

ISSUE MEMORANDUM

DATE	February 1, 2019
TO	California State Board of Optometry (CSBO)
FROM	ORIGINAL SIGNATURE ON FILE Shara P. Murphy, Executive Officer
SUBJECT	Agenda Item #6 – Executive Officer Report

A. RDO Fingerprint Deficiency Communication

The Board currently maintains nearly 5,000 Contact Lens and Spectacle Lens Dispenser registrations. In the normal course of updating the BreEZe system for all DCA boards, bureaus, and commissions—DCA's Office of Information Systems implemented a new registration classification, resulting in a hold due to insufficient fingerprint records. This update (which took place in June of 2017) allowed boards to identify registrants whose data was housed by the Department of Justice or an entity previously overseeing the administration of the program. Before the BreEZe update, the Board housed fingerprint data for 1,800 registrants.

In the time immediately following this system update, the Registered Dispensing Optician Program was covered by multiple temporary staff and overseen by two different Interim Executive Officers. With the return of staff dedicated solely to the administration of the Registered Dispensing Optician Program, the Board began to see a number of registrants who reported completing a Live Scan and timely payment of fees but had not received renewal certificates.

Board staff needed to validate fingerprint clearances for approximately 3,200 registrations. Board staff immediately began manual checks of BreEZe files to verify the presence of fingerprint records and remove renewal holds where appropriate. Nearly 3,000 registrant files were manually reviewed by staff. We received fingerprint verification from an OIS "holding tank" system independent of BreEZe, the DOJ and the Medical Board of California for approximately 2,230 registrations.

In completing manual checks, staff found registrants that did not have data on file with one of three repositories: (1) BreEZe, (2) the separate OIS holding tank, or (3) the MBC. Concerned that registrants might be practicing without proper clearance, the matter was brought to the Board. Board members gave clear direction during the November 2nd board meeting to communicate quickly and understand the reason why these registrants had not provided fingerprint data. Staff communicated with the 547 individuals holding the approximately 670 registrations and instructed those individuals to complete a Live Scan by 1/10/19. While processing this communication, Ms. Murphy coordinated with MBC management, DCA executive management, and the DCA OIS staff. Coordination has

confirmed the validity of the registration process when housed with first the MBC and then the Board.

The Board has received a 50 percent response rate to this communication. Fifty letters were returned undeliverable, five registrants are reported deceased, 25 registrants reported they have entered retirement, 175 registrants have completed a Live Scan and 15 registrants are undergoing the Live Scan process. There are 310 registrants who have failed to respond to the communication from the Board.

The registrations for these 310 practitioners have been placed in Delinquent status. A notice of Delinquency and request for compliance by Live Scan has been sent to each registrant. Additionally, staff is preparing a letter to the employer of record for each of these registrants. We anticipate that letter to reach employers by mid-February. Any employer who performs a registration check as of February 1 will find the status of these individuals listed as Delinquent.

B. Personnel

- **Evan Gage (Assistant Executive Officer)**
Mr. Gage joined the Board on December 17th after serving for three years at the Board of Psychology, first as Enforcement Analyst and later as Enforcement Coordinator. In his role as Coordinator, he drafted the Initial Statement of Reasons (ISOR) for the Board's revisions to its Disciplinary Guidelines. In addition to facilitating the Board of Psychology Enforcement Committee, he was the point of contact for BreEZe Enforcement service tickets and acted as co-chair of the BreEZe Enforcement User Group. Evan was one of twelve mentees selected to participate in the first cohort of DCA's Future Leadership Development program. The program put him in contact with all levels of DCA management, empowering him and his teammates to begin building the bridge to DCA's future through teamwork and the utilization of institutional knowledge. Evan brings tremendous enthusiasm to his new role as Assistant Executive Officer and a great appreciation for the hard work of the Board, its Committees, and staff.
- **Marc Johnson (Policy Analyst)**
Mr. Johnson joined the Board as of January 1, 2019 as Policy Analyst and brings an extensive background in regulatory and legislative affairs. He previously served as Policy Coordinator for the California Acupuncture Board. In that capacity, he lead the implementation of five separate regulatory packages into law and produced extensive revisions to the Board's Disciplinary Guidelines. He also worked on the Board's Sunset Reviews, Strategic Plans, legislation and policy manuals. Prior to that position, Marc managed a small business, and has worked as a Legislative Advocate and a Legislative Assistant. He is pleased to be joining the Optometry Board.
- **Eva Gomez (Enforcement Technician)**
Ms. Gomez joined the Board on November 19, 2018. Previously she worked for The Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) as an Office Technician. During her time with CalOES, Ms. Gomez provided clerical support for three

Senior Engineer (Supervisors) and their engineering staff. She has also worked for The Employment Development Department (EDD) as an Accounting Technician. During her time with EDD she worked as an auditor, responsible for auditing overpayments to recipients of Unemployment Benefits.

- Natalia Leeper (RDO Licensing Coordinator)

With the Legal Office of the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Ms. Leeper managed the various databases which track litigation, trademark registrations, subpoenas and Public Records Act requests. Natalia brings a unique dedication to customer service which springs from her tenure as a guest services specialist for the Sacramento Kings basketball franchise. She will utilize her training in creating a memorable customer experience and database tracking to decrease the RDO program backlog while improving relations between the Board, consumers and registrants. Ms. Leeper adapted quickly to her new role and shows command of her desk in her short time with the Board.

- Allien M. Jones (RDO Licensing Coordinator)

Ms. Jones joined the Board as of January 22, 2019. She is the second Management Services Technician for the Registered Dispensing Optician Program. She has an extensive background in Management and Administrative Support roles. She has previously served as a Manager II, in the Abstract Processing Unit with the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). In that capacity, she led a unit of 4 teams consisting of 50 employees processing abstracts received from law enforcement and court hearings. She has also held other positions in DMV headquarters and in the field as an Administrative Manager in the Oroville Field Office, Legal Secretary in the Legal Affairs Division and as a Secretary in Internal Audits with the DMV. Prior to the 17 years in public service, she has worked as a Full Charge Bookkeeper. She is very excited to be here at the Board and learning skills in a different career path.

C. Status of DCA On-boarding for Executive Officer

Since the November Board Meeting, Ms. Murphy has attended the Board Member Orientation Training, completed DCA Management On-boarding meetings with the Administrative Services Division, Communication Division, Legal Affairs Division, Office of Information Services, Division of Investigation, Division of Program and Policy, and SOLID Training and Planning Solutions. Ms. Murphy has developed a working relationship with the Executive Director of the MBC, resulting in process sharing. Ms. Murphy has also received two budget briefings, and participated in the Director's post-Governor's Budget Announcement teleconference. Ms. Murphy is scheduled to attend CalHR management trainings in April and has scheduled training courses with the Office of Administrative Law and DCA's SOLID on the regulatory process.

**D. Licensee Communication Regarding AB 1753 (Low, 2017-2018, CHAPTER 479),
Controlled substances: CURES database**

Prepared by Marc Johnson, Policy Analyst

On January 22nd, Board staff sent out an email to all optometry licensees with TPA, TPL, TPG and TLG certifications about new requirements from the Department of Justice for controlled substance security prescription forms, as part of the CURES database. The email addresses were obtained from the BreEZe system, and licensees were additionally contacted by the DOJ via a letter (attached) sent using the US Postal Service.

