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**To:** Board Members

**Date:** August 4, 2017

**From:** Donna Burke  
Committee Chair

**Telephone:** (916) 575-7170

**Subject: Agenda Item 15 – Public Relations and Outreach Committee Update**

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At the Board's April 21, 2017 meeting, the Public Relations and Outreach Committee was tasked with discussing the topic of emerging technology and bringing recommendations to the full Board regarding an educational outreach campaign.

On May 4, 2017, during the Public Relations and Outreach Committee meeting, it was determined that the Committee Chair, Donna Burke, would work with DCA's Deputy Director of Communications, Veronica Harms, to develop a framework that captured the ideas that were discussed. The committee was to review the document and make final upgrades prior to the August Board meeting.

The Committee met again on July 27, 2017 to review the communications plan, timeline, news release, and media list drafted via the mutual efforts of Ms. Burke and Ms. Harms. Minor changes were made to the documents and the Committee voted to present the updated drafts to the full Board.

**Action Requested:**

Please review the communications plan and related documents to determine whether the Board wishes to begin implementation.

**Attachments:**

1. Communications Plan
2. Board Timeline
3. News Release
4. Media List

## California State Board of Optometry Communications Plan

### Introduction

The California State Board of Optometry (Board) was created by the California Legislature in 1913 to safeguard the public's health, safety, and welfare through regulation of the practice of optometry. Protection of the public is the highest priority for the Board when exercising its licensing, regulatory and disciplinary functions. The Board currently licenses approximately 7,500 practicing optometrists, the largest population of optometrists in the United States.

The Board's vision is to ensure excellent optometric care for every Californian. One component of this is to ensure the public understands what is excellent optometric care. Part of that is knowing what proper eye health in general looks like and what are the options available to consumers for maintaining eye health.

The Board recognizes there is a need to educate consumers and other stakeholders on their mission and proper eye health. It is the intent of the Board to establish a communications plan to bring awareness to consumers, professionals and policy makers about the Board's role and the benefits of proper eye care.

### Communications Objectives

- Educate consumers about the potential health risks of not receiving a thorough eye exam by a licensed eye care professional.
- Teach consumers the difference between the types of eye exams available and the benefits of each one.
- Provide materials to professionals to educate their patients on different types of eye exams.
- Create a level of understanding on the benefits of new technology, but also recognize its limitations.
- Secure the support of partners to assist in the distribution of messaging.
- Inform the public of the role of the Board.

### Target Audience

The Board will be targeting multiple audiences and developing different messages and materials for each.

- Parents
- Doctors/professionals
- Policy Makers

### Messaging

Initial messaging themes are presented in the following matrix for each audience. Depending on the outreach tactic, the message can be changed.

Audience	Message Themes
Parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online refractive/kiosk eye exam – what it can and cannot do.</li> <li>• Are you compromising eye safety for convenience? Your vision could be at risk.</li> <li>• Importance of a thorough eye exam.</li> <li>• Long term versus short term strategy for maintaining eye health.</li> </ul>
Doctors/Professionals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educating patients on different types of eye exams will establish trust and loyalty and also better eye health.</li> <li>• Patients rely on professionals for easy to understand information to make informed decisions.</li> <li>• Online refractive/kiosk eye exams are the first step to eye care, but other exams are needed to detect other eye health issues.</li> </ul>
Policy Makers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Board supports new technology to advance eye care however, there are some limitations to the technology.</li> <li>• The Board's role is to license and regulate the practice of optometry.</li> <li>• What is eye health?</li> </ul>

**Strategy**

The Board will work with the Department of Consumer Affairs' Communications Division to create materials and content to use for outreach. Campaigns will leverage national holidays pertaining to optometry, current events and issues, as well as board priorities. The Board will also work on developing partnerships to help promote the Board's role and campaigns.

**Tactics**

The following activates are some ideas for the Board to implement.

*Traditional Media Outreach\**

- News Releases – News releases can be written to gain interest on Board activities and messages. These can be tied to national events to be relevant including Save Your Vision Month and the like.
- Interviews – These can be for radio, television or print. The Communications Division will work to secure interviews on specific topics for the Board.
- Opinion Editorials – Topics can be decided to develop an opinion editorial for placement. These too can coincide with specific months to gain relevancy or around specific pieces of legislation.

