

GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY
Board Meeting Minutes of August 20, 2025 * 10:00 a.m.
Conference Call/Webex

The Georgia State Board of Optometry met via teleconference/Webex on Wednesday, August 20, 2025

Board Members Present:

Paul Ajamian, O.D President
Robert “Bob” McCullough, O.D.
Ellen Fitzgerald, O.D.
Jeffrey Hackleman, 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

Board Members Absent:

Jeanne Perrine, O.D., Vice-President

Attorney General’s Office

Anna Scartz, AAG
Vanessa Alva, AAG

Dr. Paul Ajamian, President, established a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Agenda: Approved with additional late items:

- Injectable and Virtual Options for Jurisprudence – R. McCullough

Dr. Hackleman moved, Ms. Parker 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.

At the conclusion of Executive Session on Wednesday, August 20, 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:

- SB140 – Pending AG review and consultation with the Georgia State Board of Pharmacy

Cognizant Report:

- ❖ **Recommend Closure:** OPT230011, OPT250002, OPT250014, OPT260001
- ❖ **Recommend Referral to Peer Reviewer:** OPT240016
- ❖ **Pending in AG’s Office:** OPT220010/220012 *P. Ajamian Recused, OPT230015, OPT230017, OPT240001
- ❖ **Pending Receipt of Additional Information:** OPT240013,

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

Exec. Session Misc. Discussion Items:

- **Virtual Eye Exam/Telemedicine** – Virtual eye examinations are authorized under O.C.G.A. § 31-12-12. O.C.G.A. § 31-12-12(a)(5) outlines “If the eye examination is conducted via telemedicine, the patient and prescriber shall be required to be in synchronous verbal and visual contact during such parts of the examination necessary to ensure that the examination is, at a minimum, equivalent to an eye examination conducted in person.”. O.C.G.A. § 31-12-12(d) requires prescribers to be licensed and in good standing in this state. As such, an Optometrist licensed in Georgia may perform a virtual eye examination for patients located in Georgia
- **O.C.G.A. § 43-30-6- Certificate of registration required** – O.C.G.A. § 43-1-23, which sets forth general provisions for all professional licensing boards, exempts of licensees of such boards from filing with clerk of superior court.
- **Advertising - Personal Names Incorporated-Professional Organizations** – Board may require incorporated optometrists to use personal name only

Exec. Misc. Discussion Items:

- **Injectables-** All licensed Georgia optometrists are required to complete the required injectable course if they intend to inject certain pharmaceutical agents for diagnosis or treatment of eye conditions.
- **Virtual Jurisprudence** - All hours completed for GA laws and rules must be completed in person. The hours cannot be completed online or virtually live.

Executive Session Minutes:

- May 14, 2025 CC Board Meeting

Recommendation:

Approve as presented

Dr. Fitzgerald moved, Dr. McCullough seconded, and the Board voted to approve the May 14, 2025 Executive Session Board Meeting Conference Call meeting minutes as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Open Session

Meeting Minutes:

- May 14, 2025 CC Board Meeting

Recommendation:

Approve as presented

Dr. Fitzgerald moved, Dr. McCullough seconded, and the Board voted to approve the May 14, 2025 Conference Call Board meeting minutes as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Application Ratify List: Licenses Issued between: May 13, 2025 - August 19, 2025)

License #	Licensee
OPT003663	Diana Knight Scavuzzo
OPT003662	Susan Louise Daniel
OPT003669	Michael K Choi
OPT003658	Joshua Alan Elam
OPT003668	Tyler Glynn Fisher
OPT003667	Monica Ghimire
OPT003660	Andrew David Pucker
OPT003664	Jonathan Wayne McMullin
OPT003666	Ansley Middleton Schuepbach

OPT003659	Marc Brian Taub
OPT003661	Ellener Carrie Harper
OPT003665	Niddhi Patel
OPT003670	Shannon Gavin
OPT003671	Madison Thurmond
OPT003672	Kendal R Piatt
OPT003673	Marissa An Thornton
OPT003674	Claire Alexander Vinson
OPT003675	Michelle Thai
OPT003676	Valeria Isabel Campos Munoz
OPT003677	Diana Shekoury
OPT003678	Annelise Uenmi Kim
OPT003679	Emely F Minino Soto
OPT003680	Nancy Nghe
OPT003681	Tina Ho
OPT003682	Sahhir Merchant
OPT003683	Mariel Sara Messilaty
OPT003684	Brooke Schaeffer Kaplan
OPT003685	Adela Coy
OPT003686	Ashley Monique Hemmati
OPT003687	Bailey Johnson
OPT003688	Jaime Kristin Johnson
OPT003689	Hailey Long
TOTAL:	32

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

There being no further business for discussion, the Board meeting adjourned at 11:30 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 **November 19, 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 AUGUST 20, 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.

Further the affiant sayeth not.

Paul Ajamian
(Presiding Officer)

with Express Permission
Amanda Allen, Executive Director

Sworn and subscribed before me,

This 20 day of AUGUST 2025

Linsey Joiner
Notary Public