Effective January 1, 2019, Assembly Bill 1753 (Low, 2018) requires an additional improvement to controlled substance security prescription forms: the addition of a unique serialized number to each form in a format approved by the DOJ. The statute reads as follows:

Thus, as of January 1, 2019:

- (1) Each controlled substance security prescription form used for prescribing on or after that date must include a unique serialized number in an approved format (Health & Safety Code, section 11162.1, subdivision (a)(15)); and*
- (2) No person shall prescribe a controlled substance on or after that date, nor fill, compound, or dispense a prescription for a controlled substance written on or after that date, without this security feature (Health & Safety Code, section 11164, subdivision (a)).*

According to DOJ, under the new statute, the new security forms will be the exclusive means to write paper-controlled substance prescriptions as of January 1, 2019, and as of that date any prescription written on a controlled substance security prescription form that does not bear all of the 15 security features will be presumptively invalid. The Board is encouraging all eligible licensees to order new forms with the new serial number requirement and utilize e-prescribing when applicable.

Licensees can contact DOJ at 916-210-3187 or their website <https://www.oag.ca.gov/cures> with any questions.

E. Optometry/RDO Program Annual Budget Meeting Report

Charts will be provided as hard copies.

F. Strategic Plan Update

Plan and related articles provided as attachments.

G. Children's Vision Updates

Meetings have taken place with Vision to Learn, California Optometric Association, and VSP. Additional meetings with legislative staff are scheduled to take place the days leading up to the Board Meeting.

H. Enforcement Program

Prepared by Cheree Kimball, Enforcement Lead

In November 2018, the Enforcement Unit was joined by Eva Gomez, who came to us from the California Office of Emergency Services. Ms. Gomez filled the unit's vacant Enforcement Technician position, which was left vacant after the prior incumbent, Brad Garding, was promoted to Enforcement Analyst. The Enforcement Unit is currently fully staffed.

In December 2018, Ms. Murphy met with management from DCA's Division of Investigation (DOI). DOI presented Ms. Murphy with an updated [Complaint Prioritization & Referral Guidelines](#) from DCA. The Enforcement unit met at the beginning of January to discuss the new guidelines and will begin implementing the guidelines as we receive new cases or work pending cases, with the caveat that most unlicensed practice complaints will continue to be worked by Board staff unless an undercover investigation is needed. Future statistics will reflect the use of the new guidelines and Board Members should expect some changes in the number of High and Urgent cases.

In January, Ms. Murphy, Assistant Executive Officer Evan Gage, Lead Enforcement Analyst Cheree Kimball, and RDO Program Enforcement Analyst Alexander A. Juarez attended a Meet & Greet with Northern California Healthcare Fraud Prosecutors & Investigators. At this meeting, we heard about some of the work being done by local District Attorney's Offices and the California Department of Insurance to prosecute cases involving insurance fraud. We were able to meet and connect with some of the investigators and attorneys doing the work and gained valuable insight into how we can work with them on fraud cases.

I. Examination and Licensing Programs

Prepared by Arsha Qasmi, Lead Licensing Analyst

As of this quarter, all new applications were received solely through the BreEZe system; no paper applications were received. There has been an increase in the number of Optometry applications received by the Board, which is to be expected this close to graduation season. Due to the increased amount of application activity last year, we are anticipating the same number, if not more, this year. In an effort to absorb this increasing activity within current staffing bandwidth, we have made changes to our BreEZe online application to improve processing times and reduce the volume of calls and postal mail to the Board

Currently, for new applicants that have submitted all items required and have passed the CLRE exam, processing time is approximately between 4-6 weeks. The RDO program processing times are currently at 8-10 weeks. This includes fixing the backlog on fingerprints for RDO renewal applicants.

One recent enhancement to BreEZe functionality allows applicants to go online and pay an initial application fee and write the exam, without needing prior staff approval. Once they write the exam and pass it, applicants are required to go back into BreEZe and complete the

remainder of the application. Applicants choose their “Certification Type” (DPA, TPA, TPG, TLG) and input other required information to complete their application.

The Licensing Lead continues to work with the BreEZe team to streamline processes in the Licensing Unit. As of January 2019, we phased out Branch Office License (BOL) certificates and have added Statement of Licensure (SOL’s) certificate in their place. We have put in a request to stop all BOL renewal letters from generating as well. The Board together with the BreEZe team is developing a plan to assist licensees in registering SOL’s and Fictitious Name Permits (FNP’s) online. Staff anticipates that this plan will lead to an increase in online activity and will be able to provide a status update at the next meeting.

A new limited term position has been filled as of January 2019, which will greatly improve RDO processing times once this new technician is fully trained and up to speed. With all current positions filled, staff is confident that the remaining back log will significantly decrease.



**BUREAU OF CRIMINAL IDENTIFICATION
AND INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES**

CURES Program
4949 Broadway
Sacramento, CA 95820
Telephone: (916) 210-3216
Email Address: SecurityPrinter@doj.ca.gov

December 27, 2018

TO: PHARMACY AND DIRECT DISPENSE DATA REPORTERS

**RE: CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE PRESCRIPTION FORM SERIAL NUMBER DATA
SUBMISSION- UPDATE**

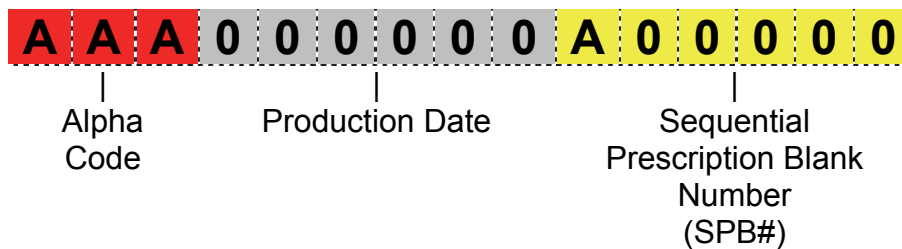
This bulletin is an update to a previous bulletin, dated December 21, 2018, concerning the new Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System (CURES) requirement for pharmacies and direct dispensing practitioners to report serial number information in field DSP18 of ASAP Version 4.1. **Please note, the appropriate field for reporting the serial number information is AIR02 of ASAP Version 4.1.**

Beginning January 1, 2019, Health and Safety Code section 11162.1(a)(15) will require prescription forms for controlled substances to be printed with a uniquely serialized number. Additionally, beginning January 1, 2019, Health and Safety Code section 11165(d)(11) will require the dispensing pharmacy, clinic, or other dispenser to report the “serial number for the corresponding prescription form, if applicable,” for a Schedule II, Schedule III, or Schedule IV controlled substance dispensed.

To ensure compliance with the above-referenced statutory section, the Department of Justice requests that prescription serial number be reported in a single field, identified as **AIR02**, in ASAP Version 4.1.

The serial number will be labeled on the prescription form for easy identification. The serial number format is as follows: three alphas, followed by six numerics, followed by one alpha, followed by five numerics.

SERIALIZED NUMBER FORMAT



EXAMPLE SERIAL NUMBER

D	O	J	1	9	0	3	2	6	A	0	5	5	0	0
Alpha Code			Production Date (March 26, 2019)						Sequential Prescription Blank Number (SPB#) (5500)					

For questions concerning how to report controlled substance prescription data, please contact AAI at CACures@aainh.com or (800) 539-3370. For questions concerning this new requirement, please contact the Security Printer Program at (916) 210-3216 or securityprinter@doj.ca.gov

0763 - State Optometry Fund

Analysis of Fund Condition

Prepared 1.29.19

(Dollars in Thousands)

