

NEW YORK STATE BOARD FOR OPTOMETRY

New York State Board for Optometry
Monday September 29, 2025 9:30am
1411 Broadway, 10th Floor
MMMM Room
New York, NY 10018

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

Extended Members: Wayne Gabel

Members Absent: Michele Lagana

SED Staff: Steven Calderon, Azriel Paris

Guests:

Welcome: Dr. Salgado welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

Minutes: Minutes of the May 19 meeting were approved as corrected. (Soden/Rutner).

Executive Secretary's Report

Dr. Calderon Started his report by giving the Board members an update on changes coming to the Department's continuing education sponsor approval process. Dr. Calderon also gave updates on the suggested changes to Commissioner's Regulation §66.2, and the Department's licensure requirements webpage for optometry. All items have been submitted to OP's legal department for review and approval.

Dr. Calderon finished his report by stating that the Commissioner's Regulation §66.5 has been updated on the website to include language pertaining to the use of nasal sprays.

Chair Report.

Dr. Salgado discussed how she was able to establish contact with Dr Terri Haley from the ARBO Board of Directors.

Old Business

Discussion About Updating Regulations -The Board discussed the proposed updates to Commissioner's Regulations §66.2 The Board discussed updating §66.2 to specifically include the NBEO Parts I, II, and III examinations, and include a pathway for additional examinations to be accepted if the Board determines that such examination are equivalent in content and acceptable for licensure.

New Business

Discussion of Accreditation Council on Optometric Education's planned phase out of its accreditation of optometric technician programs- The Board discussed that New York States does not have optometric technicians as a licensed profession, and that the phase out should not affect employment in New York State. The Board discussed how optometric technicians would be considered unlicensed aides in New York State.

Discussion on which COPE course categories can be counted toward an optometrist's oral therapeutic continuing education requirement for registration renewal- Board staff will work with Board members on a case-by-case basis over the next year to better define which courses can be accepted for the oral therapeutic pharmaceutical agents continuing education requirement.

Discussion on Drugs Fitting within Statute

The Board discussed whether certain drugs fit within the statutory definition of pharmaceuticals certified for optometrists to prescribe.

Next Meeting: The next Board Meeting will be tentatively held on Monday, January 26, 2025.

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

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was approved for Adjournment at 10:46a.m. (Rutner/Soden).