

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

Jeffrey Garcia, O.D., President
Eunie Linden, J.D., Vice President
Stacy Bragg, O.D., Secretary
Alex Clemens, Public Member
Paul Hsu, Public Member
Robert Klepa, J.D., Public Member
Joseph Pruitt, O.D.
Martin Dawson, SLD/CLD
Lillian Wang, O.D.
Taylor Tedder, O.D.
Vacant Governor Appointee, Public Member
Gregory Pruden, Executive Officer



**January 23, 2026
FINAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

PHYSICAL LOCATION
Department of Consumer Affairs
Hearing Room
1625 North Market Blvd.
Sacramento, California 95834

**Remote attendance via WebEx
provided for the public**

Members Present	Staff Present
President Garcia, O.D. (in-person)	Gregory Pruden, Executive Officer (in-person)
Vice President Linden, J.D. (in-person)	Erica Bautista, Administration and Licensing Manager (in-person)
Secretary Bragg, O.D. (in-person)	Brad Garding, Enforcement Manager (in-person)
Member Clemens (in-person)	Serena St. Mary, Policy Analyst (in-person)
Member Hsu (in-person)	Brennan Meier, Legal Counsel (in-person)
Member Klepa, J.D. (in-person)	
Member Pruitt, O.D. (in-person)	
Member Dawson, SLD/CLD (in-person)	
Member Wang, O.D. (in-person)	
Member Tedder, O.D. (in-person)	
Members Absent	Guests
	On File

Open session of this Board Meeting was webcast.

A recording of the webcast is available at: <https://youtu.be/BGRiVXbOdWA>

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

Audio of Discussion: [0:06](#)

Board President, Dr. Jeffrey Garcia called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was run according to the Open Meetings Act. Board Secretary, Stacy Bragg took roll call and a quorum was established. All members were present.

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 [11125](#), [11125.3](#), [11125.7\(a\)](#)].

Audio of Discussion: [2:56](#)

Public comments were heard from Ruby Garcia who announced the implementation of an apprenticeship program for high schoolers which will launch in February 2026. Additionally, as the California State Society for Options discusses its two-year degree program, the implementation of newer technology is being considered and discussed.

3. Discussion and Possible Action on Meeting Minutes

A. October 17, 2025 Board Meeting

Audio of Discussion: [5:25](#)

The public did not provide any comments.

Alex Clemens moved to approve the October 17, 2025 Board meeting minutes. Lillian Wang seconded. The Board voted (9-Aye, 1-Abstension) and the motion passed.

Member	Aye	No	Abstain	Absent	Recusal
President Garcia	X				
Vice President Linden	X				
Secretary Bragg	X				
Member Clemens	X				
Member Dawson	X				
Member Hsu	X				
Member Klepa	X				
Member Pruitt	X				
Member Tedder	X				
Member Wang			X		

4. Discussion and Possible Action on Department of Consumer Affairs Update

- A. Executive Office
- B. Budget Office
 - i. Fund Condition

Audio of Discussion: [6:44](#)

Executive Office

Shelly Jones, Assistant Director for DCA Board and Bureau Relations provided a Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) update. Chief Deputy Director, Christine Lally has been named the Acting Director for the Department following the retirement of Director, Kimberly Kirchmeyer.

Regarding Governor's activities: On January 8, 2026, Governor Newsom delivered his final State of the State Address. On January 9 he released his proposed budget for the current fiscal year. It does not include significant new spending proposals, rather continues to build on prior policy successes and continues to implement critical investment priorities.

Last year's 2025-26 state budget included a proposal to split DCA's oversight agency into two agencies (California Housing and Homelessness Agency and Business and Consumer Services Agency). The new Business and Consumer Services Agency will be responsible for DCA's licensing and enforcement and DCA will be among eight departments in that new agency. They will become operative this July 1.

Other updates included:

- Travel claims and a reminder to be frugal by utilizing options other than car rental whenever possible.
- The completion of Member's Form 700 which is due within 30-days of appointment for new Members and by April 1 for existing Members (by March 20th is preferred).
- New training opportunities will be added to member's LMS accounts by the end of the month.
- The annual Board President's training is scheduled for February 24, 2026. This training is for Presidents, Vice-Presidents, and Advisory Committee Chairs.

The public did not provide any comments.

Budget Office

Budget Analyst Emily Molino and Budget Manager, Bradley Lencioni were present to provide an update on the Board's expenditure projections and fund condition statement. The expenditure projections show the Board having a reversion to its fund of approximately \$543,000 (13.96%). The fund condition statement shows the Board has a balance of approximately \$3.135 million or 9.3 months in reserve.