2019-20 Governor's Budget

	PY 2017-18	CY 2018-19	BY 2019-20
BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 3,277	\$ 2,863	\$ 2,675
Prior Year Adjustment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Adjusted Beginning Balance	\$ 3,277	\$ 2,863	\$ 2,675
REVENUES AND TRANSFERS			
Revenues:			
4121200 125900 Delinquent Fees	\$ 11	\$ 10	\$ 9
4127400 125800 Renewal Fees	\$ 1,673	\$ 1,673	\$ 1,678
4129200 125600 Other Regulatory Fees	\$ 23	\$ 32	\$ 30
4129400 125700 Other Regulatory Licenses and Permits	\$ 155	\$ 159	\$ 154
4140000 141200 Document Sales	\$ -	\$ 1	\$ 1
4163000 150300 Investment Income - Surplus Money Investments	\$ 9	\$ 40	\$ 36
4171400 161000 Escheat of Unclaimed Checks and Warrants	\$ 2	\$ 1	\$ 1
Total Revenues	\$ 1,873	\$ 1,916	\$ 1,909
Total Revenues, Transfers, and Other Adjustments	\$ 1,873	\$ 1,916	\$ 1,909
Total Resources	\$ 5,150	\$ 4,779	\$ 4,584
EXPENDITURES			
Disbursements:			
1111 Department of Consumer Affairs Program Expenditures (State Operations)	\$ 2,181	\$ 1,975	\$ 2,161
8880 Financial Information System for CA (State Operations)	\$ 2	\$ -	\$ -1
9892 Supplemental Pension Payments (State Operations)	\$ -	\$ 16	\$ 36
9900 Statewide General Administrative Expenditures (Pro Rata) (State Operations)	\$ 104	\$ 113	\$ 148
Total Expenditures and Expenditure Adjustments	\$ 2,287	\$ 2,104	\$ 2,344
FUND BALANCE			
Reserve for economic uncertainties	\$ 2,863	\$ 2,675	\$ 2,240
Months in Reserve	16.3	13.7	11.3

BOARD OF OPTOMETRY - FUND 0763
BUDGET REPORT
FY 2018-19 EXPENDITURE PROJECTION

Projected FM 4

OBJECT DESCRIPTION	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19				
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	CURRENT YEAR	PERCENT	PROJECTIONS	UNENCUMBERED
	EXPENDITURES	EXPENDITURES	EXPENDITURES	STONE	EXPENDITURES	SPENT	TO YEAR END	BALANCE
	(MONTH 13)	(MONTH 13)	(PRELIM 12)	2018	(Prelim 04)			
PERSONNEL SERVICES								
Salary & Wages (Staff)	376,903	427,127	430,734	513,000	163,152	32%	505,942	7,058
Statutory Exempt (EO)	65,840	80,790	86,159	82,000	17,960	22%	91,360	(9,360)
Temp Help Reg (907)	45,724	43,559	36,302	41,000	1,504	4%	9,776	31,224
Board Member Per Diem	7,400	13,200	10,400	7,000	3,100	44%	14,700	(7,700)
Overtime	2,348	626	0	0	0	-	0	0
Staff Benefits	215,717	257,881	279,182	352,000	92,341	26%	286,353	65,647
TOTALS, PERSONNEL SVC	713,932	823,183	842,776	995,000	278,057	28%	908,131	86,869
OPERATING EXPENSE AND EQUIPMENT								
General Expense	9,573	11,875	13,257	16,000	25,818	161%	28,000	(12,000)
Fingerprint Report	4,879	3,397	3,315	5,000	1,037	21%	4,000	1,000
Minor Equipment	1,146	0	9,220	2,000	0	0%	500	1,500
Printing	6,624	12,713	13,476	8,000	6,727	84%	13,000	(5,000)
Communications	2,799	2,800	2,593	5,000	243	5%	2,800	2,200
Postage	10,456	7,388	8,659	11,000	0	0%	8,800	2,200
Insurance	0	10	3,067	0	0	-	3,067	(3,067)
Travel In State	32,431	39,122	28,263	8,000	4,451	56%	33,200	(25,200)
Travel, Out-of-State	589	886	0	0	0	-	2,393	(2,393)
Training	983	1,383	895	1,000	0	0%	1,000	0
Facilities Operations	111,534	112,237	114,026	59,000	37,338	63%	113,000	(54,000)
C & P Services - Interdept.	97	0	41	89,000	0	0%	0	89,000
C & P Services - External	11,118	28,771	86,075	49,000	47,053	96%	90,000	(41,000)
DEPARTMENTAL SERVICES:								
Office of Information Services	243,808	265,050	255,110	286,000	97,240	34%	286,000	0
Administration Services	127,865	129,497	138,961	163,000	55,420	34%	163,000	0
Interagency Services w/ Office of Professional Examination Services	17,160	22,080	43,566	0	20,074	-	80,768	(80,768)
Division of Investigation - Internal	2,949	2,760	3,840	5,000	1,700	34%	5,000	0
Communications Division	8,000	19,261	8,640	11,000	3,740	34%	11,000	0
Program and Policy Review Division	0	654	10,560	15,000	5,100	34%	15,000	0
INTERAGENCY SERVICES:								
Consolidated Data Centers	614	179	5,807	5,000	0	0%	6,000	(1,000)
Information Technology	3,378	2,565	246	1,000	959	96%	1,000	0
EXAM EXPENSES:								
C/P Svcs-External Expert Examiners	0	1,705	1,614	21,000	0	0%	1,700	19,300
C/P Svcs-External Subject Matter	1,844	2,755	3,346	0	0	-	3,000	(3,000)
ENFORCEMENT:								
Attorney General	74,589	107,998	157,025	237,000	55,990	24%	169,000	68,000
Office Admin. Hearings	18,605	25,890	35,850	38,000	28,627	75%	50,000	(12,000)
Court Reporters	1,072	1,609	2,638	0	300	-	2,600	(2,600)
Evidence/Witness Fees	1,520	500	1,199	16,000	20	0%	1,200	14,800
DOI - Investigations	0	0	236,577	21,000	0	0%	21,000	0
TOTALS, OE&E	794,928	803,085	1,187,867	1,072,000	391,836	37%	1,116,028	(44,028)
TOTAL EXPENSE	1,508,860	1,626,268	2,030,643	2,067,000	669,893	32%	2,024,159	42,841
Sched. Reimb. - Fingerprints	(4,966)	(4,459)	(5,390)	(6,000)	(1,617)	27%	(6,000)	0
Sched. Reimb. - Other	(2,350)	(2,820)	(1,175)	0	(1,410)	-	0	0
NPDB Application Fee	0	0	(1,260)	0	(5,382)	-	0	0
Probation Monitoring Fee - Variable	(9,700)	(4,500)	(5,900)	0	(1,950)	-	0	0
Unsched. Reimb. - Investigative Cost Recove	(22,875)	(10,093)	(15,225)	0	(1,795)	-	0	0
Unsch. - DOI ICR Administrative Case	(32)	0	(500)	0	0	-	0	0
Internal Distributed Costs	0	0	0	(86,000)	0	0%	(86,000)	0
NET APPROPRIATION	1,468,937	1,604,396	2,001,193	1,975,000	657,738	33%	1,932,159	42,841
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT):								2.2%

0175 - Dispensing Opticians Fund

Analysis of Fund Condition

Prepared 1.29.19

(Dollars in Thousands)

2019-20 Governor's Budget

	PY 2017-18	CY 2018-19	BY 2019-20
BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 261	\$ 426	\$ 593
Prior Year Adjustment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Adjusted Beginning Balance	\$ 261	\$ 426	\$ 593
REVENUES AND TRANSFERS			
Revenues:			
4121200 Delinquent fees	\$ 13	\$ 14	\$ 14
4127400 Renewal fees	\$ 426	\$ 430	\$ 438
4129200 Other regulatory fees	\$ 1	\$ 2	\$ 2
4129400 Other regulatory licenses and permits	\$ 130	\$ 163	\$ 166
4163000 Income from surplus money investments	\$ 2	\$ 9	\$ 10
Total Revenues	\$ 572	\$ 618	\$ 630
 Total Resources	 \$ 833	 \$ 1,044	 \$ 1,223
EXPENDITURES			
Disbursements:			
1111 Department of Consumer Affairs Program Expenditures (State Operations)	\$ 400	\$ 425	\$ 538
9892 Supplemental Pension Payments (State Operations)	\$ -	\$ 1	\$ 3
9900 Statewide General Administrative Expenditures (Pro Rata) (State Operations)	\$ 7	\$ 25	\$ 34
Total Expenditures and Expenditure Adjustments	\$ 407	\$ 451	\$ 575
FUND BALANCE			
Reserve for economic uncertainties	\$ 426	\$ 593	\$ 648
Months in Reserve	11.3	12.4	13.5

