



State of Washington
Department of Health

WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY
Minutes of June 15, 2015 Meeting

A meeting of the Washington State Board of Optometry was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, June 15, 2015 by Christopher Barry O.D., Chair. The meeting was held in Conference Room 309 at the Department of Health, Center Point Corporate Park, 20425 72nd Avenue South, Kent, Washington.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chris Barry, O.D., Chair
Judy Chan, O.D.
Karen Preston, O.D.
Dale Heaston, O.D.
Roy Brock, Public Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Christopher Wright, Assistant Attorney General
Kathy Schmitt, Deputy Director
Tanya Mills, Credentialing Supervisor
Danielle Welliever, Policy Analyst
Brett Lorentson, Rules Coordinator

OTHERS PRESENT:

Weihan Wang, O.D.
Wayne Serin, O.D.
Ryan Bennion, O.D.
Brad Tower, Lobbyist

OPEN SESSION

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Christopher Barry, O.D., Chair

1. Approval of Agenda
The Agenda was approved.
2. Approval of Minutes
 - 2.1 The minutes of the March 16, 2015 Board meeting were approved as written.
 - 2.2 The minutes of the April 29, 2015 Continuing Education Approval meeting were approved as written.

Reports

3. Christopher Barry, O.D., Chair. No Report
4. Christopher Wright, A.A.G. reported that the A.G.'s office received a request for A.G. opinion from Representative Eileen Cody regarding Diamond Burr Drill. Board members asked questions about the process for developing an A.G. opinion. Christopher Wright agreed to follow up regarding the process and their opportunity to provide input.
5. Kathy Schmitt, Deputy Director reported that Judy Haenke retired, that Lorelei Walker is the new program manager (but is on vacation) and that Susan Gonzales, administrative assistant is on medical leave. She reported on revenues and expenditures through April 30, 2015. She explained that the Optometry licensing fee is being reduced and the hearing is August 5th. She reported that the next New Member Orientation meeting will be on June 22, 2015 and the annual Board and Commission Leadership meeting will be on July 20, 2015. She discussed the upcoming transition of Board members to Citrix to access board related correspondence and documents via the DOH network. She reported that staff is working with the Optometric Physicians of Washington to transition the annual Kane Hall seminar.

Rulemaking

6. **WAC 246-851-090 through 230 continuing education rules.** The Board reviewed the latest draft rules including revisions proposed by Dr. Noble and subsequent comments and questions from staff. The Board voted to move the rules as revised by Dr. Noble to hearing. Staff will provide recommendation for language to describe training attended in person vs. training attended remotely. The Board reviewed a request from Melissa Neighbors to classify AMA Category 1 credits as Category 1 in the Optometry CE rules. The Board voted to deny the request.
7. **WAC 246-851-370 – revising the rule to clarify or remove outdated language.** This rule is scheduled for review as a result of a petition from Dr. Weihang Wang. Dr. Wang and Dr. Wayne Serin presented their positions about whether the Board should consider revising the current rule language. Rule writing begins at the September 21, 2015 meeting.
8. **Other Rule Updates** – Danielle Welliever provided an update on WAC 246-851-545 Retired Active Status scheduled for hearing on September 21, 2015.

Discussion

9. Legislation Update

9.1 The federal government recently rescheduled hydrocodone products from Schedule III to Schedule II. SSB 5293 passed this session to allow licensed optometrists to prescribe, dispense, purchase, possess and administer hydrocodone products effective July 24, 2015. An expedited process will be used for rulemaking.

9.2 SHB 1010 was passed. It adds optometrists to the list of practitioners that can make a referral to an occupational therapist beginning July 24, 2015.

10. Correspondence

10.1 Inquiry regarding Optometrist prescribing privileges for nutraceuticals. The Board was asked whether an Optometrist can prescribe Metanex to patients when there is a concern about progression toward diabetic retinopathy. Two concerns with the request: Metanex is a medical food that is not directly indicated for retinopathy. Metanex (and medical food in general) is not on the current formulary for Optometrists. The Board requested Christopher Wright, A.G. to research whether Metanex could be prescribed off-label and whether the Board has authority is statute to add medical food to the formulary.

10.2 Request from Dr. Anshel (speaker at 2015 Kane Hall seminar) for contact information of seminar attendees. The Board recommended that staff refer Dr. Anshel to the list and labels request procedure.

11. **Review of Continuing Education.** No courses were presented for review.

12. **Open Forum.** Brad Tower, Lobbyist, provided an update of 2015 legislative initiatives related to optometry including children's vision, practitioner proprietary labs and essential health benefits for children.

13. **Hearing Dates.** Dr. Barry, Dr. Heaston and Roy Brock agreed to serve on the hearing panel scheduled for September 15, 2015. Christopher Wright, A.A.G. will present information to prepare members for the hearing process.

14. **Association of Regulatory Board of Optometry meeting** is in Seattle June 21-23, 2015. Dr. Barry will welcome the audience and provide information about Seattle and the state of Washington. Dr. Preston and Kathy Schmitt will attend.

15. **COPE policy changes.** Dr. Preston presented the COPE policy changes. The Board remains resistant to implementation of OE Tracker in Washington.

16. Other Board business. No other Board business was presented or discussed.

CLOSED SESSION

17. No license applications were presented

18. No disciplinary cases were reviewed

19. No other closed session business was presented or discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.