

GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY
Board Meeting Minutes of May 14, 2025 * 10:00 a.m.
Conference Call/Webex

The Georgia State Board of Optometry met via teleconference/Webex on Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Board Members Present:

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

Administrative Staff Present:

Amanda Allen, Executive Director
 Jalaina Fuller, Licensing Supervisor
 Linsey Joiner, Board Support Specialist
 Ann Shiver, Licensing Analyst

Attorney General’s Office

Anna Scartz, AAG

Dr. Paul Ajamian, President, established a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Agenda: Approved with no additional late items

Meeting Minutes:

- February 12, 2025 CC Board Meeting

Recommendation:

Approve as amended

Dr. McCullough moved, Dr. Hackleman seconded, and the Board voted to approve the February 12, 2025 Conference Call Board meeting minutes as amended. None opposed, motion carried.

Petition for Rule Waiver/Variance:

- M. Kazemzadeh - Rule 430-2-.04

Recommendation:

Grant

Dr. McCullough moved, Dr. Hackleman seconded, and the Board voted to grant the petition for rule waiver/variance for • M. Kazemzadeh presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Application Ratify List: Licenses Issued between: 2/11/2025 - 5/12/2025

License No.	Licensee
OPT003646	Daniel Hickman Mulder
OPT003647	Layelle Tony Hilow
OPT003648	Tammy Le Phan
OPT003649	Alely Hostia
OPT003650	TRENISHA SMITH
OPT003651	Antonio Martinnez Turner, Sr.
OPT003652	Alia Raad
OPT003653	Gary Harmon Stolicker
OPT003654	Erica Lee
OPT003655	April Kongmanichanh
OPT003656	Onyale Sabre Donloe Warnock
OPT003657	Chadwick Lane Davis
TOTAL:	12

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

Dr. Perrine 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 Ajamian, McCullough, Hackleman, Fitzgerald, Parker, Perrine.

At the conclusion of Executive Session on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, Dr. Ajamian 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.

Executive Correspondence:

- GOALS Notification – *Board Information Only*

Cognizant Report:

- ❖ **Recommend Closure:** OPT250005, OPT250006, OPT250009, OPT250012
- ❖ **Recommend Referral to Peer Reviewer:** OPT240016
- ❖ **Pending Receipt of Additional Information:** OPT240013, OPT250014

Dr. Perrine moved, Dr. McCullough 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:

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

Executive Session Minutes:

- February 12, 2025 CC Board Meeting

Recommendation:

Approve as presented

Dr. McCullough moved, Dr. Hackleman seconded, and the Board voted to approve the February 12, 2025 Executive Session Board Meeting Conference Call meeting minutes as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Exec. Session Misc. Discussion Items:

- **Board Newsletter: Spring Communication** - Refer to the PLB Division Director to send the amended letter to all Georgia licensed Optometrists via blast email and post on the Board's website. A copy of the notice is provided below.
- **Virtual Eye Exam – Dr. McCullough** – Following discussion, the Board would like clarification from the AG’s office determining whether a person administering an eye exam in Georgia must be physically located in Georgia.
- **Advertising:** Following discussion, the Board voted to refer the matter of O.C.G.A. 430-5.1 Advertising Requirements and Board Rule 430-6-.01 Deceptive Advertising to the AG’s office for official advice to determine if the Board rule needs to be repealed pursuant to the law.

[Date]

[Name of Georgia Licensee]

Dear Dr. [Name]:

Greetings from your Georgia State Board of Optometry! Our goal moving forward is to stay in touch with our licensees and let everyone know that we are accessible and always willing to help. We are very excited to welcome our new Executive Director, Amanda Allen. She comes to the Georgia State Board of Optometry with a great deal of experience working with other professional boards and places a priority on protecting the public while also serving our licensees.

A reminder that this is a biennium renewal year. All licensees are expected to obtain the required number of continuing education hours that must be maintained to renew the license. Per Board Rule 430-2-.04 Continuing Education, the Board requires a minimum of thirty-six (36) hours of attendance at Board-approved continuing education programs. A newly licensed optometrist licensed in the first year of the biennium will be required to obtain eighteen (18) hours of continuing education. This requirement applies regardless of when you establish practice in Georgia. Licensees in this category shall obtain one (1) hour of CE in Georgia laws and rules. This one (1) hour shall be included in the total eighteen (18) hours required for renewal. Those licensed in the second year of the biennium are not required to obtain continuing education for this biennium renewal period only.

A maximum of ten (10) hours of continuing education credit will be allowed per biennium for any coursework that is offered by correspondence or electronic medium. As outlined in the rule, the remaining twenty-six (26) hours must be in person, including the Georgia Jurisprudence, if you practice within the state boundaries.

Please don't forget about CPR certification, *which does not count toward your thirty-six (36) hours of required continuing education*. CPR certification can be renewed online. All required continuing education requirements can be viewed directly in the Board rules. Please see Board Rule 430-2-.04 Continuing Education. All Board rules and law can be viewed at [Georgia State Board of Optometry | Georgia Secretary of State](#). Board Rules are located under the tab "Rules and Regulations".

