# DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS • CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY 2450 Del Paso Road, Suite 105, Sacramento, CA 95834 P (916) 575-7170 | Toll-Free (866) 585-2666 | www.optometry.ca.gov



## **ISSUE MEMORANDUM**

| DATE    | May 5, 2023  |
|---------|--|
| то      | Board Members, California State Board of Optometry (CSBO)            |
| FROM    | Eunie Linden, Board Secretary  |
| SUBJECT | Agenda Item #5 – Discussion and Possible Approval of Meeting Minutes |

The following meeting minutes are presented for discussion and possible approval:

A. March 17, 2023 minutes

The mission of the California State Board of Optometry is to protect the health and safety of California consumers through licensing, registration, education, and regulation of the practice of Optometry and Opticianry.

#### **MEMBERS OF THE BOARD**

Lillian Wang, O.D., President
Jeffrey Garcia, O.D., Vice President
Eunie Linden, J.D., Secretary
Stacy Hancock, Optician
Glenn Kawaguchi, O.D.
Mark Morodomi, J.D., Public Member
Joseph Pruitt, O.D.
Jonathon M. Ross, O.D.
Sandra D. Sims, J.D., Public Member
Donald Yoo, J.D., Public Member
Vacant Governor Appointee, Public Member





Gregory Pruden, Interim Executive Officer

## QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING DRAFT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Friday, March 17, 2023 Time: 10:00 a.m.

| Members Present                      | Staff Present                                 |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Lillian Wang, O.D., President (in-   | Gregory Pruden, Interim Executive Officer     |
| person)                              | (in-person)                                   |
| Jeffrey Garcia, O.D., Vice President | Randy Love, Administration and Licensing      |
| (in-person)                          | Manager (in-person)                           |
| Eunie Linden, J.D., Secretary (in-   | Joely Walker, Enforcement Manager (in-        |
| person)                              | person)                                       |
| Stacy Hancock, Optician (remote)     | Terri Villareal, Enforcement Lead (in-person) |
| Glenn Kawaguchi, O.D. (in-person)    | Jonathan Gasca, Policy Analyst (in-person)    |
| Mark Morodomi, J.D. (remote) absent  | Brittany Ng, Attorney (in-person)             |
| 11:06 – 11:16 a.m.                   |   |
| Joseph Pruitt, O.D. (remote)         |   |
| Sandra D. Sims, J.D. (remote)        |   |
|                                      |   |
| Members Absent                       | Guests  |
| Jonathon M. Ross, O.D.               | On File                                       |
| Donald Yoo, J.D.                     |   |

Open session of this Board Meeting was webcast.

A recording of the webcast is available at: <a href="https://youtu.be/BMZy591Gb0">https://youtu.be/BMZy591Gb0</a>

#### **Open Session**

#### 1. Call to Order / Roll Call and Establishment of a Quorum

Audio of Discussion: 0:08

Board President, Lillian Wang called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Eunie Linden called roll and a quorum was established. Dr. Jonathon Ross and Donald Yoo were absent.

#### 2. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

Note: The Board may not discuss or take action on any matter raised during this public comment section, except to decide whether to place the matter on the agenda of a future meeting [Government Code Sections <u>11125</u>, <u>11125.7</u>(a)].

Audio of Discussion: 1:20

There were no requests for public comment.

#### 3. Department of Consumer Affairs Update

- A. Executive Office
- B. Budget Office
  - i. Fund Condition
  - ii. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Future Fund Condition

Audio of Discussion: 2:20

Yvonne Dorantes, Assistant Deputy Director, provided the Executive Office update. She began with the DCA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Steering Committee. At the end of January, the Committee decided to focus on training for its first quarter of 2023. Over the next few months, all staff, DCA SOLID trainers, and board and bureau leadership will be receiving DEI training and regular recurring training opportunities as well. On March 3rd, DCA's SOLID planning and training unit received a full day of training for the Committee. The training included four modules which were 1) understanding the value of DEI in the workplace, 2) learning to navigate diverse conversations, 3) decoding unconscious biases, and 4) unleashing the power of generational differences. On March 21st, Executive Officers and board and bureau Chiefs will attend a 1.5 hours DEI leadership training to gain a general understanding of DEI and what it means as a leader and regulator with DCA. In late April, SOLID trainers will be DEI certified and will offer DEI-related training to all DCA employees by June. Therefore, the DEI Committee will be meeting again on May 12th and there will be further updates after that meeting.