NOTES:

- A. ASSUMES WORKLOAD AND REVENUE PROJECTIONS ARE REALIZED IN BY+1 AND ON-GOING.
- B. ASSUMES APPROPRIATION GROWTH OF 2% PER YEAR BEGINNING IN BY+1.
- C. ASSUMES INTEREST RATE AT 1.5%.
- D. PY 2017-18 BASED ON BUDGET ACT

REGISTERED DISPENSING OPTICIANS - FUND 0175
BUDGET REPORT
FY 2018-19 EXPENDITURE PROJECTION

Projected FM 4

OBJECT DESCRIPTION	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19				
	ACTUAL EXPENDITURES (MONTH 13)	ACTUAL EXPENDITURES (MONTH 13)	ACTUAL EXPENDITURES (PRELIM 12)	BUDGET STONE 2018	CURRENT YEAR EXPENDITURES (Prelim 04)	PERCENT SPENT	PROJECTIONS TO YEAR END	UNENCUMBERED BALANCE
PERSONNEL SERVICES								
Civil Service-Perm	29,637	24,974	30,659	106,000	31,639	30%	95,195	10,805
Temp Help Reg (907)	0	0	17,620	0	0	-	22,881	(22,881)
Overtime	0	0	187	0	0	-	0	0
Staff Benefits	18,529	12,561	25,467	55,000	16,260	30%	48,924	6,076
TOTALS, PERSONNEL SVC	48,166	37,535	73,933	161,000	47,899	30%	167,000	(6,000)
OPERATING EXPENSE AND EQUIPMENT								
General Expense	232	452	187	4,000	27	1%	500	3,500
Fingerprint Reports	0	137	0	0	0	-	0	0
Minor Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0
Printing	404	308	6,078	2,000	3,267	163%	4,000	(2,000)
Communication	0	0	0	1,000	0	0%	0	1,000
Postage	1,015	2,241	7,875	2,000	0	0%	3,900	(1,900)
Insurance	0	2	590	0	0	-	600	(600)
Travel In State	1	13	682	6,000	11,200	187%	11,200	(5,200)
Training	0	7	0	1,000	0	0%	0	1,000
Facilities Operations	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0
C & P Services - Interdept.	0	0	0	86,000	0	0%	46,000	40,000
C & P Services - External	17,070	2,200	6,486	4,000	5,442	136%	7,000	(3,000)
DEPARTMENTAL SERVICES:								
Office of Information Services	59,195	55,902	56,000	51,000	17,340	34%	51,000	0
Administration Services	10,988	24,903	25,000	30,000	9,860	33%	29,000	1,000
Shared Svcs - MBC Only	18,536	0	0	0	0	-	0	0
Division of Investigation - Internal	0	920	1,000	1,000	340	34%	1,000	0
Communications Division	0	2,889	2,000	2,000	680	34%	2,000	0
Program and Policy Review Division	0	0	1,000	1,000	340	34%	1,000	0
INTERAGENCY SERVICES:								
Consolidated Data Center	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0
DP Maintenance & Supply	0	0	0	1,000	0	0%	0	1,000
Statewide - Pro Rata	15,667	0	0	0	0	-	0	0
ENFORCEMENT:								
Attorney General	26,501	45,675	73,842	50,000	11,823	24%	75,400	(25,400)
Office Admin. Hearings	1,470	0	0	5,000	0	0%	500	4,500
DOI - Investigations	0	0	1,095	16,000	0	0%	5,000	11,000
Investigative Svcs - MBC	3,286	0	0	2,000	0	0%	0	2,000
TOTALS, OE&E	154,365	135,649	181,836	265,000	60,318	23%	238,100	26,900
TOTAL EXPENSE	202,531	173,184	255,769	426,000	108,217	25%	405,100	20,900
Sched. Reimb. - Fingerprints	0	0	(637)	(1,000)	(294)	29%	(1,000)	0
Sched. Reimb. - Other	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0
Unsched. Reimb. - ICR	0	(7,546)	(12,366)	0	(5,533)	-	0	0
Unsched. Reimb. - ICR - Prob Monitor	0	(2,300)	(2,300)	0	(1,600)	-	0	0
NET APPROPRIATION	202,531	163,338	240,466	425,000	100,790	24%	404,100	20,900
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT):								4.9%

Goal 1: Licensing

The Board provides applicants and licensees a method for obtaining and maintaining license registration, business licenses, and certifications required to practice optometry in California.

Objective 1.1: Streamline the initial license and renewal process, including paperless options and synchronizing multiple license renewal dates, to improve staff efficiency and licensee compliance.

- Conducts monthly meetings discussing timelines and identifying bottlenecks to better streamline the processes.
- Identified and raised necessary BreEZe SIRs to improve processes, including independent transaction not requiring staff interaction and board approval (e.g., Statement of Licensure Applications).
- Created SIR to generate paperless initial and synchronize certificates.
- Conducted outreach informing licensees of the paperless direction of the Board.

Status:
COMPLETED
SCD¹: Jan. 2019

Objective 1.2: Review the possibility of including continuing education requirements for both spectacle and contact lens dispenser licenses to protect consumers and maintain licensee competence.

- Researched other states' continuing education (CE) requirements for Opticians.
- Researched consumer complaints from other state agencies that regulate opticians.
- Utilized consumer complaint reports received to research and identify any potential consumer harm.
- Presented research to DOC (Dispensing Optician Committee) for consideration.
- DOC recommended not pursuing continuing education requirements at this time. While continuing education is important for registrants to stay apprised of technological advances and industry standards, research indicates no immediate or apparent consumer protection need.

Status:
COMPLETED
SCD: Dec. 2017

Objective 1.3: Continue monitoring and exploring opportunities to enhance BreEZe utilization (e.g. 100% continuing education compliance, usage of national database, etc.) to increase staff productivity and promote licensee compliance with continuing education requirements.

- Researching BreEZe SIRs to remove the automated printing/mailing of certificates. Instead, staff working with the BreEZe team to show pdf documents on licensees' dashboards after initial/renewal/address change etc. applications are processed.
- BOARD DISCUSSION: Staff recommends removing the automated remittance coupon on the bottom of renewal notices. Instead, renewal notices would direct licensees to BreEZe.
- Staff has implemented new procedure at the closing of each licensing file to upload PDF certs.

Status:
COMPLETED
SCD: Dec. 2017

Goal 2: Examination

The Board works to provide a fair, valid and legally defensible licensing exam (California Law and Regulation Examination) and exam process to ensure that only qualified and competent individuals are licensed to provide optometric services in California.

Objective 2.1: Recruit more subject matter experts to create examination questions in order to strengthen the diversity of the test.

- Increased utilization of email, social media and newsletters.
- Worked with DCA to design enticing flyer highlighting free CE opportunities.
- Partnered with California Optometric Association (COA).
- Provided recruitment flyers to continuing education events and other COA events.
- Significantly increased SME pool.

Status:
COMPLETED
ONGOING
SCD: Dec. 2017

Objective 2.2: Analyze the examination requirements to evaluate for competency and the validity of the examination.

- Collaborated with the Office of Professional Examination Services (OPES) to conduct an occupational analysis and a linkage study.
- OA/Linkage Study in Progress; OPES will present to the Board upon completion.

Status:
COMPLETED
SCD: Feb. 2019

Objective 2.3: Create a budget change proposal to secure funds so the Board can perform an occupational analysis on the registered dispensing optician program in order to check for validity of the examination.