In addition to the reminder regarding continuing education, the Georgia State Board of Optometry would like to provide clarification on an important topic that has been an ongoing discussion item. The Georgia Board grants **licensure** through the NBEO and state law exams. The term "Board Certified" is distinct from licensure and refers to those who have completed a program of ongoing education, from an organization such as the American Board of Optometry (ABO). Board certification is a voluntary credential and should not be confused with state licensure. The ABO is the only board certification body in optometry recognized by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS), Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare (CAQH), and accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). When listing this credential, it is advised to list the organization providing the certification. You are permitted to use the "Board Certified" credential on your website or any marketing materials *only* if you are indeed Board Certified. If you are not, we kindly request that you refrain from using the term and delete it from your website and bio.

We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming CE Event. The Jurisprudence course will be given at the Summer and Fall GOA meetings, and the August meeting of the AACO, along with other opportunities that will be publicized.

We wish you a happy and prosperous Spring and Summer!

Sincerely,

Your Georgia State Board

Members, Paul C. Ajamian, OD
President Jeanne Perrine, OD Vice
President Bob McCullough, OD
Jeff Hackleman,
OD Ellen
Fitzgerald, OD
B. Thassanee Parker, Consumer Member

Dr. Ajamian moved, Dr. Perrine seconded, and the Board voted to approve the above amended Board Certification Letter to be sent out as a blast email to all Georgia licensed Optometrists upon PLB Deputy Division Director approval as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Dr. McCullough moved, Dr. Hackleman seconded and the Board voted to refer the discussion of Virtual Eye Exam Locations to the AG's office for official legal advice as presented. None opposed; the motion carried.

Dr. Ajamian moved, Dr. Perrine seconded and the Board voted to refer the discussion of O.C.G.A. 430-5.1 Advertising Requirements and Board Rule 430-6-.01 Deceptive Advertising to the AG's office for official advice as presented. None opposed; motion carried.

Board Rules Discussion:

- 430-5-.01 Treatment Plans, Eye Examinations, and Patient Records – *Refer to AG's office for MOA*
- 430-2-.04 Continuing Education Requirements - *Board staff to send adopted rule to Governor's office for review/approval.*
- 430-5-.02 Contents of Prescriptions for Contact Lenses – *Schedule for Public Rules Hearing next available Board meeting*

Dr. Perrine moved, Dr. Hackleman seconded, and the Board voted to approve proposed rule amendments to Board Rules 430-5-.01 Treatment Plans, Eye Exams & Patient Records and refer to the AG's office for review and memo of 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.

There being no further business for discussion, the Board meeting adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

Minutes recorded by: Linsey Joiner, Board Support Specialist
Minutes reviewed and edited by: Amanda Allen, Licensing Supervisor

DR. PAUL AJAMIAN
President

AMANDA ALLEN
Executive Director HC1

Minutes reviewed and approved **August 20, 2025**

State of Georgia
County of Bibb

**Affidavit Supporting Closing
Of Public Meeting**

The Georgia Open Meetings Act, O.C.G.A. 50-14-1 et seq., requires that all meetings of an entity covered by the statute must be open to the public unless there is some specific statutory exception which permits the closing of the meeting. If such a meeting is to be closed, the law requires that the presiding person execute a sworn affidavit stating that the subject matter of the meeting or the closed portion thereof was devoted to matters within the statutory exceptions and identifying those specific exceptions relied upon. O.C.G.A. Sec. 50-14-4(b). A copy of this affidavit must be filed with the minutes of the meeting in question:

Comes now, Dr. Paul Ajamian, the presiding officer identified below and, before an official duly authorized to administer oaths, makes this affidavit in satisfaction of the statutory requirements outlined above.

1. I am the presiding officer of the Georgia Board of Optometry.
2. I am over the age of 18 and in all other aspects competent to make this sworn statement. I acknowledge that I am giving this statement under oath and penalty of perjury and that I have read the contents of this affidavit prior to signing it.
3. On MAY 14, 2025 this entity, which is subject to the Open Meetings Act, met. A majority of the quorum of the members present voted to close the meeting or a portion thereof for the following indicated reason(s). I hereby certify that during the closed portion of the meeting, only those subjects indicated below were discussed. I also certify that I have reviewed the exceptions provided under the Open Meetings Act that may permit the closing of a meeting and that, to the best of my knowledge, the reasons I have described in detail below meet the requirements for closing this public meeting.
4. The legal authority for the closure of this meeting was §§§ 43-1-2(k), 43-1-19(h), and 50-14-2 (1).
5. The subject(s) discussed and the underlying facts supporting the closing of this meeting are:
Receive and review disciplinary/complaint files and reports; review applications; meet with applicants; receive the Attorney General's Report; and review Executive Session minutes.
6. Further the affiant sayeth not.

Paul Ajamian
(Presiding Officer)

with Express Permission
Amanda Allen, Executive Director

Sworn and subscribed before me,

This 14 day of MAY 2025

Juniper Joani

Notary Public

