

# LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY EXAMINERS

DeAmore Board Room, Hall of History

West Jefferson Medical Center

1101 Medical Center Blvd, Marrero, LA 70072

## MINUTES

October 9, 2023

### **Roll Call/Call to Order/Confirmation of posting of notice and agenda**

The roll was called at 8:05 am: Drs. Gerdes, Avallone, Wroten, LaPoint, Richardson, Sehon was present. Mr. Many Lopez was not present at meeting start, did arrive at 8:11am & departed at 9:36am. Also present were board counsel Mr. AJ Herbert, III, Jennifer Herbert and Public Guests/OAL Members - Dr. Kevin Kasovich & Shelley Anastasio.

Declaring a quorum was present, Dr. Gerdes called the meeting to order.

#### **I. Adoption of Agenda**

Motion (Wroten/Sehon) to adopt agenda with no changes passed unanimous.

#### **II. Approval of contract with Daryl Purpera, CPA to review LSBOE corrective actions with LLA audit reports**

Discussion was initiated by Dr. Gerdes regarding his desire for review of LSBOE corrective action to the LLA 2021 Audit due to the repeat findings and combination of 2022 and 2023 upcoming audit. Mr. Herbert pointed out the Mr. Purpera is a former LLA auditor who is sufficiently removed from his employment with the LLA office (>2 years) and is now eligible for employment with the LSBOE. Mr. Pupera proposed contract will be a flat fee of \$3,600.00 plus expenses and includes review a corrective action already taken by the LSBOE and may include suggestions for further corrective actions if deemed necessary. The expected timeline is completion before the LLA next audit starts in 2024. Bids for this service will not be required due to the amount of the fee for service considered.

Motion (Sehon/Wroten) to accept contract with Mr. Pupera passed unanimously

#### **III. ACT 194**

##### **A. Development of New Rule to Comply with statute**

Discussion took place to bring a new CE rule in agreement with ACT 194 CE guidelines. See attached ADDENDUM for changes and summary of proposed rule to be submitted on emergency rule basis due to proximity of upcoming license renewal. Motion (Sehon/LaPoint) to proceed ASAP with rule submission/promulgation passed unanimously

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### IV. Public Comment

Dr. Kasovich asked a question to clarify the acceptance of non-COPE CE offered by sources listed. Dr. Gerdes answered in a positive way. Dr. Kasovich also pointed out that other CE certification entities exist such as the AOA CE certification entity. Dr. Gerdes noted that the AOA as a source is already allowed by statute and Rule.

### Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 am

## ADDENDUM

Proposed Text for Rule Change

### §301. Continuing Education

#### A. Definitions.

*In-person classroom setting*—The course instructor and learners are physically or virtually present with live, real-time interaction.

*Online education sources*—The course instructor and learner are not together at the same time, have no real-time communication, and the content is learner-paced.

B. Each licensed optometrist shall comply with the following continuing education requirements.

1. Standard optometry license holders and diagnostic pharmaceutical certificate holders shall complete between January 1 and December 31 of each calendar year at least 12 hours of continuing education courses, of which a maximum of six (6) hours may be obtained from an approved online source.

2. License holders authorized to diagnose and treat pathology and use and prescribe therapeutic pharmaceutical agents shall complete between January 1 and December 31 of each calendar year at least 16 hours of continuing education courses. A minimum of eight (8) of these 16 hours shall pertain to ocular and systematic pharmacology and/or current diagnosis and treatment of ocular disease and shall be obtained through an in-person classroom setting. The

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remaining eight (8) hours may pertain to general optometry topics such as contact lenses, and up to six (6) of these hours may be obtained from approved online sources. Practice management courses will not qualify for any of the 16 hours toward re-licensure. Additionally, for those holding a controlled dangerous substance license and who are satisfying the one-time continuing education requirement for controlled dangerous substances set forth in §303, those one-time continuing education requirement hours shall all count toward their required annual continuing education in the calendar year in which they are obtained, whether online or in person. Such certificate holders will be entitled to apply the CPR/BLS continuing education to their required annual continuing education, provided that such CPR/BLS continuing education shall not count toward the required eight (8) classroom hours related to ocular and system pharmacology and current diagnosis and treatment of ocular diseases, and provided further that no more than two (2) hours of CPR/BLS continuing education may be applied to the continuing education requirement in any two (2) calendar years.

3. No licensee shall obtain more than six (6) hours from online education sources.

4. The continuing education required by this Paragraph shall be obtained, whether in-person or online, through any continuing education program that satisfies at least one of the following criteria:

- a. Offered by a nationally recognized optometric association;
- b. Offered by a state affiliate of a nationally recognized optometric association or a regional council composed of state affiliates of a nationally recognized optometric association;
- c. Offered by a school or college of optometry accredited by the American Optometric Association Accreditation Council on Optometric Education; or
- d. Accredited by a nationally recognized organization, such as the Council on Optometric Practitioner Education or the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education.

5. The board reserves the right in its discretion to disallow any continuing education source or course that is commercially biased. The board further reserves the right in its discretion to disallow any continuing education source or course that is not pertinent to the practice of optometry.