

NEW YORK STATE BOARD FOR OPTOMETRY

Monday January 5, 2024 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

New York State Education Department
1411 Broadway, 10th Floor
Regents Room
New York, NY 10018

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

Members Present: Daniella Rutner, Chair, Michele Lagana, Alison Risko, Jeffrey Calhoun
Dana Salgado, Obinna Akano

Extended Member: Frank Pirozzolo, Wayne Gabel

Members Absent: Richard Soden, James Coney

SED Staff: Dolores Cottrell, Michael Puspurs

Welcome: Dr. Cottrell welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. Formal introductions followed.

Minutes: Minutes of the September 11, 2023 meeting were approved as corrected (Salgado/Rutner).

Chairperson's Report

Dr. Rutner started her report by discussing the changes made to the NBEO testing with refraction being removed from the Part III clinical test. The Board had a lengthy discussion about how to make NBEO aware of the Board's concerns removing refraction.

Executive Secretary's Report

Dr. Cottrell started her report by thanking everybody for all the work they have done with orals privileges over the past year. She informed members that Dr. Heath is retiring from SUNY Optometry in July and that Deputy Commissioner Sarah Benson is retiring in February. Dr. Cottrell stated that she is now the Executive Secretary for PAP.

Dr. Cottrell stated that there is an ARBO happy hour meeting on January 16, 2024 and that the date of the Annual Meeting is in June 2024.

2024 Legislative Update – Dr. Cottrell stated that the Governor has not signed the Bill for students for externships. The Board discussed that it may have already passed because it is after December 31st. Dr. Rutner stated that SUNY Optometry does out of state externships through an MOU. SUNY Optometry is opening a satellite campus in Syracuse. They plan to start accepting students in 2025.

Old Business

Updates on NYS Therapeutical Pharmaceutical Agent certification- Dr. Cottrell stated that the Department had issued 769 oral therapeutics certifications. Dr. Cottrell informed members that SUNY Optometry is going to offer the Orals course and exam once a year. Dr. Rutner stated that the next Orals course is being given on April 12-14, 2024 and that the Orals exam will be given on May 5, 2024.

Professional Practice Guideline- Optometrist Delegating procedures to unlicensed individuals- The Board revised the Professional Practice Guideline-Optometrist Delegating procedures to unlicensed individuals. The Board Office will email it to Legal and then get it posted to the website.

Alternate Board Exam discussion- The Board had a lengthy discussion about accepting the Canadian OBEC exams. One benefit would be increasing the number of optometrists practicing in upstate New York. Dr. Cottrell stated she will reach out to the Michigan State Board for Optometry about their experience with the OBEC exam.

New Business

Updates on Conditional Registration and Privileges tiles on the Optometry webpage- The Board Office staff showed the members the Privileges tile on the OP website and informed them that the Conditional Registration tile is not on the OP website yet.

Update on memo sent to pharmacists about the Orals certification privileges for optometrists- The Board discussed how this memo will be helpful in letting pharmacists know that optometrists can now prescribe oral therapeutic pharmaceuticals.

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

Nuvisia Plasma Pen- The Board determined it is not within the New York State optometry scope of practice to use the Nuvisia plasma pen for conjunctivochalasis.

Optometry Tele-Health Guidelines- The Board had a lengthy discussion about the changes from Legal.

Next Meeting: The next Board Meeting will be held on Monday June 3rd, 2024 in New York City at SUNY Optometry at 9:30 a.m.

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

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was approved for Adjournment at 12:44 PM (Akano/Risko).