

These minutes have not been approved by the Board

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

Board of Optometry  
April 17, 2026

**1. ROLL CALL**

The meeting of the Board of Optometry was called to order by Creston Myers OD, Chair, at 2:06 p.m. in the Lower Level Morrill Conference Room, Nebraska State Office Building, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE. In accordance with §84-1411 of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, copies of the agenda were 1) emailed to the Board members and other interested parties, 2) posted on the DHHS web site at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>, and 3) posted on the bulletin board in the Nebraska State Office Building Lobby on April 3, 2026.

The following members answered roll call:

**Members Present:**

Jeremy Baumfalk, OD, Secretary  
Creston Myers OD, Chair – via Webex  
Scott Stocking, Public Member  
Christopher Wolfe OD, Vice Chair

**Staff and Others Present:**

Maiya Baumann, Program Manager  
Jessica Dean, Health Licensing Coordinator  
T.J. O'Neill, Assistant Attorney General  
Ellie Rohr, DHHS Department Legal  
Tyler Walvoord, DHHS Department Legal

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Wolfe moved, seconded by Stocking, to approve the agenda for the meeting. A voice vote was taken. Voting yes: Baumfalk, Myers, Stocking, and Wolfe. Motion carried.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 10, 2025**

**MOTION:** Wolfe moved, seconded by Baumfalk, to approve the minutes with revisions. A voice vote was taken. Voting yes: Baumfalk, Myers, Stocking and Wolfe. Motion carried.

**4. UPDATES**

a. Legislation

Baumann reported that the legislative session was ending. There were no bills introduced during this session that directly affected Optometry. She mentioned that LB

961, relating to collateral sanctions, was still in committee. She encouraged the board to notify her in the future if there are bills introduced that they would like staff to track and report on to the board. Myers mentioned that LB 987, a bill related to Vision Benefit Managers, had been sponsored by the Nebraska Optometric Association (NOA); it did not move out of committee during this year's session.

b. Regulations

Baumann said that due to the passage of LB 29 during the 2025 session, all regulations are required to be reviewed by the Department every five years. Licensure staff will notify the board via meeting agenda when it is time for the review. Walvoord noted that, during each review of the regulations for a given profession, if the board determines that certain sections need to be updated, the entire document is open for review and can be updated. Rohr noted that the review process does not mean that the regulations have to be updated, but if the regulations are opened upon review, the normal process will be followed, including scheduling hearings and soliciting public comments. Walvoord noted that if board members notice anything that needs to be updated during the next review, it would be helpful to notify Licensure staff so that they can keep track of the updates which will be needed during the next review.

c. Association Updates

i. Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO) <https://www.arbo.org/>

1. Annual report

Baumann said that the annual report for ARBO is due May 11<sup>th</sup>. She is working on the report and will forward it to Myers for review prior to submission.

2. The annual meeting of ARBO is scheduled for June 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> in Phoenix, AZ. The theme is "Clear Vision in the Desert: Navigating Today's Regulatory Challenges." The board members will review their schedules to determine which board member will be able to attend. Once that is determined, an email ballot can be sent to board members to approve funding for attendance at the meeting. ARBO also offers travel scholarships for meeting costs. Baumann reminded board members that documentation of expenses needs to be submitted to the Department prior to the trip in order to be approved.

ii. Nebraska Optometric Association (NOA) <https://nebraska.aoa.org/>

No updates.

d. Licensure statistics (attached to agenda)

e. Examination

Baumann noted that there is a new website for the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO) examination portal. She will keep the board updated if there is anything to report.

## 5. ANNUAL BUSINESS

### a. Election of Officers

**MOTION:** Wolfe moved, seconded by Stocking, to retain the current slate of officers except that Wolfe will be nominated for Vice Chair to replace retired board member Linda Heiden. Myers will be Chair, Wolfe will be Vice Chair, Baumfalk will be Secretary, and Myers will be Investigative Consultant. A voice vote was taken. Voting yes: Baumfalk, Myers, Stocking, and Wolfe. Motion carried.

### b. Approval of Method of Noticing Meeting Agendas

**MOTION:** Wolfe moved, seconded by Baumfalk, to continue the current methods of noticing for board meetings. Meeting agendas are distributed to board members and other interested parties via email, posted to the Department's public website, and posted in the lobby of the Nebraska State Office Building. A voice vote was taken. Voting yes: Baumfalk, Myers, Stocking, and Wolfe. Motion carried.

## 5. NEXT MEETING

It was tentatively decided to schedule the next board meeting to occur September 24<sup>th</sup> in Kearney to coordinate with the annual meeting of the Nebraska Optometric Association. If that date is not feasible, the next meeting will occur on Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, in Lincoln.

## 6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:05 p.m.

Summarized by:

Jessica Dean, Licensure Unit