

NEW YORK STATE BOARD FOR OPTOMETRY

Monday June 3, 2024
9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
SUNY College of Optometry
33 W 42nd St
New York, NY 10036

Members Present: Daniella Rutner, Michele Lagana, Alison Risko, Dana Salgado, Richard Soden, Jeffrey Calhoun, Obinna Akano & James Coney

Extended Member: Frank Pirozzolo, Wayne Gabel

SED Staff: Dolores Cottrell, Michael Puspurs

SED Guests: Tom Coté (NYSOA), Dr. David Heath

Welcome: Dr. Rutner welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. Each member introduced themselves. Dr. Heath introduced himself and stated that SUNY Optometry is being renovated and it will be completed by March 2026.

Minutes: Minutes of the January 5, 2024 meeting were approved as corrected (Salgado/Rutner).

Chairperson's Report

Dr. Rutner stated that the new NBEO Part III exam changes do not appear to comply with the state regulations and laws. The Board had a lengthy discussion about the new NBEO Part III exam and the existing state regulations and it was determined that all parts of the NBEO exam are in compliance with the state regulations.

Executive Secretary's Report

Dr. Cottrell started her report by stating she attended February 27th ARBO meeting with the Board Executives. Dr. Cottrell informed members she also attended the May 21st happy hour model practice online.

2023 Legislative Update – Dr. Cottrell stated that there is an Assembly 9902 and a Senate S0876-A Bill about amending the education law to allow optometrists to administer nasal sprays

to treat dry eye disease. The Board supported the bill. Mr. Cote stated that NYSOA is working on a Vision Plan Abuses Bill and the PLLC Bill,

Old Business

Update on Conditional Registration tile on the Optometry webpage- Dr. Cottrell informed members that the Conditional Registration Tile has been posted on the Optometry webpage.

Professional Practice Guideline- Optometrist Delegating Procedures to unlicensed individuals- Dr. Cottrell stated that this has been posted on the professional practice optometry webpage. The Board discussed how this will affect the Telehealth Guidelines.

Alternate Board Exam Discussion- Dr. Cottrell stated that she will reach out to the Michigan Optometry Board for background about accepting the OBEC exam for licensure. The Board discussed looking at the OBEC exam as another option. Dr. Lagana agreed to attend the clinical testing NBEO Part III on September 14th in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Optometry Telehealth Guidelines – The Board had a discussion with Mr. Owen Donovan about the Telehealth Guidelines and the Board agreed to finalize the Telehealth Guidelines and get them posted on the Optometry webpage over the summer.

New Business

North Carolina Board Action- The Board discussed that NYS does not allow an optical. Optometry store to offer eye exams via telemedicine without an eye doctor there to handle patients and supervise unlicensed individuals.

Proposed ARBO Bylaws Changes & Model Practice Act- Dr. Cottrell informed members that she and Dr. Risko will be attending the June 16th Annual ARBO meeting.

Radiologic Testing/ Diagnostic Imaging- Dr. Cottrell stated that she had emailed the Board to find out if optometrists use radiologic testing and the Board said optometrists should be allowed to perform radiologic testing. The Board discussed how it would take a statutory change to allow for optometrists to order radiologic tests.

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.

Next Meeting: The next Board Meeting will be held on September 30th, 2024 in New York City.

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

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was approved for Adjournment at 11:58 am (Soden/Risko).