- OPES and DCA Budgets presented to DOC regarding the RDO's fund condition and recommendations for proceeding with OAs for ABO and NCLE exams
- Working with DCA Budgets to prepare/submit BCP Concept; final BCP due in June.

Status:
COMPLETED
SCD: Jan. 2019

¹SCD: Scheduled Completion Date

Objective 2.4: Consider the feasibility of developing a state law exam for opticians to verify their familiarity with California laws.	Status: IN PROGRESS SCD: Jun. 2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOC DISCUSSION: The DOC and staff identified a significant need to provide outreach to registrants about the Board, registration, and renewal requirements. In addition, the DOC is working to streamline registration processes and revise applications. Due to this need, staff recommends holding off on considering new registration requirements for one year. This will allow time for stabilizing the existing program. 	
<p align="center">Goal 3: Law and Regulation</p> <p><i>The Board works to establish and maintain fair and just laws and regulations that provide for the protection of consumer health and safety and reflect current and emerging, efficient and cost-effective practices.</i></p>	
Objective 3.1: Review federal law to identify methods that will strengthen existing California legislation regarding the sale of contact lenses and eye glasses as a means of improving enforcement and enhancing consumer protection.	Status: COMPLETED SCD: Jun. 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Made connections within the FTC regarding the Federal Eyeglass and Contact Lens laws. FTC currently working on improving the applicable sections. No staff recommendations on legislation at this time. 	
Objective 3.2: Contact members of congress and the Federal Trade Commission regarding the current 48 hour law to obtain information that would assist in closing existing loopholes.	Status: NOT STARTED SCD: Jun. 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BOARD/DOC DISCUSSION: Please clarify for staff what “loopholes” currently exist. 	
Objective 3.3: Continue prioritization for review and updates to existing statutes, legislation, and regulations, for both optometry and dispensing opticians, in order to identify whether or not they are the cause of enforcement delays and determine promulgation of new regulations.	Status: COMPLETED AND ONGOING SCD: Dec. 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOC and Board working on regulatory amendments to create RDO Program Disciplinary Guidelines and improve existing Optometry Disciplinary Guidelines. DOC and Board approved regulatory amendments to improve applications. Board sponsored SB 1386 which includes additional enforcement provisions to hold owners accountable for standard of care within optometry practices. 	
Objective 3.4: Continue partnering with the Medical Board of California to identify potential loopholes regarding online and kiosk refraction administration to enhance consumer protection.	Status: COMPLETED AND ONGOING SCD: Dec. 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attended the Medical Board of California (MBC) board meeting. Provided MBC with materials developed from the board's communication plan. Working closely with MBC on joint-jurisdiction enforcement matters involving online and kiosk refractions. 	
Objective 3.5: Review current methods and explore new opportunities to increase access to care (e.g. scope of practice, mobile clinics, new technology, tele-medicine).	Status: IN PROGRESS SCD: Dec. 2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established mobile clinic workgroup to develop legislation increasing access to quality optometric care to homebound patients. Full Board discussed various mobile practices with stakeholders and DCA entities in November 2017 to gain a better understanding of current methods of regulating mobile practices. Various mobile clinic stakeholders attended LRC meeting in March 2018; recommendations presented to Full Board in April 2018. 	
Objective 3.6: Review and identify existing practice requirements with regards to unnecessary licensing barriers in an effort to reduce barriers to entry, enhance consumer access to care, and maintain consumer protection.	Status: COMPLETED SCD: JAN. 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed the Little Hoover Report Researched all relevant practice requirements and identify possible licensing barriers and worked with legislature to remove barriers in AB 1708. Sponsored SB 1386 to repeal BPC § 3077 – an unnecessary license barrier that was created for the profession and for “the avoidance of the evils of competition.” 	
Objective 3.7: Explore the feasibility of proposing legislation to synchronize the expiration dates of all license types for a given individual.	Status: NOT STARTED SCD: Mar. 2020
Objective 3.8: Explore the feasibility of proposing legislation to merge the RDO and Optometry funds to stabilize the long-term Optometry fund condition.	Status: IN PROGRESS SCD: Sept. 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved Spot Bill language that will be included in the 2019 Assembly B&P omnibus bill. Board to review/discuss draft text during February 1st Board Meeting. 	

	Status: IN PROGRESS SCD: Sept. 2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked with legal counsel to prepare legislative amendments combining the practice acts. LRC and Board approved legislative approval in January 2018. Will be submitted as a legislative proposal to Senate B&P for committee omnibus bill. 	
	Status: COMPLETED AND ONGOING SCD: Dec. 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked with stakeholders regarding mobile optometric practice, repealing Branch Office law, sponsoring legislation devoted to children's vision, and improving the RDO Program . 	
	Status: IN PROGRESS SCD: Dec. 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board proposed legislative amendments included in AB 1708 to improve inspection authority language. Full Board heard from existing DCA inspection programs to learn best practices. CPC held additional committee meetings reviewing available data and soliciting feedback from stakeholders on the Board's inspection program. Full Board voted at April 2018 meeting to postpone implementation, and allow staff to compile a report about the enforcement effectiveness and cost benefit analysis of proactive inspections. 	
	Status: COMPLETED SCD: Jan. 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussed during the Jan 2019 CPC Meeting, Enforcement reports that Subsequent Arrest Reports are obtained weekly, and cases are opened accordingly Established that lag in Board review of enforcement cases due to collection of reports from other jurisdictions 	
	Status: IN PROGRESS SCD: Dec. 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussed participation requirements with the FBI and DOJ Requested assistance from the DCA Discussed during January 2018 Director's Meeting DOJ starting stakeholders meeting to determine project plan and resources needed. 	
	Status: IN PROGRESS SCD: Oct. 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussed during the Jan 2019 CPC Meeting, Committee clarified desire to more quickly open enforcement cases against licensees disciplined by other boards, agencies and states Staff to research potential regulations (authority of other boards) to implement self-reporting of such actions, and present findings to CPC at August 2019 committee meeting 	
	Status: COMPLETED Jan. 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included in Board's Sunset Bill (AB 1708) effective January 1, 2018. As of July 1, 2018, all applicants and licensees will be enrolled in NPDB and be charged \$2 for initial applications and \$4 during renewal to support NPDB. 	
Objective 4.5: Develop proactive methods to enforce the unlicensed sale and distribution of cosmetic contact lenses.	Status: IN PROGRESS SCD: Dec. 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff to research the development of a public information campaign running into Halloween Staff to research outreach opportunities within Cosplay events (ComicCon) Staff to research convening a public stakeholder meeting involving retailers (Ulta, Sephora), doctors and others to develop plan 	
Objective 4.6: Establish a partnership with DCA Boards and county and state organizations to identify and address unlicensed activity (e.g. contact lens sales and expired prescriptions) in an effort to protect consumers.	Status: NOT STARTED SCD: Sept. 2018

Objective 4.7: Review the corrective action for compliance (and revise if necessary) in order to deter unlicensed activity	Status: NOT STARTED SCD: Dec. 2018
Objective 4.8: Analyze the 2012 disciplinary guidelines for optometrists and revise where necessary, to promote consistency and fairness with enforcement decisions and enhance consumer protection	Status: IN PROGRESS SCD: Aug. 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consumer Protection Committee's workgroup developed recommendations for CPC consideration during March 23, 2018 and January 11, 2019 meetings Awaiting Uniform Standards Guide and AB 2138 Implementation guidance from DCA Recommendations to be considered by full Board during August 2019 Board meeting 	
Objective 4.9: Adopt disciplinary guidelines for opticians to promote consistency and fairness with enforcement decisions and enhance consumer protection.	Status: IN PROGRESS SCD: Aug. 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussed multiple times during DOC meetings; held various workgroup meetings DOC workgroup proposing recommendations during April 19, 2018 DOC meeting Awaiting Uniform Standards Guide and AB 2138 Implementation guidance from DCA Recommendations to be considered by full Board during August 2019 Board meeting 	
Objective 4.10: Improve working relationships with the Attorney General's Office, Division of Investigation, District Attorneys and other Government Agencies to identify and fix enforcement bottlenecks and streamline enforcement processes.	Status: IN PROGRESS SCD: Dec. 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with DAG Liaison to streamline processes, update transmittal memos, and improve communication throughout all AG Offices Met with Northern Area Commander at DOI to discuss concerns and improve investigation quality; requesting additional meetings with Southern Area Commander and the Division Chief 	
Objective 4.11: Develop and implement a new inspection program using best practices from other existing programs within DCA.	Status: IN PROGRESS SCD: Dec. 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Researched existing programs and presented information during Dec. 2017 CPC meeting Inspection "tools" being discussed/developed during March 23, 2018 meeting Full Board voted at April 2018 meeting to postpone implementation, and allow staff to compile a report about the enforcement effectiveness and cost-benefit analysis of proactive inspections. 	

