

A meeting of the **Connecticut Board of Examiners for Optometrists** was held on **March 17, 2021** 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
Christian Andresen, Section Chief, DPH Practitioner Licensing and Investigation
Stephen Carragher, Public Health Services Manager, DPH

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

Ms. Goldberg made a motion, seconded by Dr. Lefland, recommending that the Department of Public Health (DPH) allow for the 20 hours continuing education requirement to be taken remotely for the duration of the COVID 19 pandemic. The motion passed.

Christian Andresen, Section Chief, DPH Practitioner Licensing and Investigation Section and Stephen Carragher, Public Health Services Manager spoke to this issue. State statutes currently allow for 6 of the 20 hours of continuing education to be completed by distance-based learning. The remaining hours must be completed through direct live instruction that is physically attended by the licensee.

Mr. Andresen indicated that due to the current COVID situation the DPH will accept continuing education taken remotely towards fulfillment of requirements.

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.

III. 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

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

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

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

A meeting of the **Connecticut Board of Examiners for Optometrists** was held on **September 22, 2021** via "Microsoft TEAMS"

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Matthew Blondin, OD, Chairman
Susan Barrett
Carol Goldberg, Esq.
Joseph Pavano, III, OD
Lawrence Lefland, 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
Christian Andresen, Section Chief, DPH Practitioner Licensing and Investigation

The meeting commenced at 9:00 a.m.

All participants were present via Microsoft TEAMS

I. MINUTES

The minutes from the March 17, 2021 were reviewed. Dr. Blondin indicated the minutes as they pertain to continuing education need to be edited. The video of the meeting will be reviewed, and the minutes will be revised.

The minutes from the April 28, 2021 meeting were approved on a motion by Ms. Goldberg, seconded by Ms. Barrett.

II. Adjourn

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:09 a.m. on a motion by Ms. Barrett, seconded by Dr. Lefland.

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

A meeting of the **Connecticut Board of Examiners for Optometrists** was held on **December 8, 2021** via "Microsoft TEAMS"

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Regina A. Strand, OD
Lawrence M. Sweeney

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

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

I. MINUTES

The minutes from the March 17, 2021 and September 22, 2021, meetings were unanimously approved on a motion by Ms. Goldberg, seconded by Ms. Barrett.

II. Meeting Dates for 2021

The following are the meeting dates scheduled for 2022.

February 9, 2022

April 13, 2022

September 14, 2022

November 16, 2022

All meetings will be scheduled for 9:00 a.m.

III. Adjourn

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 a.m.

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