

**GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY**  
**Board Meeting Minutes of February 12, 2020 \* 10:00 a.m.**

The Georgia State Board of Optometry met on Wednesday, February 12, 2020, at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia with the following members participating:

**Board Members Present:**

Karen Canupp, O.D. – President  
Larry Brown, O.D. - Vice-President  
Robert McCullough, O.D.  
Jerry Prchal, O.D.  
Jeffrey Hackleman, O.D.

**Board Members Absent:**

Betty Ann Lindsey, Consumer Member

**Administrative Staff Present:**

Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director  
Linsey Joiner, Board Support Specialist

**Attorney General's Office:**

Melissa Tracy, Esq., Asst. Attorney General

Dr. Canupp, President, established a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 10:13 a.m.

**Agenda:** Approved as presented

**Dr. Prchal moved, Dr. Brown seconded and the Board voted to enter into Executive Session in accordance with O.C.G.A. §43-1-19(h)(2) and 43-1-2(k) to review Applications, review the executive session minutes, receive the Cognizant (Complaints) and Assistant Attorney General reports. Voting in favor of the motion were those present who included Canupp, Brown, McCullough, Prchal and Hackleman.**

**At the conclusion of Executive Session, Dr. Canupp declared the meeting to be “open” pursuant to the Open and Public Meeting Act O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1 et seq. No votes were taken in the closed session.**

**Investigative Interview Conducted:**

- OPT200003

Conducted Prior to Start of Meeting (Closed Session)  
by a sub-committee of the Board

**Applications:**

- T.P.

**Recommendation:**

Tabled; Pending receipt of additional information

**Dr. McCullough moved, Dr. Prchal seconded, and the Board voted to approve the recommendation of the above application as presented. None opposed, motion carried.**

**Cognizant Report:**

- ❖ **Recommend Close Case:** OPT200003 (Inv. Interview) OPT200004, OPT200007
- ❖ **Recommend Investigative Interview:** OPT190016, OPT190020
- ❖ **Recommend Pending Review of Additional Information:** OPT190022, OPT190025, OPT190026, OPT190027, OPT200008

**Dr. McCullough moved, Dr. Canupp seconded, and the Board voted to approve the recommendations of the Cognizant report on complaints as presented. None opposed, motion carried.**

**Attorney General's Report:**

Melissa Tracy, Assistant Attorney General provided a written status report which included information on any cases referred for action, requests for advice and /or requests for authority for proposed rules.

**Dr. Canupp moved, Dr. McCullough seconded, and the Board voted to approve the Assistant Attorney General's report as presented. None opposed, motion carried.**

**Executive Session Minutes:**

- November 13, 2019

**Recommendation:**

Approve as presented

**Dr. McCullough moved, Dr. Hackleman seconded, and the Board voted to approve the November 13, 2019 Board Executive Session meeting minutes as presented. None opposed, motion carried.**

**Meeting Minutes:**

- November 13, 2019

**Recommendation:**

Approve as presented

**Dr. Prchal moved, Dr. Brown seconded, and the Board voted to approve the November 13, 2019 Board meeting minutes as presented. None opposed, motion carried.**

**Correspondence:**

- NBEO 2020 Announcements – RE Exams – Board Information Only
- ARBO/NBEO Negotiation Update January 2020 – Board Discussion Only
- Southern College of Optometry Injections Curriculum – Board Discussion Only – Board member McCullough to follow up with the GOA to see if the organization may be able to contact other schools to submit their injectables curriculum to the Board for review.