Goal 5: Outreach

The Board proactively educates, informs and engages consumers, licensees, students and other stakeholders on the practice of optometry and the laws and regulations which govern it.

Objective 5.1: Review and educate licensees about the scope of practice for optometric assistants, opticians, RDOs, CLDs and SLDs to mirror the letter and chart sent to optometrists clarifying privileges for specific licensing certifications to enhance consumer protection.	Status: IN PROGRESS SCD: July 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Content developed as part of Spring 2018 Newsletter Pending PROC review Next Steps: Develop Scope of Practice FAQ 	
Objective 5.2 Educate practitioners about current federal law regarding contact lens prescription release (48-hour law).	Status: NOT STARTED SCD: Sept. 2018
BOARD/DOC DISCUSSION: Please clarify for staff what "loopholes" currently exist.	
Objective 5.3 Educate licensees and registrants about advertising requirements (e.g. free eye exams, free 2nd pair of glasses, etc.) to avoid misleading the public and reduce licensee confusion.	Status: IN PROGRESS SCD: Dec. 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Content developed as part of Spring 2018 Newsletter DCA finalizing Spring 2018 Newsletter for publication in late April. 	
Objective 5.4 Educate the public on how to adequately fill contact lens prescriptions based on expiration dates and quantity limits to increase awareness and enhance consumer protection.	Status: NOT STARTED SCD: Apr. 2019
Objective 5.5 Develop a public relations campaign to educate unlicensed sellers regarding contact lens distribution laws to mitigate future violations, therefore protecting consumers.	Status: NOT STARTED SCD: Dec. 2018

Objective 5.6 Promote BreEZe’s online renewal capability to licensees to decrease manual entries and improve staff efficiency.	Status: COMPLETED AND ONGOING
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Increased social media usage to specifically promote BreEZeDistributed courtesy emails to those up for renewal with link to BreEZeReplaced paper applications on Board’s website with links to BreEZeWorking with stakeholders to promote BreEZe	
Objective 5.7 Develop a communication plan utilizing technology to communicate more effectively with stakeholders, patients, and licensees.	Status: COMPLETED
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Communications plan adopted by the BoardCurrently implementing; developing videos, articles, op-edsSocial Media: Facebook, TwitterNew DCA License Lookup for mobile devicesDCA Blog: Glaucoma Awareness Month, O’s for the EyesConsumer Connection Magazine (O’s for the Eyes included)	
Objective 5.8 Develop a communication plan to raise awareness of the importance of children’s vision health and wellness.	Status: COMPLETED
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Communications plan adopted by the BoardCurrently implementing; developing videos, brochures, op-edsVideo: Children’s Vision Screenings: A False Sense of SecurityArticle: For Some Kids, Four Eyes Than TwoBrochure: Kids Eye Health is Not Child’s Play (Attachment 3)Reaching out to high profile “YouTubers” to solicit support for #ShowOffYourFrameGame	
Objective 5.9 Conduct an in depth review the Board’s website and update information for consumers, licensees, and registrants.	Status: IN PROGRESS SCD: Aug. 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Completed committee review of website and updated informationDeveloping various FAQs for licensees/registrantsWebsite re-design initiating May 2019	
Goal 6: Organizational Effectiveness <i>The Board works to develop and maintain an efficient and effective team of professional and public leaders and staff with sufficient resources to improve the Board’s provision of programs and services.</i>	
Objective 6.1: Provide customer service training for staff to improve communication with stakeholders.	Status: IN PROGRESS SCD: Jan. 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Board management encourages customer service training for staff; staff to complete training at least every two years.	
Objective 6.2: Investigate technology options for conducting committee and special meetings to broaden access to stakeholders and consumers.	Status: COMPLETED SCD: Sep. 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Held various committee and stakeholder meetings using WebEx and provided call-in numbers for stakeholders throughout the US to participate in stakeholder meetings.Broadcasted DOC meetings using Facebook Live.	
Objective 6.3: Provide teambuilding training or exercises to Board members to improve Board functioning.	Status: COMPLETED AND ONGOING SCD: Mar. 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Rather than specific teambuilding training or exercises, Board members opted for lunches and dinners during various meetings.	
Objective 6.4: Provide teambuilding exercises between Board members and staff to improve relationships.	Status: COMPLETED AND ONGOING SCD: Jun. 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Rather than specific teambuilding training or exercises, Board members opted for coffee breaks, lunches and dinners during various meetings.	
Objective 6.5: Improve communication and build relationships between the Governor’s office, legislators, and the Board to effectively achieve the Board’s objectives.	Status: COMPLETED SCD: Sep. 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Board staff held various meetings with legislatures regarding Board sponsored legislation and legislative proposals for omnibus bill consideration.Children’s Vision Workgroup participated in various meetings with author’s office.	

Opternative Changes Name to 'Visibly' to Better Reflect a Move Toward Partnerships

By Staff (/author/staff/)

Tuesday, December 11, 2018 9:45 AM



CHICAGO—Opternative, seeking to rebrand and reposition itself as a technology company with an eye on partnerships, announced this morning that it has changed its company name to "Visibly." The new name "fully embraces the solutions [the company] offers the eyecare industry and appropriately represents the broad scope of who we can serve," the company said in its announcement. Brent Rasmussen, chief executive officer at Visibly, told *VMAIL* in a telephone interview that the company's former name, Opternative, carried "a negative connotation...not only in the industry, but, obviously, with optometrists."

He added, "I thought it was important that we rebrand the company with a name that really better represents the partnerships that we are actually building with individual eyecare professionals and with eyecare professionals who own four or five practices."

Planning for a new name began about a year ago and was aided by an outside branding agency, Rasmussen said. The effort involved interviews with board members, industry experts, doctors, investors and internal employees to "ensure the new name ... reflects the audience the company serves today and plans to serve in the future," according to the announcement. Coincidentally, the debut of the new name today (Dec. 11) coincides with Rasmussen's one-year anniversary with the company. The company's new web address is www.goVisibly.com (<http://www.goVisibly.com>).

Founder and chief science officer Steven Lee, OD, said that in addition to its negative connotation, the old company name "positioned the brand as an existential threat" to optometrists and other ECPs. "This is why it was important for us to rebrand the company with a name that better represents the partnerships we're building with eyecare providers and eyewear retailers in the industry," Lee said in the announcement.

The effort to line up industry partnerships has been moving ahead quickly, and Visibly today has five times as many partnerships as the company had in March 2018 when Rasmussen spoke at the VM Summit in New York City, he said. "It's going really, really well," he said of the effort to build partnerships. "We're super excited about it and we will continue to advance the technology and we will add different technologies on top of our existing platform going forward."

Over the past year, Visibly has expanded its partnership reach into Mexico, and expects to "launch officially in Germany" in January 2019, Rasmussen said. "We will probably be in 20 countries by mid-2019," he added. "And that's really exciting for the company." When he came on board a year ago, there were no international partnerships.