In terms of strategic planning, DCA's SOLID team is in the final stages of updating its strategic planning process, which includes an equity analysis and environmental scan surveys. Therefore, analysis will include DEI-related questions to assist boards and bureaus in developing DEI-related goals and objectives. As part of their strategic plans to further assist the boards and bureaus, sample DEI objectives will be provided as well. A training video and a video message from the Business Consumer Services and Housing Agency Secretary, Lourdes Scottsdale Ramirez, and DCA Director, Kimberly Kirkmeyer, are in development. They will explain their perspectives on DEI and how it relates to the boards' roles and regulators and policy makers. To improve public access, DCA is creating a centralized website page on DCA's website which will house all board and bureau strategic plans. Once these new DEI components have been finalized, SOLID will begin working with DCA's boards and bureaus to develop new strategic plans or update existing strategic plans

Ms. Dorantes reminded Members of their training requirements. Board members must submit their certificates of completion to the Executive Officer, Gregory Pruden and DCA Member Relations. There are two DCA wide mandatory trainings for 2023 which are Sexual Harassment Prevention (SHP) training and Information Security Awareness. All DCA employees and appointees (including board members) will need to complete the SHP training this year. This year's training is required every odd number year, and it

is online, self-paced, and approximately 2 hours. Additionally, everyone who is assigned a DCA email which ends with dca.ca.gov, is required to complete the Information Security Awareness Fundamentals 2023 training. The training is online and required annually. Board members must complete then Board Member Orientation training (BMOT) within the first year of appointment and every two years thereafter. Defensive Driver training must also be taken within the first year of appointment and every four years thereafter. For members' convenience, these trainings are offered multiple times a year and in a variety of formats. For more information, a mandatory training page has been created to assist members with access and tracking specified trainings. The page includes direct links to mandatory trainings as well as pertinent information and policy specific to these training courses.

Ms. Dorantes explained that board and committee members are required to complete a Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700) within 30-days of appointment and within 30-days of leaving office. This year's annual filing period covers the prior calendar year.

Absent legislation to extend current provisions, DCA board and bureaus will not be allowed to conduct meetings virtually after July 1st and will have to return to the Open Meeting Act teleconference meeting requirements prior to COVID-19.

Board and Bureau Relations (BBR) circulated a Winter board member newsletter at the end of January. This issue contains introductions on the new BBR team, helpful resources, training information and Department updates.

Lastly, Ms. Dorantes informed Members that the DCA has begun its enlightened enforcement process beginning in March. The Dental Board has agreed to be the first board to go through the process. On March 2nd, the co-chairs of the project led staff through a review fo their complaint and investigation process. Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) from all the boards were able to ask questions and provide suggestions. This review process will continue until all aspects of the enforcement process have been reviewed. The end result will be another report with recommendations, a sample enforcement policies and procedures manual, and a critical review of the process that will be used to update the DCA's Enforcement Academy training.

Veronica Hernandez, DCA Budget Analyst provided the Board's expendure projections and fund condition reports. On January 10, 2023, the Governor's budget was released which provided updated budget numbers for the Board. These include incremental adjustments to the current year 2023, as well as the budget year 23-24. The incremental changes resulted in an increase in the Board's current year appropriation by approximately \$100,000 since Ms. Hernandez's last presentation in December 2022. She reported that expensitures are based on actual data through fiscal month seven which is January 2023, as well as projections through the remaining fiscal year. The Board had a beginning base budget of just over 3.9 million year-to-date (YTD). The Board has expended approximately 1.7 million and is projected to spend a total of just over 2.86 million creating a reversion to the Board's fund of just over 1 million which is 27.68%.