**Dr. Hackleman moved, Dr. Canupp seconded, and the Board voted to respond as directed to the correspondences above as presented. None opposed, motion carried.**

**Misc. Discussion Items:**

- Continuing Education Hours for Renewal of a license - Deficiency at Renewal: The Board has the ability to impose a monetary fine of up to \$500 for each violation of a rule through a public Board order and Reprimand.
- Optometrist Business Practices in Georgia – Dr. Brown – Dr. Prchal

**Dr. Prchal moved, Dr. Hackleman seconded, and the Board voted to impose and enforce the disciplinary actions for a licensee who has not obtained the required Continuing Education Hours for the renewal of a license as discussed. None opposed, motion carried.**

**Dr. Prchal moved, Dr. Brown seconded, and the Board voted to submit a letter drafted by members Prchal and Brown referencing concerns of the Board regarding Optometrist business practices in Georgia to the AG's office's Consumer Protection Division as discussed. None opposed, motion carried.**

**Board Rules Discussion:**

- **Board Rule 430-2-.08 Volunteers In Optometry**

**Rule Change Analysis**

A request was forwarded to the board from a volunteer medical nonprofit to address the problem of obtaining licensed practitioners to staff a clinic that provides care in an underserved low income area in central Georgia.

The board reviewed the current rule that provides for a volunteer license but found the rule not applicable to the request. The board desires to encourage licensed individuals from other states or practitioners within the state that work in Federal service to have a convenient method for approving volunteer service within Georgia. The volunteer rule change allows active practicing licensees the opportunity to participate in the volunteer program.

This will encourage licensees of the 5 Border States and those in Federal service to participate in the volunteer program.

The purpose for the rule change is to expand the volunteer base of active licensed optometrists to provide care to the underserved with the assistance of community groups in Georgia. The community groups will provide the board with the details of the services that are needed which will support the licensed optometrist request for a temporary volunteer license on a limited date basis.

The board does not see that additional cost will be incurred by this rule change. The board does expect benefits to the citizens of Georgia from the free medical care they will receive that improves their health and productivity.

**Dr. Prchal moved, Dr. McCullough seconded, and the Board voted to post the proposed rule amendments to 430-2-.08 Volunteers in Optometry as discussed for the required minimum of thirty days for public view and comment, with a public rule hearing to be scheduled the next available meeting date.**

- **Board Rule 430-2-.09 Reinstatement**
- **Board Rule 430-4-.01 Unprofessional Conduct**

**Dr. Prchal moved, Dr. Brown seconded, and the Board voted to refer the proposed rule amendments to 430-2-.09 and 430-4-.01 as discussed and amended to the AG's office for a memo of Statutory Authority and to post said rule amendments for a public rule hearing upon receipt. None opposed, motion carried.**

**Application Ratify List:** Licenses issued between: 11/13/2019 - 2/11/2020

<b>license No</b>	<b>Licensee</b>	<b>Profession name</b>
OPT003210	Douglas Paul Benoit	Optometry
OPT003211	Taylor Renee Wrege	Optometry
OPT003212	Dedrick Abdur-Rahman Ahmed	Optometry
OPT003213	Robert Vincent Wickes	Optometry
OPT003214	Nita Kumari Saini	Optometry
OPT003215	Jessica M Badillo	Optometry
OPT003216	Hira Nawal Fatima	Optometry
OPT003217	Esther Yang	Optometry
OPT003218	Terry Walter Mohr	Optometry
OPT003219	Charles Jason Turner	Optometry
OPT003220	Jennifer Nicole Davidson	Optometry
OPT003221	Niko Olavi Vahamaki	Optometry

**Dr. Brown moved, Dr. Canupp seconded, and the Board voted to approve the application ratify list as presented. None opposed, motion carried.**

**Dr. McCullough moved, Dr. Canupp seconded, and the Board voted to approve Dr. Brown to continue to serve as the Boards representative at all ARBO meetings. None opposed, motion carried.**

**There being no further business for discussion, Dr. McCullough moved, Dr. Brown seconded, and the Board meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m.**

**Minutes recorded by:**

Linsey Joiner, Board Support Specialist

**Minutes reviewed and edited by:**

Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director,

**DR. KAREN CANUPP**

President

**BRIG ZIMMERMAN**

Executive Director HC1

These minutes were reviewed and approved on: **April 27, 2020**