\*Please see attached media list to include blogs, major dailies and community papers. This is just a starting point. Outreach will also be to television and radio stations depending on the campaign.

### *Social Media Outreach*

The Board currently has Facebook and Twitter pages. Specific campaigns can be developed to garner more followers and engagement with the Board. These campaigns would be promoted using hashtags. Some potential campaigns could include the following:

- #HealthyEyes – campaign can be centered on developing graphics to educate people on what healthy eyes look like.
- #CanUSeeWhatISee – a campaign to explain the difference between eye exams.
- #ShowMeYourGlasses – fun campaign to get people engaged and showcase how many people wear glasses and the importance of eye health.

The Board will also create an Instagram account to promote the campaigns above. By creating campaigns throughout the year to promote on social media the sites would be upgraded and enhanced with content and information.

### *Back to School Campaign*

Back to school is a good time to remind parents to take their children to get a comprehensive eye exam. The Board will develop a press release to educate parents on the need to have their child's eyes checked out by an optometrist or ophthalmologist. (Draft attached)

A social media campaign will also be developed with messages to remind parents to take their children to get an eye exam. The following are examples of potential posts for social media sites. They would also be linked to the Board's website for more information.

- FB Posts (the following messages would be designed graphic posts)
  - Parents, did you know healthy eyes can lead to a better learning experience for your children? Make sure to get your child's eyes checked before school starts. #HealthyEyes
  - Have you gotten your child's eyes checked? Send us a picture of your child getting their eyes checked. #HealthyEyes
  - Its 'Back-to-School' and time for an eye check. #HealthyEyes
  - This school year, make sure your children have clear vision and healthy eyes. #HealthyEyes
  - Don't impede your child's learning ability – get them a comprehensive eye exam. #HealthyEyes
- Instagram Posts – we would encourage people to post pictures of their children going back to school with glasses on or at the time of their eye appointment. We'd use the hashtag #HealthyEyes

### *Video Development*

The Board can work on developing videos to explain the difference between eye exams. This can be of an optometrist simulating different eye exams. The video can then be used and placed on social media sites. As well as shared with partners and doctors to play in their offices.

### *Collateral Materials*

Several materials can be created for use on the Board's website, social media and for distribution.

- Update existing brochures
- Create plain language materials for doctors to provide to patients regarding eye exams
- Create a one sheet to explain all the different types of eye exams
- Develop a brochure on the Board's role and function

### *Partnerships*

Developing partnerships is a great tool to get ambassadors to deliver Board messages. The CA Optometric Association has agreed to run Board content in their newsletters and link to the Board website. We would work on identifying potential partners and develop materials as necessary.

Below is a brief list of potential partners:

- CA Optometric Association
- VSP
- Kaiser
- Optometry schools
- National Eye Institute
- American Academy of Ophthalmology
- California Department of Health Care Services
- California CareForce
- Blue Shield
- California Association of Dispensing Opticians
- California Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
- School PTA's
- California State Society for Opticians
- Legislative Committee
- Legislative Offices specifically targeting the following:
  - Assemblymembers:
    - Matthew Harper
    - Adrin Nazarian
    - Jacqui Irwin
    - Marie Waldron
    - Kevin Kiley
    - Rob Bonta
    - Mark Stone

- Catherine B. Baker
- Senators:
  - John M. W. Moorlach
  - Robert M. Hertzberg
  - Hannah-Beth Jackson
  - Henry I. Stern
  - Joel Anderson
  - Ted Gaines
  - Nancy Skinner
  - Bill Monning
  - Steven M. Glazer

*DCA Publications*

DCA has a host of venues to have Board content including:

- DCA Blog Page
- Consumer Connection
- Monthly DYK

**Timeline**

Many of the tactics can be used throughout the year. Below is a general timeline to follow for specific campaigns using the different tactics. All dates/timeframes are estimates and subject to change.

Please see attached timeline for more details.

