

GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY
Board Meeting Minutes of August 23, 2023 * 10:00 a.m.
Conference Call/ZOOM

The Georgia State Board of Optometry met via teleconference/ZOOM on Wednesday, August 23, 2023 at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia. The Board's Executive Director hosted the meeting remotely.

Board Members Present:

Robert "Bob" McCullough, O.D., President
Paul Ajamian, O.D., Vice-President
Jeffrey Hackleman, O.D.
Jeanne Perrine, O.D.
Ellen Fitzgerald, O.D.
B. Thassanee Gutter-Parker – Consumer Member

Attorney General's Office

Bryon Thernes, AAG

Administrative Staff Present:

Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director
Linsey Joiner, Board Support Specialist
Sarah Collet, Licensing Analyst
Deshauna Thornton, Licensing Analyst

Dr. Bob McCullough, President, established a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

Agenda: Approved with one additional late items: New Medications

Meeting Minutes:

- May 3, 2023 C.C. Board Meeting
- June 30, 2023 C.C. Rules Cmte Meeting

Recommendation:

Approve as presented
Approve as presented

Dr. Ajamian moved, Dr. Perrine seconded, and the Board voted to approve the May 3, 2023 Conference Call Board meeting minutes as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Dr. Perrine moved, Dr. Hackleman seconded, and the Board voted to approve the June 30, 2023 Conference Call Rules Committee meeting minutes as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Correspondence:

- CE Courses – Dr. Fitzgerald – *Board Discussion Only*
- New Medications – Dr. Perrine - *Board Discussion Only*
- Online CE – K. Jones - *There has been no changes to the professions practice act or rules regarding CE's and licensees 65 or older.*
- OD/LDO Law – S. Tasman – *Non-licensed individuals can apply for an apprenticed dispensing opticians license, but they must be under the direction and supervision of a licensed optometrist or dispensing optician.*
- Scope of Practice/Plasma Pen – *Table – additional review by Board members; Refer to O.C.G.A.43-30-1 Definitions*
- ARBO Letter RE OEBC - *Board Information Only*

Dr. Ajamian moved, Dr. Perrine seconded, and the Board voted to approve the recommendations and respond as directed to the correspondences as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Petitions for Rule Waiver/Variance:

- H. Jones – Rule 430-2-.04
- O. Adegbile – Rule 430-2-.04
- R. Macwan – Rule 430-2-.04

Recommendation:

- Grant
- Deny
- Deny

Dr. Ajamian motioned, Dr. Fitzgerald seconded, and the Board voted to grant the petition for H. Jones and allow 12 out of the required 36 CE hours to be obtained online as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Dr. Fitzgerald motioned, Dr. Perrine seconded, and the Board voted to deny the petition request for O. Adegbile for failure to demonstrate a substantial hardship pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-13-9.1. None opposed, motion carried.

Dr. Perrine motioned, Dr. Hackleman seconded, and the Board voted to deny the petition request for R. Macwan for failure to demonstrate a substantial hardship pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-13-9.1. None opposed, motion carried.

Application Ratify List: Licenses issued between: 5/3/2023 - 8/22/2023

License No.	Licensee
OPT003490	Frank Wasserman
OPT003491	Ogechi Nkem Ukegbu
OPT003492	Usman Akbar
OPT003493	Anna Louise Britt
OPT003494	Vanessa Marie Grichine
OPT003495	Norman Douglas Streifel
OPT003496	Jordan L Nissinoff
OPT003497	Taylor Danielle Scheurer
OPT003498	Connor Boyd Horne
OPT003499	Helene Denise Clayton-Jeter
OPT003500	Tyler Ray Bellack
OPT003501	Monica Lauren Hazien
OPT003502	Meret Niika Ebi Thomas-Huebner
OPT003503	Khoathu Nguyen Tran
OPT003504	Khanh Hoang
OPT003505	Lauren Brooke Yancey
OPT003506	Melissa Binder Drawdy
OPT003507	Colin McCloskey Milo
OPT003508	Asaf Bullkich
OPT003509	Salma Syeda Iqbal
OPT003510	Ishika Devendra Patel
OPT003511	Patrick Alan Dicus
OPT003512	Jacquelyn Renee Melton
OPT003513	Jonathan Geeloung Yin
OPT003514	Joyce Ann Yestrepky
OPT003515	Dipal Patel
OPT003516	Rachel Alexandra Vonderach
OPT003517	Amy Ruzicka
OPT003518	Aysha Anum Shafi
OPT003519	Ashka Divyakant Patel
OPT003520	Lydia Ashley Geabou
OPT003521	Kristin Nichole Wolfe
OPT003522	Stephen John Lam
OPT003523	Jin Allen Kim

