

AGENDA

CONNECTICUT BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR OPTOMETRISTS

Wednesday, June 8, 2022

9:00 AM

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

CALL TO ORDER

I. MINUTES

Review and approval of the minutes from February 9, 2022.

II. NEW BUSINESS

Schedule Administrative Hearing

Ross Zeldes, OD – Petition No. 2022-351

ADJOURN

This meeting will be held by remotely

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: 170 883 285#

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 **February 9, 2022** via "Microsoft TEAMS"

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
Jill Kennedy, Legislative Liaison, DPH

The meeting commenced at 9:00 a.m. All participants were present via Microsoft TEAMS.

I. MINUTES

The minutes from the December 8, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Ms. Barrett, seconded by Dr. Pavano.

II. New Business

A. PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Dr. Pavano made a motion seconded by Ms. Goldberg to add discussion of proposed legislation to the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed a proposal that would increase the expiration of a contact lens prescription from one year to two years.

Board members spoke in opposition to this proposal in that it would pose a danger to public health and safety.

Jill Kennedy, Legislative Liaison, DPH asked that Board members can send her their comments and DPH will forward them on.

Dr. Lefland made a motion, seconded by Ms. Barrett, that the Connecticut Board of Examiners for Optometrists, cannot and will not support a change to the one year expiration date for a contact lens prescription. The Standard of Care has been and continues to be to evaluate all contact lens wearers on a yearly basis. The one year contact lens expiration date ensures that a CL patient visits his/her eye care provider annually to confirm that the contact lenses are not causing medical complications or injury to the eyes.

Yearly examination also allows the practitioner to reinforce proper care and wearing schedules and to discuss new modalities and options that may be appropriate as the patient's age or visual situation changes.

The Board therefore firmly opposes any changes to Section 1, Section 19a-908 of the CT General Statutes as proposed in LCO 154.

B. MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

Ross Zeldes, OD – Petition No. 2021-220

The Board reviewed the Memorandum of Decision in the referenced matter. Dr. Lefland made a motion seconded Ms. Barrett to adopt the decision which imposes license suspension for six months with concurrent probation for 2 and one half years.

The motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Goldenberg who was opposed.

III. Adjourn

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:27 a.m.

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

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
HEALTHCARE QUALITY AND SAFETY BRANCH**

In re: Ross Zeldes, OD

Petition No. 2022-351

STATEMENT OF CHARGES

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §§19a-10 and 19a-14, the Department of Public Health ("Department") brings the following charges against Ross Zeldes:

1. Ross Zeldes of Stafford Springs, Connecticut ("respondent") is, and has been at all times referenced in this Statement of Charges, the holder of Connecticut optometrist license number 002162.
2. On or about February 9, 2022, the Connecticut Board of Examiners for Optometrists ordered a Memorandum of Decision in Petition No. 2021-220 ("Order") based, in part, upon respondent's abuse of cocaine in March 2021. The Order suspended respondent's optometrist license for six (6) months and concurrently placed his optometrist license on probation for two-and-one-half (2.5) years. The Order required respondent, in part, to participate in regularly scheduled therapy, attend "anonymous" or support group meetings, and submit to weekly random observed urine screens (collectively "terms of the Order").
3. From approximately February 9, 2022 through the present, respondent failed to comply with the terms of the Order and such failure does and/or may affect his practice of optometry.
4. Respondent's conduct as described above constitutes violations of the probationary terms required by the Order and subjects his license to revocation or other disciplinary action authorized by Connecticut General Statutes §§19a-17 and 20-133.

THEREFORE, the Department prays:

The Connecticut Board of Examiners for Optometrists, as authorized by Connecticut General Statutes §§20-133 and 19a-17, revoke or order other disciplinary action against respondent's license as it deems appropriate and consistent with law.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut this 3rd day of May, 2022.



Christian D. Andresen, MPH, CPH, Section Chief
Practitioner Licensing and Investigations Section
Healthcare Quality and Safety Branch