The public did not provide any comments.

5. Discussion and Possible Action on Executive Officer's Report

- A. Program Update
- B. Enforcement Program
 - i. Statistical Review, Quarter 2, Fiscal Year 2025-26
 - ii. Continuing Education Audit Statistics
- C. Examination and Licensing Programs
 - i. Statistical Review, Quarter 2, Fiscal Year 2025-26
 - ii. California Laws and Regulations Exam Statistics, Quarter 2 Fiscal Year 2025-26
- D. Regulatory Update
 - i. Optometry Disciplinary Guidelines
 - ii. Optician Program Omnibus Regulatory Changes
 - iii. Dispensing Optician Disciplinary Guidelines
 - iv. Requirements for Glaucoma Certification

Audio of Discussion: [32.47](#)

Program Update

The Board commenced the Occupational Analysis in this fiscal year. The contract was carried out with the Department's Office of Professional Examination Services (OPES) who performs this study and activities. Activities include Two-day workshops with contracted subject matter experts (SMEs). In February a pilot study will be distributed and in May the final two-day workshop will occur. The Board expects the final report to be completed around June/July.

The Laws and Regulations book was updated in 2024. Updates for statutes and regulatory changes made in 2025 will need to be added to the law book.

Staff must begin a recruitment process for the Dispensing Optician Committee (DOC). The Sunset Bill SB 776, took effect January 1 and made consequential changes to the DOC. A recruitment period is needed to attract qualified candidates to fill the three positions of this Committee. A Board approved process to determine selection will be needed.

Staffing update: The Board hired a new Policy Analyst, Serena St Mary. Additionally, the board is in the process of recruiting for its receptionist position.

The Winter newsletter has been submitted to DCA and is expected to come out in February.

The public did not provide any comments.

Enforcement Program

Enforcement Manager, Brad Garding provided enforcement updates. The quarter two statistics are tracking at a similar pace to the last quarter. Cases that involve direct consumer harm and sexual abuse are prioritized first. Applicant cases also come first

in hopes of getting them licensed if possible. CE audit cases are also tracking at a similar pace to the last quarter. The Enforcement Program reported 134 total complaints, emphasizing unlicensed practice cases.

The public did not provide any comments.

Examination and Licensing Programs

Administration and Licensing Manager Erica Bautista reported on the examination and licensing programs. BreEZe system updates include changes to application processes for various optometry-related licenses. Statistical reviews indicated notable fluctuations in application approvals and processing times across different license types. DCA implemented a new email requirement for applicants and licensees during initial licensure and renewals.

The Board collects email addresses monthly for announcements, improving data accuracy.

Current optometry law prevents licensees from owning more than 11 offices. If an optometrist has more than 11 Statement of Licensures (SOLs) they are not able to renew the additional SOLs. Staff are requesting changes to allow renewing additional SOLs over 11.

In quarter two fiscal year 2025 the Board received 22 requests for a verification letter, 10 applications for retired status, and 2 for retired-volunteer status.

Regulatory Update

E.O. Pruden provided the update. Regulatory updates include repealing outdated regulations and aligning with recent statutory changes. The disciplinary guidelines are expected to be brought to the Board at a future Board meeting this year.

The public did not provide any comments.

6. Discussion and Possible Action on California State Board of Optometry 2026-2029 Strategic Plan

Audio of Discussion: [1:29:08](#)

Executive Officer Pruden presented the Board's 2026-2029 Strategic Plan.

The public did not provide any comments.

Lillian Wang moved to approve the draft strategic plan as provided in the materials and direct staff to finalize the strategic plan for publishing on the Board website. In finalizing the strategic plan, the Board authorizes the Executive Officer to make any technical or non-substantive changes. Alex Clemens seconded. The Board voted unanimously (10-0) and the motion passed.

Member	Aye	No	Abstain	Absent	Recusal
President Garcia	X				
Vice President Linden	X				
Secretary Bragg	X				
Member Clemens	X				
Member Dawson	X				
Member Hsu	X				
Member Klepa	X				
Member Pruitt	X				
Member Tedder	X				
Member Wang	X				

7. Discussion and Possible Action to Initiate Section 100 Rulemakings

- A. Repeal Foreign Graduate Sponsorship
- B. Repeal Corporation Applications and Branch Office Licenses
- C. National Board of Examiners in Optometry Part III Examination Name Change
- D. Amend Mobile Optometric Office Permit Requirements

Audio of Discussion: [1:33:44](#)

Repeal Foreign Graduate Sponsorship

Executive Officer Pruden reported on this item. Several Section 100 regulatory changes need to be made. The repeal of the foreign graduate sponsorship is needed because although these applicants make take the law exam there is no pathway to the Board to authorize them to sit for the national board exams since foreign schools are not accredited. This regulation needs to be repealed for clarity purposes.

