

BOARD OR COMMISSION: Opticians Board
DATE: May 22, 2023
TIME: 8:30
LOCATION: Microsoft TEAMS

MEETING MINUTES

Name	Member	Present (Y/N)		DPH STAFF	Present (Y/N)
Alden Mead, Esq	Public	Y		Stacy Schulman, Legal Counsel to the Board	Y
Jenny T. Rivard, LO		Y			

CALL TO ORDER 8:47 am

1. Minutes

Review and approval of the minutes from February 6, 2023: Attorney Alden Mead moved to accept the minutes. Jenney Rivard seconded. Unanimously approved.

2. DPH Updates

Update on Upcoming License Examination: Judith Bailey, DPH presented– there 22 candidates for the upcoming exam.

3. Old Business

A. Proposed Regulations Regarding Requirements for Education and Training for Apprentices Dante Costa, Public Health Policy Associate (Policy Office) – Attorney Costa asked what the Board is interested in changing. Ms. Rivard discussed that the Board is interested in increasing the apprenticeship requirements to include optical and eyewear and the Contact Lens Society’s contact lenses study. Goal is to address uniformity and examination passage rates.

Attorney Costa suggested not adding specifically named courses to allow more flexibility in selections. Attorney Costa’s office will help with the drafting.

Skip Rivard from the CT Opticians Association spoke about apprenticeships and what’s included in the course of training for licensure. He noted that there was previous discussion listed in minutes of December 2013. There is concern regarding the lack of hands-on training of opticians. Would like to

break down the required hours into different components to include specific disciplines. The statute presently includes a “limited apprenticeship.” The Board would work on the issue with Attorney Costa by scheduling additional meetings.

Attorney Costa provided information regarding the overall regulation process.

This discussion was for informational purposes only. No votes were taken.

B. Review of Recent Legislative Change to Connecticut General Statute § 20-150 - Optical Selling Permits.

Attorney Costa provided clarification regarding signage requirement: §20-150(e) provides that a violation of subsection (a) of §20-150 constitutes an unfair trade practice under subsection (a) of section 42-110b which is enforced by Dept. of Consumer Protection. She stated there are no formatting requirements, only content. The Department of Public Health does not enforce anything that has to do with an unfair trade practice. Board was interested in seeing signage requirements publicized somewhere and to have notification go out to all of the optical shops. Mr. Rivard noted that § 20-139a(c) provides the Commissioner the authority to “enforce such regulations as the commissioner deems necessary to maintain proper professional and ethical standards for opticians.” The Board would like something to go out regarding the size, location, and placement of signage.

This discussion was for informational purposes only. No votes were taken.

4. New Business : None

5. Public Comment : None

ADJOURNMENT

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

Adjourned at: 9:25 am