

## **AGENDA**

### **CONNECTICUT BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR OPTOMETRISTS**

**Wednesday, September 22, 2021  
9:00 AM**

**Department of Public Health  
410 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

- I. **MINUTES**  
Review and approval of the minutes from March 17, 2021 and April 28, 2021.
- II. **ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**

#### **ADJOURN**

**This meeting will be held by video conference**

**Board of Examiners for Optometrists via Microsoft Teams**

Join on your computer or mobile app

**[Click here to join the meeting](#)**

**Or call in (audio only)**

**[+1 860-840-2075](#)**

Phone Conference ID: 521 235 283#

*The following minutes are draft minutes which are subject to revision and which have not yet been adopted by the Board.*

A meeting of the **Connecticut Board of Examiners for Optometrists** was held on **March 17, 2021** via "Microsoft TEAMS"

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BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Matthew Blondin, OD, Chairman  
Susan Barrett  
Carol Goldberg, Esq.  
Lawrence Lefland, OD  
Joseph Pavano, III, OD  
Regina A. Strand, OD  
Lawrence M. Sweeney

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Alfreda Gaither, Esq., Hearing Officer, Public Health Hearing Office  
Jeffrey Kardys, Board Liaison  
Christian Andresen, Section Chief, DPH Practitioner Licensing and Investigation

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The meeting commenced at 9:02 a.m.

All participants were present via Microsoft TEAMS

**I. MINUTES**

The minutes from the November 18, 2020, meeting were approved on a motion by Dr. Lefland, seconded by Dr. Pavano.

**II. Additional Items**

**Continuing Education**

The Board would like the Department of Public Health (DPH) to allow for the 20 hours continuing education requirement to be taken remotely for the duration of the COVID 219 pandemic due to the lack of in-person instruction opportunities. Christian Andresen, Section Chief, DPH Practitioner Licensing and Investigation Section spoke to this issue and indicated that State statutes only allow for 6 of the 20 hours to be completed by distance-based learning. The remaining hours must be completed through direct live instruction that is physically attended by the licensee.

**COVID-19 Vaccinations**

The Board discussed the ability of Connecticut licensed optometrists to volunteer as vaccinators. Ms. Goldberg made a motion, seconded by Ms. Barrett, the Board supports the use of license optometrists, who have appropriate training, to serve as vaccinators at authorized CDC compliant vaccination sites. The motion passed unanimously.

**II. Adjourn**

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:28 a.m. on a motion by Dr. Lefland, seconded by Dr. Pavano.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Matthew Blondin, OD, Chairman  
Connecticut Board of Examiners for Optometrists

*The following minutes are draft minutes which are subject to revision and which have not yet been adopted by the Board.*

A meeting of the **Connecticut Board of Examiners for Optometrists** was held on **April 28, 2021** via "Microsoft TEAMS"

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BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Matthew Blondin, OD, Chairman  
Susan Barrett  
Carol Goldberg, Esq.  
Lawrence Lefland, OD  
Joseph Pavano, III, OD  
Lawrence M. Sweeney

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Regina A. Strand, OD

ALSO PRESENT: Alfreda Gaither, Esq., Hearing Officer, Public Health Hearing Office  
Jeffrey Kardys, Board Liaison

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The meeting commenced at 11:00 a.m. All participants were present via Microsoft TEAMS

**I. OFFICE OF LEGAL COMPLIANCE**

Ross Zeldes, OD – Petition No. 2021-220

Staff Attorney Diane Wilan presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Ross Zeldes, OD. Respondent was present but was not represented.

Mary Dietmann moved to grant the Department's Motion for Summary Suspension in that Attorney Wilan and Dr. Zeldes addressed the Board regarding the Department of Public Health motion.

Ms. Goldberg moved to grant the Department's Motion for Summary Suspension in that respondent's continued practice as an Optometrist is a clear and immediate danger to public health, safety, and welfare. The motion was seconded by Ms. Barrett and passed with all in favor except Dr. Pavano who was opposed. A hearing will be scheduled for May 7, 2021.

**II. Adjourn**

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Matthew Blondin, OD, Chairman  
Connecticut Board of Examiners for Optometrists