Regarding the fund condition statement, the Board ended FY 21-22 with just over 2 million reserve balance, which is 7.9 months in reserve. For the current year, the Board is projected to bring in approximately 2.5 million in revenue and expend just over 3 million between authorized expenditure and direct draws, leaving the Board with a fund

balance of 2.6 million, which is 7.4 months in reserve. Budget year revenue is projected to come in just under 3 million which is at 2.87 million. Expenditures are projected at full appropriation reducing the fund reserve balance to 3.4 months in reserve by the end of 23-24. The Board will most likely realize savings in its appropriation for personnel services. Should the Board revert even half of what is projected in the current year, next year's fund reserve balance will increase by about 3 months in the budget year. The Budget Office will continue to closely monitor the Board's revenue and expenditures and report back to the Board with monthly projections. Ms. Hernandez noted that one of the main driving factors driving expenditure increases in future years is a result of personnel services adjustments which includes general salary increases as well as employee compensation and retirement rate adjustments. The Budget Office includes an ongoing 3% increase to expenditures to the fund condition statement to account for these ongoing incremental adjustments. Funds will traditionally show a slight decline for months in reserve due to the conservative projection method utilized, which is expenditures projected with an ongoing 3% increase. Lastly, she noted that any future legislation or unanticipated event may result in the Board's need for additional resources, which would increase pressures to the fund. The Budget Office will continue to monitor the Board's fund condition statement and keep the line of communication with executive staff open for any future needs or expectations.

Mark Morodomi asked what the Board should be doing right now to address the imbalance of the fund condition? Ms. Hernandez explained that the Budget Office is having discussions with the Board's executive staff regarding some possible fee increases which will definitely help. This would be the largest thing that will help with revenue. Interim Executive Officer, Greg Pruden interjected and explained that staff is currently engaged in examining costs as well as revenues. Staff are continuing to find savings on the personnel side, and the main tool the Board has is to hold vacant positions open.

Mr. Morodomi clarified that he is asking what Board Members can do on their side to address the projected deficit? Mr. Pruden explained that in the next agenda item, he can more effectively and affirmatively explain what the Board can be doing to address this matter.

Ms. Linden commented that it is still unclear to her how the Board ended up with such a high structural imbalance to begin with, as the Board had a healthy fund condition previously. She noted that the Board received a large increase in funds, but that was a one-time occurrence and since then budget change proposals (BCPs) have been approved which increases overall personnel expenses. She asked how those BCPs got approved without a healthy reserve? Mr. Pruden addressed the question from one angle explaining that one of the BCPs the Board submitted and was approved for related to the mobile optometric office program, which was a legislative driven item. He believes that through that BCP the Board received two positions. The mobile optometric program is a program that is not implemented currently. Since the mobile optometric program is not currently implemented, it is not bringing revenue into the fund. Yet the BCP provided positions; therefore the Board has increased its expenditure costs, but has not implemented the program to bring in revenue to help pay for those specific positions. This is one example. He noted that during the August meeting the Budget Office provided information regarding an overestimation on the revenue side for the optician program, which also partly explains the structural deficit issues.

Dr. Glenn Kawaguchi asked how Members may obtain a deeper understanding of the budget so that we are less reliant on the changes of personnel from the DCA? Ms. Hernandez stated that keeping that line of communication open between Budgets and the Executive Officer (EO) is important. She stated that every fiscal month she provides staff with a new projection, but is not sure if that information is passed on to Board Members. The Budget Office can provide additional training to Board Members if need be on projections and how to read the documents. She assured that these projections are provided every month.

There were no requests for public comment.

Mr. Pruden provided an update on Item ii. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Future Fund Condition Issues. During the August 2022 meeting, there was a robust discussion about the Board's structural inbalance. At that time the inbalance was projected to be approximately one million dollars. This was the projected deficit from August of last year carrying forwared to the end of the current fiscal year, which ends June 30, 2023. During the December Board meeting, updated documents were provided which had shown that the structural deficit had come down slightly, and was now projected to be at around \$850,000. During today's meeting, what was just presented from the Budget Office shows that the Board is projected to spend slightly over 3 million this year, but we are only projected to bring in 2.5 million in revenue. This will leave the Board with a realized structural deficit of \$544,000. As was discussed during the August and December meetings, the main contributing factor to these costs increasing over time are the budget change proposals (BCPs) and the additional positions that the Board received from those BCPs, which added to the Board's organizational chart. No new revenues have been received to pay for these new positions. As was mentioned a short while ago, one of the BCPs was related to the mobile optometric program which as of today is not currently implemented. Thus the Board has not received any revenue for that program.

