

NEW YORK STATE BOARD FOR OPTOMETRY

Monday May 22, 2023

9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

New York State Education Department
1411 Broadway, 10th Floor, Regents Room
New York, New York 12234

Rochester Regional OPD Office
85 Allen Street, Suite 120, Room 140
Rochester, NY 14608

Members Present: Michele Lagana, Alison Risko, Dana Salgado, Richard Soden, Jeffrey Calhoun, Obinna Akano

Extended Member: Frank Pirozzolo, Wayne Gabel

Members Absent: Daniella Rutner, James Coney

SED Staff: Dolores Cottrell, Michael Puspurs

Welcome: Dr. Cottrell welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Minutes: Minutes of the February 6, 2023 meeting were approved as corrected (Salgado/Soden).

Chairperson's Report

No report.

Executive Secretary's Report

Dr. Cottrell started her report by thanking Dr. Salgado and Dr. Akano for being at the Tuesday March 21st "Happy Hour" ARBO meeting. The meeting focused on the new NBEO Part II PEPS exam.

Dr. Cottrell informed members that Dr. Risko will be attending the National ARBO meeting in Virginia on June 18th to the 20th.

2023 Legislative Update – Dr. Cottrell stated that the Senate Bill 131, and Assembly Bill 3158, "Persons Exempt from Optometry License Requirements", allowing persons from Optometry schools outside of NY to do internships has passed the Assembly and the Senate and is just waiting for the Governor's signature. The Board had a lengthy discussion about if regulation changes are needed for the Bill. The Board also had a lengthy discussion about Senate Bill 6162, "color vision testing being performed by police officers". The Board agreed there should be an ophthalmic professional performing the color vision test.

Old Business

Telehealth Guidelines Update – Dr. Cottrell stated that we will have the Telehealth Guidelines to discuss at the next Board Meeting.

Updates on NYS 40-hour Oral Therapeutic Pharmaceutical Agent Certification- Dr. Cottrell stated that SUNY has continued to give the Orals course and the last exam will be given in June. Dr. Cottrell informed members that after 2023 SUNY, will offer the orals course once a year for the next 4 years. The Board discussed the fact that out of state endorsement candidates must take the NYS course and exam to get orals privileges.

Q and A development for the Website regarding Orals and CE requirement- The Board approved the questions and answers for the website.

New Business

Professional Practice Guideline- Optometrist Delegating Procedures to unlicensed individuals- The Board is going to look at the list of duties unlicensed individuals are able to perform, update the list and discuss it at the September meeting.

Radiofrequency- The Board agreed that under the scope of Optometrists, Radiofrequency can only be used to treat dry eye.

Discussion on Drugs Fitting within Statute- The Board discussed whether or not certain drugs fit within the statutory definition of pharmaceuticals certified optometrists are permitted to prescribe under the statute.

Alternate Board Exam- The proposal sent to the Board from the Optometry Examining Board of Canada, requesting the Board consider accepting their exam as an acceptable alternative to the NBEO was discussed. The Board agreed to further discuss it at the next meeting.

Election of Vice-Chair- Dr.'s Salgado and Dr. Calhoun will be considered and the Board will follow up on it at the next meeting.

Next Meeting: The next Board Meeting will be held on Monday September 11, 2023 in New York City.

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

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was approved for Adjournment at 12: 11 PM (Salagado/Soden).