

These minutes are for information only. They have not been reviewed, revised or approved by the Board of Optometry.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF OPTOMETRY  
October 30, 2015

ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Board of Optometry was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Dr. Kim Baxter, Chairman, at Staybridge Suites, 2701 Fletcher Avenue, Staybridge Board Room, Lincoln, NE. The agenda was sent to the Board members and other interested parties prior to the meeting. The following members answered the roll call:

Kim Baxter, O.D., Chairman  
Jeffrey Pape, O.D., Vice-Chairperson  
Robert Vandervort, O.D.  
Michael J. O'Hara, JD, PhD, Secretary

A quorum was present and the meeting convened. Also present were: Kathie Lueke, Program Manager; Vonda Apking, Health Licensing Coordinator; Larry Wiehn, Investigator; Ed Vierk, Assistant Attorney General.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

O'Hara moved, seconded by Vandervort, to adopt the agenda with the Chairman having the ability to rearrange as necessary. Voting aye: Baxter, O'Hara, Pape, Vandervort. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 10, 2015

Vandervort moved, seconded by O'Hara, to approve the July 10, 2015, minutes as presented. Voting aye: Baxter, O'Hara, Pape, Vandervort. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

INVESTIGATIONAL REPORTS – CLOSED SESSION

O'Hara moved, seconded by Vandervort, to go into Closed Session, at 8:39 a.m., to review investigational reports. Voting aye: Baxter, O'Hara, Pape, Vandervort. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

O'Hara moved, seconded by Vandervort, to return to Open Session at 9:12 a.m. Voting aye: Baxter, O'Hara, Pape, Vandervort. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Suzanna Glover-Ettrich, Department Legal, joined the meeting.

Dave McBride, Executive Director, Nebraska Optometrists Association and Ed Schneider, OD joined the meeting.

ASSOCIATION OF REGULATORY BOARDS OF OPTOMETRY

O'Hara mentioned that discussions about competency assessment and measured practice gaps. There are 6 states that have 100% continuing educations audits for its licensees. There are 2 states and 2 associations that are paying for OE Tracker for its membership.

NOMINATIONS FOR NBEO PUBLIC MEMBER

The Board members thought that Shelly Fastenau would be interested. Staff will forward information on how to apply to Ms. Fastenau.

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LETTER FROM THE OPTOMETRIC SOCIETY DATED JULY 31, 2015

No discussion on this issue.

PRACTICE QUESTION – IS CORNEAL DEBRIDEMENT WITHIN THE SCOPR OF PRACTICE OF AN OPTOMETRIST?

O'Hara moved, seconded by Pape, to respond to Dr. Blumenstock, that it is the Board's opinion that corneal debridement is within the scope of practice of an optometrist. Voting aye: Baxter, O'Hara, Pape, Vandervort. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

PORTABILITY EFFORTS OF TRI-CARE AND CMS – MICHAEL O'HARA, JD, PHD

O'Hara mentioned that he attended Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards (FARB). Topics of discussion included portability of licensure and telemedicine. Tri-Care and CMS are embarking on portability efforts that could increase the scope of practice of optometry.

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION ISSUES

Letter from the Attorney General's Office Regarding the FTC Supreme Court Opinion

No discussion on this issue. The Board considered this as informational.

Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards (FARB) Press Release FTC Staffing Guidance

No discussion on this issue. The Board considered this as informational.

FTC Guidance on Active Supervision

No discussion on this issue. The Board considered this as informational.

2016 MEETING DATES

The next Board meeting will be held on February 19, 2016, at the Staybridge Board Room, starting at 8:30 a.m. The Board also set a tentative meeting for July 22, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT

Vandervort moved, seconded by O'Hara, to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 a.m. Voting aye: Baxter, O'Hara, Vandervort. Voting nay: none. Absent: Pape. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signature on file with the Department)

Michael J. O'Hara, JD, PhD, Secretary  
Board of Optometry