Members Present: Eugene McDonough, Chair; Michelle Lagana, Alison Risko, Dana Salgado, Daniella Rutner and Richard Soden

Extended Member: Frank Pirozzolo, Wayne Gabel and Thomas Kaminska

Members Absent:

SED Staff: Dolores Cottrell, Patricia Lucas, Michael Puspurs, Dylan Toften

SED Guests:

Welcome: Dr. Cottrell welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. and each member introduced themselves.

Minutes: Minutes of the May 3, 2021 meeting were approved as corrected (Salgado/Soden).

Chairperson’s Report

Dr. McDonough started his report by stating that the Orals bill is still sitting on the Governor’s desk. Dr. McDonough stated he had no other report to give.

Executive Secretary’s Report

Dr. Cottrell started her report by saying that the Governor is allowing virtual meetings until January 15th. Dr. Cottrell stated that the Optometry Board office doesn’t handle prelicensure and to refer applicants with questions to the contact us form on the OP website.
Dr. Cottrell ended her report by recognizing Board staff member Patti Lucas, who has served for 35 years and is retiring at the end of December. Dr. Cottrell thanked her for all the incredible work she has done.

2021 Legislative – The Orals Bill has passed the Senate and the Assembly, and it is on the Governor’s desk waiting for signature. The Board had a lengthy discussion about the Orals Bill and how the Department can facilitate enactment of the bill.

The Partnership bill, Senate 6872 and Assembly 3526 Authorizes certain licensed health service professionals to form limited liability companies. This is still in discussion.

Old Business

Telehealth Guidelines Update – Dr. Cottrell stated that Legal did their review of the Telehealth guidelines and that we need to align it better with the definition of Telehealth being used by other professions who already have Telehealth guidelines. Dr. Cottrell told members that once she finishes with the edits, she will email the revised guidelines out to the board for review.

Rhopressa Update – Dr. Cottrell informed members that the Department received a letter from the Commissioner of Health at DOH in support of the addition of Rho kinase inhibitors to the Optometrists formulary. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the process to get drugs approved for optometric use.

Optometrists and DOH Lab List – Dr. Cottrell informed board members that the NYS DOH requested that the Department provide a link to the list of the laboratory tests optometrists can prescribe. Similar to how Chiropractic appears on the Authorized Order Source for Laboratory tests. The Board had a lengthy discussion about what tests can be ordered. Dr. Soden agreed to start a list of lab tests and have it reviewed by SUNY Optometry.

The board members discussed if light therapy can be used to treat dry eyes. The Board determined it is within the scope of practice for optometrists for treatment of a disease, as long as the light is non-invasive and not ionizing radiation.
New Business

**ARBO Annual Meeting June 19 & 20-Dr. Risko** – Dr. Risko attended the meeting as New York’s voting delegate. The meeting was held virtually and was attended by about 100 participants. Dr. Risko stated that there was an election for the ARBO Board of Directors. Dr. Risko informed board members that there were conversations about diversity and inclusion and scope of practice expansion.

**VSP Global Eyes of Hope**- Dr. Cottrell informed board members that since 2017, the Department partnered with VSP Vision Care, NYSOA and the NYSSO to hold a NYS Vision Health month event with the goal of providing free exams and glasses to students in need. Dr. Cottrell stated they would like to have a three-day event in Central New York and currently there is a place holder for a mobile clinic sometime between March 1st to the 15th. Dr. Cottrell asked the board members to participate if they are able.

**Draft AOA Questionnaire**- The Board answered the questions for the AOA Questionnaire Inquiry from Johnson and Johnson. The board members had a lengthy discussion about the use of contact lenses for delivering medication for diabetes and antihistamines.

**Election of Board Chair**- Dr. Cottrell asked the Board to think of a successor for Dr. McDonough. Dr. Cottrell asked members that if they are interested in Board Chair, to please reach out to Dr. Cottrell prior to the January Meeting.
Next Meeting: The next Board Meeting will be held on Monday, January 10, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. on WebEx.

Executive Session: There were no disciplinary cases to be reviewed.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was unanimously approved for Adjournment at 12:09 PM