When positions are added to the organization chart, whether or not the position is filled, the Board incures pro rata costs that must be expended for those positions. Over the last year the Board has carried a fairly high vacancy rate of about 1/3. It is this vacancy rate that is the main factor contributing to bringing the projected deficit down from around one million to around half a million. Not filling those positions realizes salary savings that improves the fund condition. Nevertheless pro rata dollars and costs are still incurred. Therefore, not every dollar is saved. Personnel costs over the last two fiscal years have increased by around \$600,000. In addition to the increase in positions, these increased costs are explained by an increase in salaries and benefits. The Board is spending about \$150,000 more this fiscal year in DCA pro rata costs then in the previous fiscal year. The Board needs to pursue corrective action to address its fund condition issues; however, this cannot be accomplished by license fee increases alone. It must be explained what the Board is doing to control costs on the expenditure side. Staff is currently reviewing the organization chart for areas where there may be vacant positions that are not actually needed and may ultimately fall off in the future.

The Board has recently engaged on a staff level with the Department's Organizational Improvement Office on a project aimed at examining our processes and looking at ways to perform our work more efficiently and effectively. Another item staff is working on is the Enlightment Enforcement Project. Management has been sending staff to cross train and to learn how others are doing their work at DCA. Staff is also examining and

questioning the Board's processes with the BreEZe team, and looking to implement additional technological solutions for performing our work more efficiently and effectively. For example, the Board still has applications that are paper based and not online. Mr. Pruden noted that if all of the vacant positions on the Board's org chart were eliminated today, there would still be a structureal deficit. Therefore, the Board cannot simply cut its way out of the fund problem. It must grow revenue as well.

Mr. Morodomi suggested that perhaps some enforcement costs may be saved by performing less enforcement on lower level cases where there is little to no public harm involved.

Mr. Pruden directed Members' attention to the fee chart included in Board materials for consideration about which fees still have room to be increased. Staff requests direction from the Board to bring back regulatory language for adjusting these fees to their current caps.

Public comment was received from Dr. Steve Keller, O.D. He asked how much the deficit would be reduced if all fees were raised to their caps? Mr. Pruden explained that this would bring in revenue of around \$500,000 which would almost eliminate the current structural deficit. The Board would need to be very judicious working with the Budget Office and tracking the monthly revenue chart. The deficit is not just an issue of an increase in cost and expenditures, but the Board has also over projected revenue in the past.

Dr. Kawaguchi noted that a healthy increase to the optician fees was performed not too long ago. He is not certain that the Board can justify raising those fees so soon, and continued conversations are probably in order. Mr. Pruden clarified that what staff is presenting today is just a request for a motion to direct staff to bring back (to a tuture meeting) a proposal to increase these fees. This would be a regulatory requirement; therefore, any Board proposal would still need to go through the formal rulemaking process where there would be ample time for public comment and additional items and materials. Today staff is hoping to achieve direction from the Board to come back at a future meeting to begin the process. From there the language would need to be Board approved. Afterwards, staff would need to be directed to initiate the rulemaking process, so we are still a bit of way out from the more formal rulemaking side of the equation.

There were no requests for public comment.

Dr. Jeffrey Garcia moved to direct staff to bring to the May 2023 Board meeting proposed regulatory language to increase application fees currently not at their statutory cap to their statutory cap. Mark Morodomi seconded. The Board voted (8-Aye; 2-Absent) and the motion passed.

| Member        | Aye | No | Abstain | Absent | Recusal |
|---------------|-----|----|---------|--------|---------|
| Dr. Wang      | Х   |    |         |        |         |
| Dr. Garcia    | Х   |    |         |        |         |
| Ms. Linden    | Х   |    |         |        |         |
| Ms. Hancock   | Х   |    |         |        |         |
| Dr. Kawaguchi | Х   |    |         |        |         |
| Mr. Morodomi  | Х   |    |         |        |         |
| Dr. Pruitt    | Х   |    |         |        |         |

| Dr. Ross |   |  | Х |  |
|----------|---|--|---|--|
| Ms. Sims | X |  |   |  |
| Mr. Yoo  |   |  | X |  |

#### 4. Board President's Report

A. Call for Board Officer Nominations

Audio of Discussion: 1:05:31

Dr. Wang made a call for nominations for Board officers. Dr. Garcia nominated Dr. Wang for President. Dr. Wang nominated Dr. Garcia for Vice President and Member Linden for Secretary. The deadline for nominations is March 31st, and Board Members will vote at the May Board Meeting.