Brent Rasmussen, CEO.

Visibly raised \$9 million in November in an "A3" round of funding, bringing to \$18.5 million the total investment the company has raised, as *VMAIL* reported (<http://www.visionmonday.com/latest-news/article/opternative-secures-9-million-in-series-a3-round-of-funding/>), Trust Ventures and Pritzker Group Venture Capital (<https://www.pritzkergruop.com/>) led the funding round, some of which will be devoted to marketing efforts around the new company name, as well as patient/consumer education, Rasmussen said.

"The reality is most consumers or patients globally don't understand or have an idea that you can actually use this technology to get a new prescription online," Rasmussen said. "Part of our job is to inform and educate," he added, noting that the marketing team will be investing significant dollars in education-type programs and content going forward.

Visibly also has made progress on the regulatory side, Rasmussen said. There are 11 states in which the company currently cannot offer online tests. Five of these states require real-time audio-visual connections between the patient and doctor. Rasmussen said Visibly expects to launch a real-time connection to satisfy this requirement sometime next year. The firm has hired optometrists to provide the "live" component, and they will be based at its offices here.

There also are five states that have legislation in place that basically prohibits the practice of telemedicine, "so those [states] are off the table for now," Rasmussen said.



Steven Lee, OD, founder.

In addition, Visibly has worked to overcome hurdles placed in its path by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Rasmussen said Visibly has submitted documentation that the agency has requested and is working toward the agency's approval for its online eye test in the near future. (The company received a warning letter from FDA a little over a year ago, which advised the company that its online eye test mobile app did not have the agency's marketing clearance or approval, as *VMAIL* reported (<http://www.visionmonday.com/latest-news/article/opternative-releases-statement-on-fda-approval-process/>).

The FDA's request for additional information has been completed, Rasmussen said in the interview. "We have submitted all of the [information] to the FDA and we are in the final stages of the approval process," he said. "It's been a really, really good experience with them, and so we are excited about that and, hopefully, we should become FDA approved overall

very shortly," he noted.

Rasmussen attributes some of the company's progress to investments earmarked for expanding the company's staff. "We've doubled the size of the company and that helps," he said. "We had six engineers when I started and now we have over 25 and maybe even up to 30 by the end of the year..... We've got a whole data team, a whole product team and full engineering team [who] are really doing a lot of stuff on a global platform," he explained.

Visibly was founded in 2012, and its online vision test allows patients to renew their prescription anywhere, anytime, according to the announcement. Visibly has issued hundreds of thousands of prescriptions with a 99.6 percent satisfaction rate, and it offers ECPs, eyewear retailers and other organizations "customizable software solutions to enable a better patient and consumer experience."

"Our company believes that every human on earth deserves affordable access to eyecare, wherever they are, all of the time," Rasmussen said. "Our new name Visibly represents this belief and inspires confidence within the industry to embrace positive change that will help more people see more clearly, more often."

© Copyright 2019 Jobson Medical Information LLC. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited.

In the era of Warby Parker, measure your own eyeglass prescription at home

Optometrist, shmoptometrist.

BY LYNN LA - JANUARY 15, 2019 11:58 AM PST - [HTTPS://CNET.CO/2S2ZJJO](https://cnet.co/2S2ZJJO)

With the popularity of direct-to-consumer retailers like Warby Parker, Zenni Optical and EyeBuyDirect, people are taking the process of buying prescription glasses into their own hands by skipping brick-and-mortar retailers and insurance policies.

But EyeQue VisionCheck, which debuted here at CES 2019 on Sunday, is hoping to do one better by skipping the optometrist altogether. Working with a mobile app, the Bluetooth-powered portable device can conduct vision tests at home, and can measure nearsightedness, farsightedness and astigmatism.

After testing, the device spits out what it calls your personal "EyeGlass Numbers." The numbers work similar to an eyeglass prescription, but do not require a doctor's sign-off. You can then take your number to specific retailers that will honor EyeGlass numbers like Zenni Optical and EyeBuyDirect, and buy prescription glasses completely on your own -- no appointment or waiting room required.

During my brief time with it, I tried getting an accurate reading of my vision. To do this, I had to align a red and green line that I viewed through the scope until they were touching. Using the buttons on top of the VisionCheck, I pushed the lines either closer or farther apart. The number of times I clicked these buttons determined my EyeGlass numbers.

Because the entire process takes up to 20 minutes, I couldn't finish the test and didn't get an accurate reading. I also found the initial process to be a bit complicated.

In addition, vision tests at a traditional optometrist are more comprehensive and accurate than online eye tests, according to the American Optometric Association, which recommends eye exams every one to two years.

I could see how this device might be convenient for someone who needs to constantly check their changing prescription, but as a casual eyeglass wearer, a once-in-a-year trip to the doctor suffices for me.

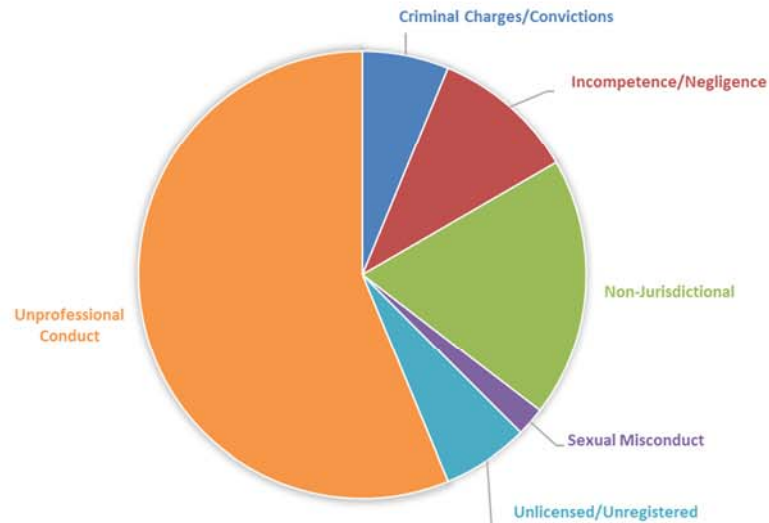
EyeQue VisionCheck is the newer iteration of last year's EyeQue, which is currently available online at Amazon and BestBuy for \$30. Unlike its predecessor, VisionCheck has Bluetooth, and it can automatically measure the distance between internal optical lenses without the need to manually rotate the eye cups.

The Indiegogo campaign for VisionCheck has already exceeded its goal and the company plans to ship out the product in March or sooner.

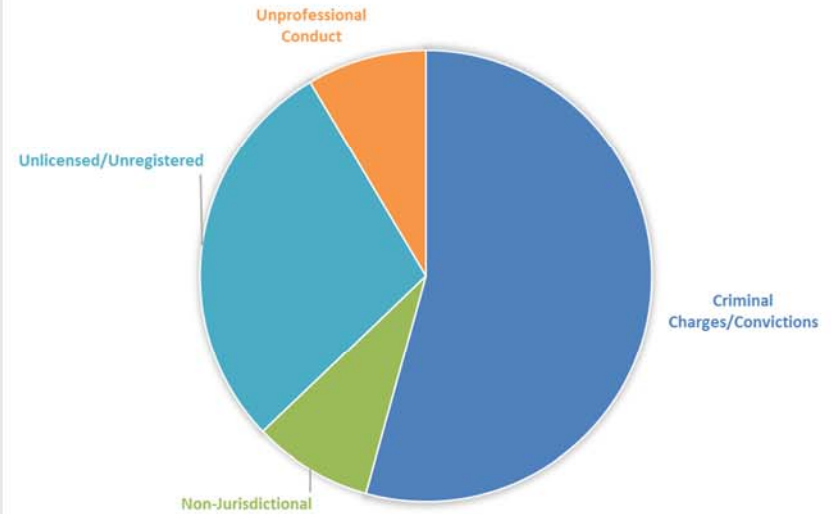
Update, Jan. 15: This piece was originally published on Jan. 6, 2019 and has been updated with additional information from the American Optometric Association.