OPT003524	Kenneth David Cornwall
OPT003525	Kyung Min Lee
OPT003526	Karrie Irene Sestak
OPT003527	Amira Marsid
OPT003528	Joanne Thanh Binh Nguyen
OPT003529	Shelby Lynn Gelhaus
OPT003530	Richard Lee Klinnert
TOTAL:	46

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

Dr. Ajamian moved, Dr. Fitzgerald seconded, and the Board voted to enter 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 McCullough, Hackleman, Ajamian, Perrine, Parker and Fitzgerald.

At the conclusion of Executive Session on Wednesday, August 23, 2023, Dr. McCullough declared the meeting back into “open” pursuant to the Open and Public Meeting Act O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1 et seq. No votes were obtained during the closed session.

Applications: *None presented*

Cognizant Report:

- ❖ **Recommend Closure:** OPT230019, OPT230020,
- ❖ **Recommend/Pending Peer Review:** OPT210012 & OPT230015 (Companion Cases)
- ❖ **Pending Investigative Report/AG Report/Board Review:** OPT220010 & 220012 (Companion Cases – P. Ajamian Recused)(AG), OPT230007, OPT230011 (AG)
- ❖ **Pending Receipt of Additional Information:** OPT230017, OPT230018, OPT230019, OPT240001

Dr. Fitzgerald moved, Dr. Perrine 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:

Bryon Thernes, 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. Hackleman moved, Dr. Perrine seconded, and the Board voted to approve the Assistant Attorney General’s report as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Executive Session Minutes:

- May 3, 2023 CC Board Meeting

Recommendation:

Accept as presented

Dr. Hackleman moved, Dr. Fitzgerald seconded, and the Board voted to approve the May 3, 2023 Executive Session Board Meeting Conference Call meeting minutes as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Exec. Session Misc. Discussion Items:

- Jurisprudence CE Course Approvals– Dr. Fitzgerald - *Following discussion it was determined that regardless of the subject matter, anyone teaching a CE course should comply with Board rule 430-2-.04 regarding application to the Board for approval to teach a CE course*

Board Rules Discussion: – (Open Session)

- 430-2-.01 Applications
- 430-2-.05 Requirements for Inactive License Status
- 430-2-.07 Renewal of Licenses
- 430-5-.01 Treatment Plans – *Table for further review*
- 430-5-.02 Contents of Prescriptions for Contact Lenses

Dr. Ajamian moved, Dr. Perrine seconded, and the Board voted to accept the AGs for a Memo of Statutory Authority as presented for Board Rules 430-2-.01 Applications, 430-2-.05 Requirements for Inactive License Status and 430-2-.07 Renewal of Licenses and to post the proposed rule amendments for the minimum thirty days for public view with a public rule hearing to be scheduled for the next available date following the thirty-day public posting. None opposed, motion carried.

Dr. Perrine moved, Dr. Hackleman seconded, and the Board voted to approve proposed rule amendments to Board Rules 430-5-.02 Contents of Prescriptions for Contact Lenses and refer to the AG’s office for review and statutory authority, posting the rule upon receipt for the minimum thirty days for public view with a public rule hearing to be scheduled for the next available date following the public posting. None opposed, motion carried.

Misc. Discussion Items:

- Optometry Board Website Updates - Dr. Hackleman will provide proposed additions to the Boards new website to ED Zimmerman, including quick reference to O.C.G.A 31-12-12 Contact Lens Law.

There being no further business for discussion, the Board meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Minutes recorded by:

Linsey Joiner, Board Support Specialist

Minutes reviewed and edited by:

Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director

DR. ROBERT MCCULLOUGH

President

BRIG ZIMMERMAN

Executive Director HC1

Minutes reviewed and approved **November 8, 2023**