#### 5. Discussion and Possible Approval of Meeting Minutes

A. October 10, 2022

B. December 9, 2022

C. January 27, 2023

Audio of Discussion: 1:08:12

Executive Officer Pruden provided an edit for the December 9, 2022 minutes to change the word "confidence" to "competence" on page 12.,

Executive Officer Pruden also provided an edit for the January 27, 2022 minutes to add, under the heading, "Friday, January 27, 2023."

There were no requests for public comment.

Dr. Jeffrey Garcia moved to approve the October 10th 2022, December 9th 2022, and January 27th 2023 meeting minutes subject to the corrections discussed. Eunie Linden seconded. The Board voted (7-Aye; 3-Absent) and the motion passed.

| Member        | Aye | No | Abstain | Absent | Recusal |
|---------------|-----|----|---------|--------|---------|
| Dr. Wang      | X   |    |         |        |         |
| Dr. Garcia    | Х   |    |         |        |         |
| Ms. Linden    | X   |    |         |        |         |
| Ms. Hancock   | Х   |    |         |        |         |
| Dr. Kawaguchi | Х   |    |         |        |         |
| Mr. Morodomi  |     |    |         | Х      |         |
| Dr. Pruitt    | Х   |    |         |        |         |
| Dr. Ross      |     |    |         | Х      |         |
| Ms. Sims      | Х   |    |         |        |         |
| Mr. Yoo       |     |    |         | Х      |         |

#### 6. Executive Officer's Report

- A. Program Update
- B. Enforcement Program
  - i. Statistical Review, Quarter 2, Fiscal Year 2022-2023
  - ii. AB 2138 FAQ

- C. Examination and Licensing Programs
  - i. Statistical Review, Quarter 2, Fiscal Year 2022-2023
- D. Regulatory Update
  - i. Mobile Optometric Office
  - ii. Continuing Education
  - iii. Implementation of AB 458
  - iv. Optometry Disciplinary Guidelines
  - v. Optician Program Omnibus Regulatory Changes
  - vi. Dispensing Optician Disciplinary Guidelines
  - vii. Requirements for Glaucoma Certification

Audio of Discussion:1:12:08

Interim Executive Officer, Mr. Pruden provided the Executive Officer's Report. Mr. Pruden provided updates on staffing, committee meetings, and outreach efforts.

Lead Enforcement Analyst, Terri Villareal reported on Item 6.B.i. the Board's Enforcement Program. Ms. Villareal provided information about the upcoming edition of the Board's newsletter, which is now called the Spectacle. The spring edition will feature articles about continuing education, BreEZe, and Optometrist licensing.

Ms. Villareal presented enforcement statistics.

Mr. Pruden presented information about additional outreach Board staff have been doing related Assembly Bill 2138, including an FAQ that has been posted to the website, distributed via listsery, and shared on social media.

Administration and Licensing Manager Randy Love presented item 6C on the Board's licensing and examination programs. Mx. Love provided information about upcoming changes to the BreEZe program. Mx. Love also presented application processing statistics.

Mr. Pruden presented item 6D and provided an update on the status of previously approved regulatory changes.

Public comments were requested, and Dr. Stephen Keller, O.D. spoke. Dr. Keller stated that he has been affiliated with Loma Linda University Ophthalmology department. Every other Wednesday they have an hour and a half of grand rounds where the Ophthalmology residents present cases. Dr. Keller states it is some of the best continuing education that he's ever been privileged to attend. Dr. Keller goes on to state that the problem is that there is no way for the optometrists that attend to get the continuing education credentialed because of the frequency of the grand rounds and, in applying for accreditation for continuing education, you have to have the agenda and what exactly is going to be discussed in those meetings, and oftentimes the residents don't even know what's going to be discussed. Dr. Keller saw these new regulations and he was wondering if the grand rounds could be included in the definition of self study class. Mr. Pruden offered to follow up with Dr. Keller after the meeting.