Repeal Corporation Applications and Branch Office Licenses

The corporation applications and branch office licenses have been obsoleted for a long time, so these regulations need to be repealed.

National Board of Examiners in Optometry Part III Examination Name Change

Recently the NBEO changed the name of their Part III exam. The old name still existed in a few sections of statutory code and still exists in a couple sections of regulatory text. The Board's sunset bill made the change in statutory code to the exam's current name and staff wish to make these corresponding changes in the appropriate regulatory sections.

Amend Mobile Optometric Office Permit Requirements

SB 776 made changes to the Mobile Optometric Office (MOO) permit requirements. It removed the 12-offices (during first renewal cycle) cap to unlimited (no cap). It also gives the MOOs the option of either a quarterly report or annual report. Staff needs to update regulatory text to be synonymous with what is in statute.

Public comment was received from Ruby Garcia who sought clarification on licensure of foreign graduates. Executive Officer Pruden responded, noting that the authority was removed from law several years ago.

Robert Klepa moved to direct staff to work with regulatory council to file these section 100 rulemakings. Stacy Bragg seconded. The Board voted unanimously (10-0) and the motion passed.

Member	Aye	No	Abstain	Absent	Recusal
President Garcia	X				
Vice President Linden	X				
Secretary Bragg	X				
Member Clemens	X				
Member Dawson	X				
Member Hsu	X				
Member Klepa	X				
Member Pruitt	X				
Member Tedder	X				
Member Wang	X				

8. Discussion and Possible Action on Revised Board Member Handbook

Audio of Discussion: [1:47:16](#)

The Board discussed revisions to the Board Member Handbook, emphasizing its ownership by the Board Members. New accountability measures include majority revote requirements for significant changes and orientation sessions for new Members. Highlighted topics for discussion included Board Member communications and gift policy revisions. The Board directed staff to make the following updates to the handbook:

- Require Board Member communications to comply with the communication restrictions imposed by the Bagley Keene Open Meeting Act.
- Use the following language for guidance on gifts: Board members shall comply with all laws and guidelines regarding conflicts of interests, including restrictions on accepting gifts, travel, and honoraria. In particular, members shall familiarize themselves with the Political Reform Act and its accompanying regulations. Additional resources can be found on the Fair Political Practices Commission website, including specific fact sheets on gifts, travel, and honoraria for state officials.

The public did not provide any comments.

Lillian Wang moved to approve the draft Board Member Handbook as provided in the materials, but with the changes approved at this meeting, and direct staff to finalize the Board Member Handbook by working with the appropriate DCA units and publishing on the Board website and distribute a final copy to all Members. In finalizing the Board Member Handbook, the Board authorizes the Executive Officer to make any technical or non-substantive changes. Paul Hsu seconded. The Board voted unanimously (10-0) and the motion passed.

Member	Aye	No	Abstain	Absent	Recusal
President Garcia	X				
Vice President Linden	X				
Secretary Bragg	X				
Member Clemens	X				
Member Dawson	X				
Member Hsu	X				
Member Klepa	X				
Member Pruitt	X				
Member Tedder	X				
Member Wang	X				

9. Future Agenda Items

Audio of Discussion: [2:22:35](#)

Member Klepa requests a discussion regarding the need for improved communication on Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) decisions before closed sessions.

Member Clemens requests a discussion to set a timeline and deadlines for recruitment. Additionally (if it is not prohibited) Executive Officer Pruden notify staff, all Members and all partners and affiliate agencies that the information is up and running on the Board's website.

The Board anticipates scheduling a teleconference meeting in early March (tentatively March 2) to address urgent agenda items.

Member Wang requests a discussion regarding whether California could be exposed to similar licensure issues as recently occurred in Kentucky.

The public did not provide any comments.

The meeting took a 12-minute break, until noon, then moved into closed session.

10. Closed Session

- A. Pursuant to Government Code section 11126(a)(1), the Board will conduct the annual performance evaluation of its Executive Officer.
- B. Pursuant to Government Code section 11126(e)(1), the Board will meet in closed session to confer and receive advice from legal counsel regarding the following litigation:
 - i. Sacramento County Superior Court, Case No. 23CV004237
 - ii. Sacramento County Superior Court, Case No. 25WM000203

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at the conclusion of closed session.