Campaign/Tactic	2017					2018							
	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Jul	Aug
Back to School	Develop materials including news release for distribution on the importance of eye health	Pitch media on interviews											
Glaucoma Awareness Month (January)				Research op-ed options	Draft Op-ed, get approval	Place op-ed							
Save Your Vision Month (March)						Brainstorm campaign	Create materials including possible videos, brochures, social media etc	Launch campaign					
Sports Eye Safety Month (April)							Brainstorm campaign	Create materials including possible videos, brochures, social media etc	Launch campaign				
Healthy Visoin Month (May)								Brainstorm campaign	Create materials including possible videos, brochures, social media etc	Launch campaign			
Cataract Awareness Month (June)									Brainstorm campaign	Create materials including possible videos, brochures, social media etc	Launch campaign		
UV Safety Month (July)										Brainstorm campaign	Create materials including possible videos, brochures, social media etc	Launch campaign	
Children's Eye Health/Safety Month (August)											Brainstorm campaign	Create materials including possible videos, brochures, social media etc	Launch campaign

Campaign/Tactic	2017					2018							
	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Jul	Aug
Contact Lens Health Week (August)											Brainstorm campaign	Create materials including possible videos, brochures, social media etc	Launch campaign
American Diabetes Month (November)	Brainstorm campaign	Create materials including possible videos, brochures, social media etc	Launch campaign										
#HealthyEyes								Brainstorm campaign	Create materials including possible videos, brochures, social media etc	Launch campaign			
Halloween and Contact Lenses		Draft Press release, create social media graphics	Launch campaign early October										
#CanUSeeWhatISee			Brainstorm campaign	Create materials including possible videos, brochures, social media etc		Launch campaign							
#ShowMeYourGlasses		Brainstorm campaign	Create materials including possible videos, brochures, social media etc	Launch campaign									
Eye Exams Video			Initiate ideas	Script development	Film	Film	Edit	Launch campaign					
DCA Consumer Connection Article			Brainstorm topic	Draft Article	Publication Date								
Partnerships					Identify Potential Partners and outreach opportunities	Begin outreach to potential partners to garner interest							
DCA Blog	Posts to coincide with awareness months and campaign launches												
Social Media	On-going												
Collateral Materials	Developed as needed												
Traditional Media Outreach	On-going												





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## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
[Date]

Contact: [Name – (XXX) XXX-XXXX]

### SCHOOL IS BACK IN SESSION

*Are Your Child's Eyes Healthy?*

DATELINE – Back to school season is in full force and parents have been focused on getting all the necessary materials – back-packs, notebooks, pencils – for their child's studies. But, are parents thinking about checking their child's eye health?

Clear vision does not necessarily mean healthy eyes. Nearly 25 percent of school-aged children have vision problems that can cause them to struggle in school. Undetected and untreated vision problems can also leave a child with permanent vision damage later in life. Many of these problems go undetected because children have not received the comprehensive eye exams they need to succeed in school and protect their vision for life.

"The start of a school year is a great time to take your child to get their eyes checked," said Cyd Brandvein, President of the California State Board of Optometry. "Most parents will get their child's vision screened by their regular healthcare provider. We encourage parents to go the extra step to get their child a comprehensive eye exam to detect significant vision and eye health problems."

Existing school vision tests miss eye disorders in 1 in 3 children. Children can be labeled with special needs or behavioral challenges when they simply can't see the blackboard or focus on their book or computer. With a comprehensive eye exam, significant vision and eye health problems, such as binocular vision deficiencies, that can impede reading can be detected.

This school year, make sure your children have clear vision and healthy eyes. Regularly check the health of your eyes by visiting your eye doctor. To verify the license of your

**News Release Title**

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optometrist or ophthalmologist, visit the Department of Consumer Affairs' website at [www.dca.ca.gov](http://www.dca.ca.gov) and click the BreEZe button.

*The California Board of Optometry is part of the California Department of Consumer Affairs. The board licenses and regulates more than 7,500 Optometrists. You can visit [www.optometry.ca.gov](http://www.optometry.ca.gov) for a variety of consumer resources, including publications, forms and general information.*

*The Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) promotes and protects the interests of California consumers while ensuring a competent and fair marketplace. The department also protects professionals (licensees) from unfair competition by unlicensed practitioners. Consumers can file complaints against licensees by contacting DCA at (800) 952-5210. Consumers can also file a complaint online at [www.dca.ca.gov](http://www.dca.ca.gov)*

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