James Deardorf has been working with Salvation Army in Ventura County, SEE International in Santa Barbara, rotary clubs and Lions Clubs. Mr. Deardorf asked if there are several people running Mobile Optometric Offices even though there are no regulations, would his group be in legal trouble for starting a Mobile Optometric Office?

Mr. Pruden responded that the Board is not able to give legal advice, but that he would be happy to speak with him at a later time.

Joe Neville, Executive Director of the National Association of Optometrists and Opticians, spoke next, stating that Assembly Bill 1534 was passed and there were materials and conversation from the Board about adopting or proposing regulations related to the nonresident ophthalmic lens dispensers. He hasn't seen that on the list and is curious if there are going to be proposed regulations. He can't find the updated forms on the Board's website.

#### 7. Discussion and Possible Action on Legislation

- A. AB 1369 (Bauer-Kahan): Healing arts licensees
- B. AB 1570 (Low) Optometry: certification to perform advanced procedures
- C. SB 340 (Eggman) Medi-Cal: eyeglasses: Prison Industry Authority
- D. SB 819 (Eggman) Medi-Cal: certification

Audio of Discussion: 2:16:42

Mr. Pruden presented this agenda item. Mr. Pruden provided materials, including calendar highlights and a copy of the potential positions that the Board can take on the legislation, specifically as it relates to Assembly Bill 2236 which was authored by Assembly Member Low.

Mr. Morodomi commented that the Governor's veto message on AB 2236 notes that ophthalmologists have three years of training or residency and optometrists only get one year in the related procedure. Mr. Morodomi also pointed out that the education requirements can be incorporated into the legislation, instead of relying on the regulatory change process. Mr. Morodomi would also like more information related to Senate Bill 340 (Eggman) from the Prison Industry Authority, the California Optometric Association, and the medical association.

Public comments were requested. Kristine Shultz, Executive Director for the California Optometric Association (COA), thanked the Board for their past support of these bills. Ms. Shultz stated that she understands if the bill has to go through the committee, but since it was identical to bills that the Board has supported in the past, she was hoping to get a support vote today. Ms. Shultz went on to say that COA is committed to amending the bill to limit the Board's regulatory requirements. COA understands that the Board has limited capacity to cultivate regulations, and COA wants to make sure there are provisions in the bill that address the Board's concerns. Ms. Shultz closed by stating she was happy to answer any questions.

Mark Morodomi made a motion to refer the four bills identified under this item to the Legislation and Regulation Committee to review and provide a recommendation to the full Board at the appropriate full Board meeting. Dr. Jeffrey Garcia seconded. The Board voted (8-Ayes) and the motion passed.

| Member        | Aye | No | Abstain | Absent | Recusal |
|---------------|-----|----|---------|--------|---------|
| Dr. Wang      | Х   |    |         |        |         |
| Dr. Garcia    | Х   |    |         |        |         |
| Ms. Linden    | Х   |    |         |        |         |
| Ms. Hancock   | Х   |    |         |        |         |
| Dr. Kawaguchi | X   |    |         |        |         |

| Mr. Morodomi | Х |  |   |  |
|--------------|---|--|---|--|
| Dr. Pruitt   | X |  |   |  |
| Dr. Ross     |   |  | X |  |
| Ms. Sims     | X |  |   |  |
| Mr. Yoo      |   |  | X |  |

## 8. Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO) OE TRACKER and CSBO Continuing Education (CE) Audit Program

- A. ARBO OE Tracker and BreEZe
- B. CSBO CE Audit Program
- C. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding CE Courses and Topics

Audio of Discussion: 2:32:58

Mr. Pruden presented this agenda item. Mr. Pruden provided a status update on efforts at the staff level related to the ARBO OE tracker as well as information to licensees, applicants, and members of the public related to the Board's continuing education audit program.

