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STATE OF DELAWARE
BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY

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PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES:	Board of Examiners in Optometry
MEETING DATE AND TIME:	Thursday, April 12, 2018 at 4:30 p.m.
PLACE:	861 Silver Lake Boulevard, Dover, Delaware Conference Room B, Cannon Building
MINUTES APPROVED:	

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Sonja Biddle, Professional Member
Dr. Kevin Brown, Professional Member
Dr. Katherine Miller, Professional Member
Joseph Nestlerode, Public Member

Members Absent

Irvin Bowers, Public Member

DIVISION STAFF/DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL PRESENT

Jennifer Singh, Deputy Attorney General
Lisa Smith, Administrative Specialist II

OTHERS PRESENT

Jennifer Cohen	Linda Cohen
Bryan Sterling, D.O.	Elizabeth Cluff
W Lee MacKewiz	Hayley Sprague
Oliver Cleary	Aaron Yabkeinich
Lisa Goodman	Michael Smith
Matt J. (UNREADABLE)	Patricia Lynch, O.D.
Joseph Goldberg	Joseph Senall, O.D.
Celeste Epstein	Aimee Parker

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Biddle called the meeting to order at 4:30p.m.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBER

Mr. Nestlerode briefly introduced himself to the members of the Board.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

The Board reviewed the minutes of the February 8, 2018 meeting. Dr. Brown, made a motion, seconded by Dr. Miller, to approve the minutes as presented. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Rules and Regulations Public Hearing

At 4:32 p.m., Dr. Biddle called the public hearing to order. Ms. Singh stated the purpose of the hearing – TeleHealth Rules and Regulations Hearing. The members of the Board all stated their names for the record. The following items were marked as Board Exhibits for the record: Board Exhibit 1- News Journal affidavit of publication and Board Exhibit 2- Delaware State News affidavit of publication. Dr. Biddle opened the floor to the public for comments, for which there were none. Written public comment will be accepted until April 27, 2018. The Board will deliberate on any public comment received during their July 12, 2018 meeting. The Board went off the record at 4:34 p.m.

Application Withdrawal Request

The members of the Board reviewed and approved the letter submitted by Dr. Chelsea Ryzuk requesting to withdraw her Therapeutic Optometrist Licensure application.

Review of Completion of Internship

The Board reviewed the Completion of Internship application for Jessica Johnson. Dr. Miller made a motion, seconded by Dr. Brown, to approve Jessica Johnson for licensure. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Review of Continuing Education Request(s)

Dr. Brown made a motion, seconded by Dr. Miller, to ratify the Continuing Education request from:

Eye Care of Delaware-Is it Glaucoma? Differentiating Glaucoma from Non-Glaucomatous Neuropathy- 2 Hours

Eye Care of Delaware- The Changing Landscape of Micro Incisional Glaucoma Surgery (MIGS) -2 Hours

By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Review of Internship Application(s)

Dr. Brown made a motion, seconded by Dr. Miller to approve Christopher Luft to begin his six month internship. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Review of Reciprocity Application(s)

The Board reviewed the Reciprocity application submitted by Lila Goodwin. Dr. Brown, made a motion, seconded by Dr. Miller to PTD the application based on:

§ 2109 Reciprocity.

The Board shall waive the internship requirement for an applicant holding a valid license to practice optometry issued by another jurisdiction and who has practiced for a minimum of 5 years in such other jurisdiction with standards of licensure which are equal to or greater than those of this chapter and grant a license by reciprocity to such applicant.

By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dr. Biddle discussed the letter submitted to the Board by ARBO.

Dr. Biddle requested that correspondence be sent to the North Carolina State Board of Examiners in Optometry stating that Delaware is not aware of any Optometrists who have misdiagnosed cancer as a Chalazion.

Jenn Singh and the Board members discussed the correspondence which was submitted in reference to §6.0 Unprofessional Conduct: 6.2.29 Practicing in a merchandising store or practicing optometry among the public as the agent, employee, or servant of, or in conjunction with, directly or indirectly, any merchandising firm, corporation, lay firm, or unlicensed individual.

Dr. Biddle stated that she felt that the letter submitted to the Board by “Concerned Citizens/Optometrists of the Great State of Delaware” should have been signed by the person that wrote the letter. Dr. Biddle asked if any of the members of the public wrote the aforementioned letter. Ms. Parker explained that she was the one who submitted the letter and stated that the letter was written by a group of independent optometrists that wanted to place their opinions, Ms. Parker also stated that the reason that the letter was not signed, is that a large group was involved and due to timing issues, there wasn’t enough time to confirm whether or not people in the group felt comfortable with their names stated in print. In closing, Ms. Parker stated that in short the letter submitted by the concerned citizens supports the Boards decision to leave the aforementioned regulation unchanged at this time.

Dr. Biddle stated that in future, all correspondence be submitted to the Board with a name or signature attached.

Dr. Biddle explained the purpose of the DeOA Public Comment letter which was submitted to the Board by stating that it is strongly urged that the Board deny the request for revisiting the Rules & Regulations in regard to 6.2.29 and 6.2.31. The members of the Board all agreed with the comments submitted by the DeOA. Dr. Patricia Lynch asked the Board if they would revisit the Rules & Regulations at the July 2018 meeting. Dr. Biddle stated that if the Board deems it necessary, the Board may have further discussion concerning the Rules & Regulations at their next meeting.

Ms. Singh gave a brief summary of the letter submitted to the Board by W. Lee MacKewiz, O.D.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Patricia Lynch addressed the Board concerning Vision to Learn which is a mobile van that offers eye exams to children. Ms. Singh advised the Board to end the conversation in reference to Vision to Learn as a letter should be submitted to the Division as a complaint.

OTHER BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD (for discussion only)

There was no other business before the Board.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 12, 2018 at 4:30 p.m. in Conference Room B, 2nd floor, Cannon Building, 861 Silver Lake Boulevard, Dover, Delaware.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Dr. Biddle made a motion, seconded by Dr. Miller, to adjourn the meeting at 5:15 p.m. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Smith
Administrative Specialist II

The notes of this meeting are not intended to be a verbatim record of the topics that were presented or discussed. They are for the use of the Board members and the public in supplementing their personal.