for the first time. Ms. Brown added that several candidates from June had not reapplied for examination.

III. Additional Agenda Items:

- A. Mr. Rivard asked that if an optician allowed h/her license to lapse, could an apprentice registration be granted. Ms. Brown confirmed that a previously licensed optician could not be re-registered as an apprentice. Mr. Rivard referenced a phone call received from a prospective employer who wanted to confirm previous credentials of an apprentice online. The optician reported that the DPH eLicense database confirmed a current apprentice registration and also listed that the candidate's optician licensed had lapsed due to non-renewal. Mr. Rivard will refer the name to Ms. Brown for confirmation.

IV. Adjourn

- A. **Motion DeNegre, Second Bojus. Motion Passed.** Meeting adjourned at 9:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

René R. Rivard
Connecticut Board of Examiners for Opticians