Mr. Pruden provided information on staff efforts to explore the feasibility of linkages between the ARBO OE tracker system and the Board's BreEZe system. Mr. Pruden explained that staff has discovered that it would take a quite extensive scoping and mapping plan to implement the linkage. Staff anticipates that implementation would require at least a year of scope and design work. Until this work has begun, we would not know what the cost of the design and implementation would be.

Mr. Pruden added that staff will continue to explore the possibility of linking the two systems, while also pursuing efficiencies and opportunities at the moment to do our work more efficiently and effectively.

Moving into item 8B, Mr. Pruden used the opportunity to remind applicants and licensees of the importance of completing your CE, and reminded Optometrists that, when renewing, you attest under penalty of perjury that you have met the CE requirements.

In its last Sunset Review, the Board was faulted for shortcomings in completing its CE audit functions and failing to meet its goal of auditing 5% of renewing Optometrists. Of the CE audits performed, the failure rate was high.

The Board made a commitment in the last Sunset Review to improve our CE audit program and to increase communication and awareness about our CE audit program. While Board staff had not made a lot of progress on this in recent years, there is now a team in place that is actively designing and and working on the CE audit program. Mr. Pruden anticipates bringing more information and some audit statistics to the May Board Meeting.

Mr. Pruden offered that Board staff use the ARBO OE tracker to verify CE course completion and strongly encouraged licensees to have access to the ARBO OE tracker system. Mr. Pruden highlighted that the ARBO OE tracker helps the audit process be more efficient for both licensees and staff.

For item C, Mr. Pruden reported that there are some types of CE courses that Board staff struggle to place within the various specified CE requirements. In their research, staff have found that other Boards and other jurisdictions have created guides to address this issue. An example from New Jersey was included for reference. Staff has requested that the Board provide direction related to this item and possibly direct the Practice and Education Committee to provide specific direction on how COPE categories fit within our CE requirements.

Public comments were requested, and Christine Schultz executive director for the California Optometric Association spoke. Ms. Schultz thanked Mr. Pruden for the hard work he has done in keeping them updated and aware of what's going on and that the changes at the Board have been amazing so far. Ms. Schultz went on to state that COA will be letting the profession know about the failure rate for CE audits, making sure they complete their CE, reminding them about the requirements and making sure that they are doing that. Ms. Schults also stated that, to her memory, the majority of the past CE audit failures were for technical violations where a provider may have advertised the class as being Board-approved, but the course application was ultimately denied. Ms. Schultz states that the vast majority of licensees take their CE seriously.

Glenn Kawaguchi moved to refer the Practice and Education Committee to research and report back to the full Board on how the Board can address how the ARBO cope categories correspond to the Board CE requirements. Sandra Sims seconded. The Board voted (8-Ayes) and the motion passed.

| Member        | Aye | No | Abstain | Absent | Recusal |
|---------------|-----|----|---------|--------|---------|
| Dr. Wang      | X   |    |         |        |         |
| Dr. Garcia    | Х   |    |         |        |         |
| Ms. Linden    | Х   |    |         |        |         |
| Ms. Hancock   | Х   |    |         |        |         |
| Dr. Kawaguchi | Х   |    |         |        |         |
| Mr. Morodomi  | Х   |    |         |        |         |
| Dr. Pruitt    | Х   |    |         |        |         |
| Dr. Ross      |     |    |         | X      |         |
| Ms. Sims      | Х   |    |         |        |         |
| Mr. Yoo       |     |    |         | Х      |         |

#### 9. Future Agenda Items

Audio of Discussion: 2:57:31

Dr. Stephen Keller, O.D., requested that the Board be aware of and consider the effect that weaponized social media is having on the provision of health care in California, and, further, to consider establishing a committee to receive complaints from Optometrists reporting abusive use of social media.

#### **Closed Session**

10. Pursuant to Government Code §11126(c)(3), the Board Will Meet in Closed Session for Discussion and Deliberation on Disciplinary Matters

11. Pursuant to Government Code Section 11126(a)(1), the Board Will Meet in Closed Session to Consider and Take Possible Action on the Appointment of an Executive Officer

#### Reconvene in Open Session

### 12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:34 p.m.