	Q1 – FY18/19						Q2 – FY18/19						FY Total	
	Routine		Urgent		High		Routine		Urgent		High			
Cases by Priority	OPT	RDO	OPT	RDO	OPT	RDO	OPT	RDO	OPT	RDO	OPT	RDO	OPT	RDO
Received	50	52	0	0	4	0	44	34	0	0	4	1	102	87
Closed	40	44	0	0	3	0	42	45	0	0	3	1	88	90
Average Age (days) - Closed	146	120	0	0	150	0	200	135	0	0	268	163	205	135
Pending	160	130	0	0	17	2	164	124	0	0	15	2	179	126
Average Age (days) – Pending	291	239	0	0	200	155	164	283	0	0	242	226	284	237
Referred to AG	0	1	0	0	2	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	4	3
Pending at AG	6	26	0	0	3	0	8	27	0	0	3	0	11	27
Final Disciplinary Orders	4	5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	6

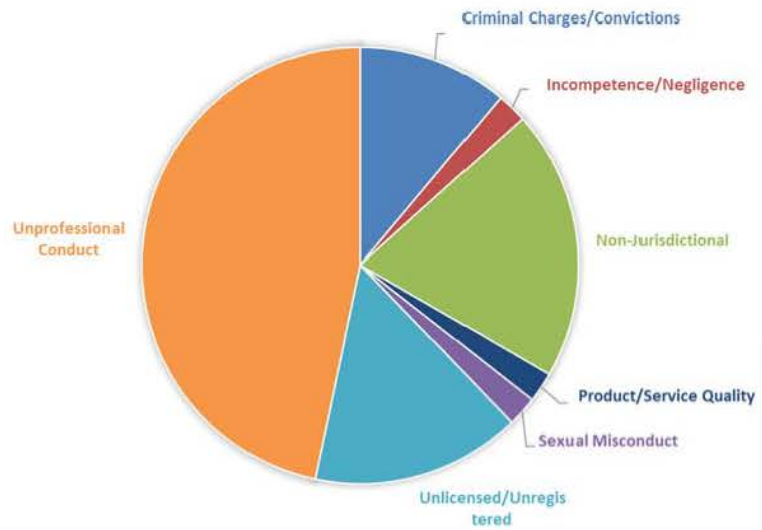
OPT CASES RECEIVED - QUARTER 2



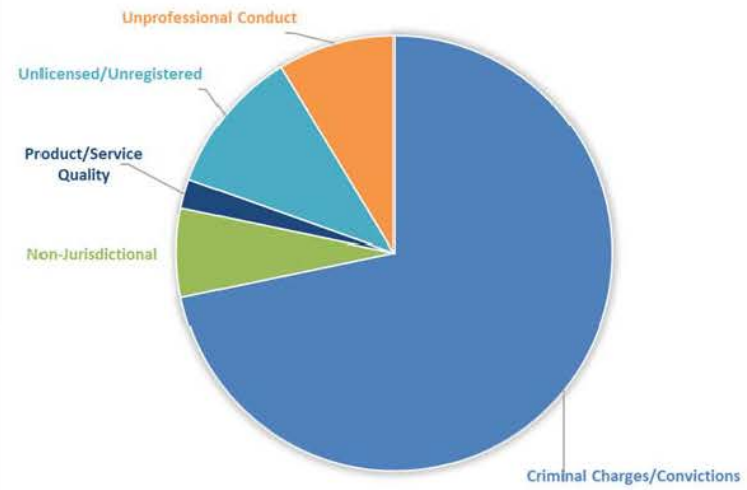
RDO CASES RECEIVED - QUARTER 2



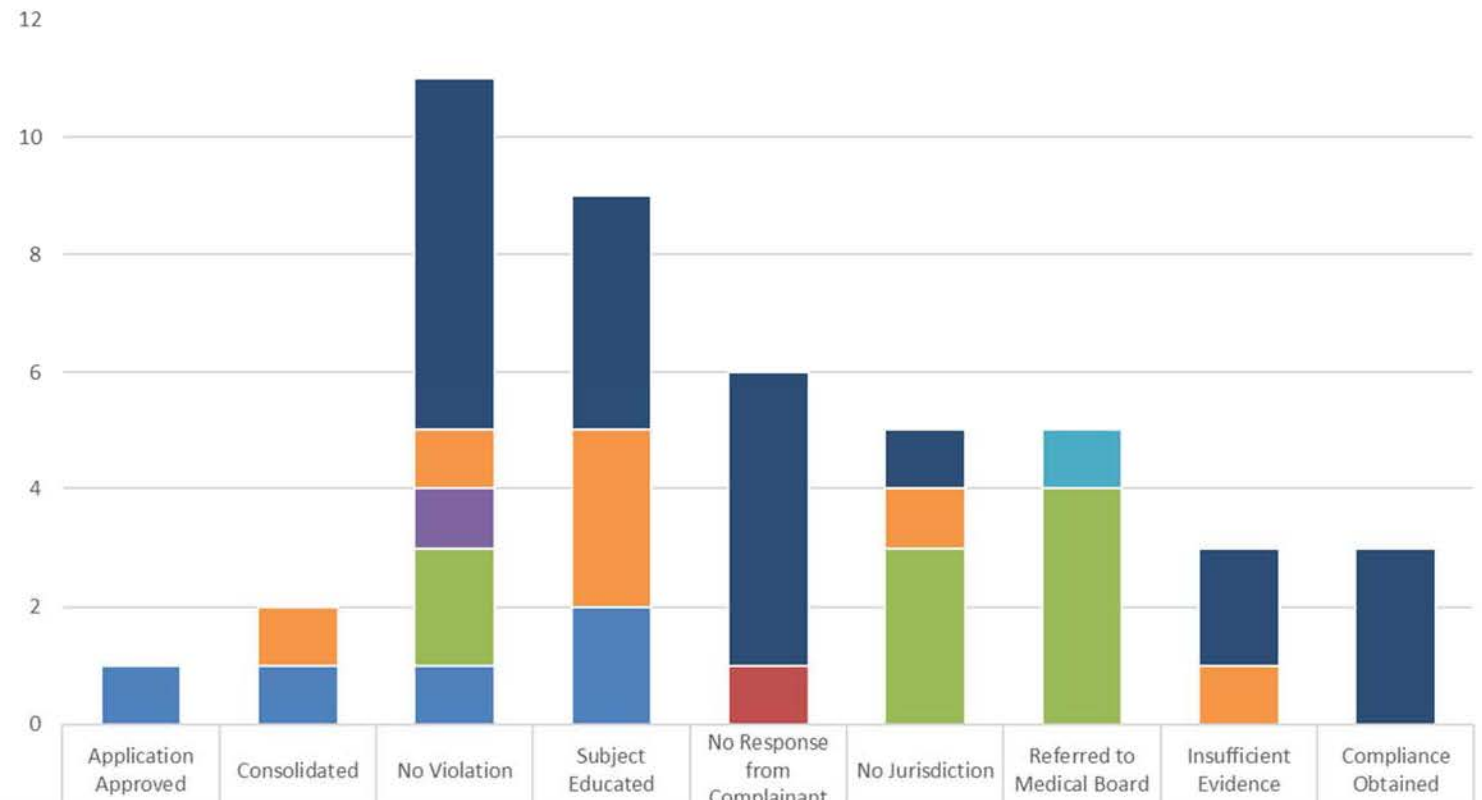
OPT CASES CLOSED - QUARTER 2



RDO CASES CLOSED - QUARTER 2

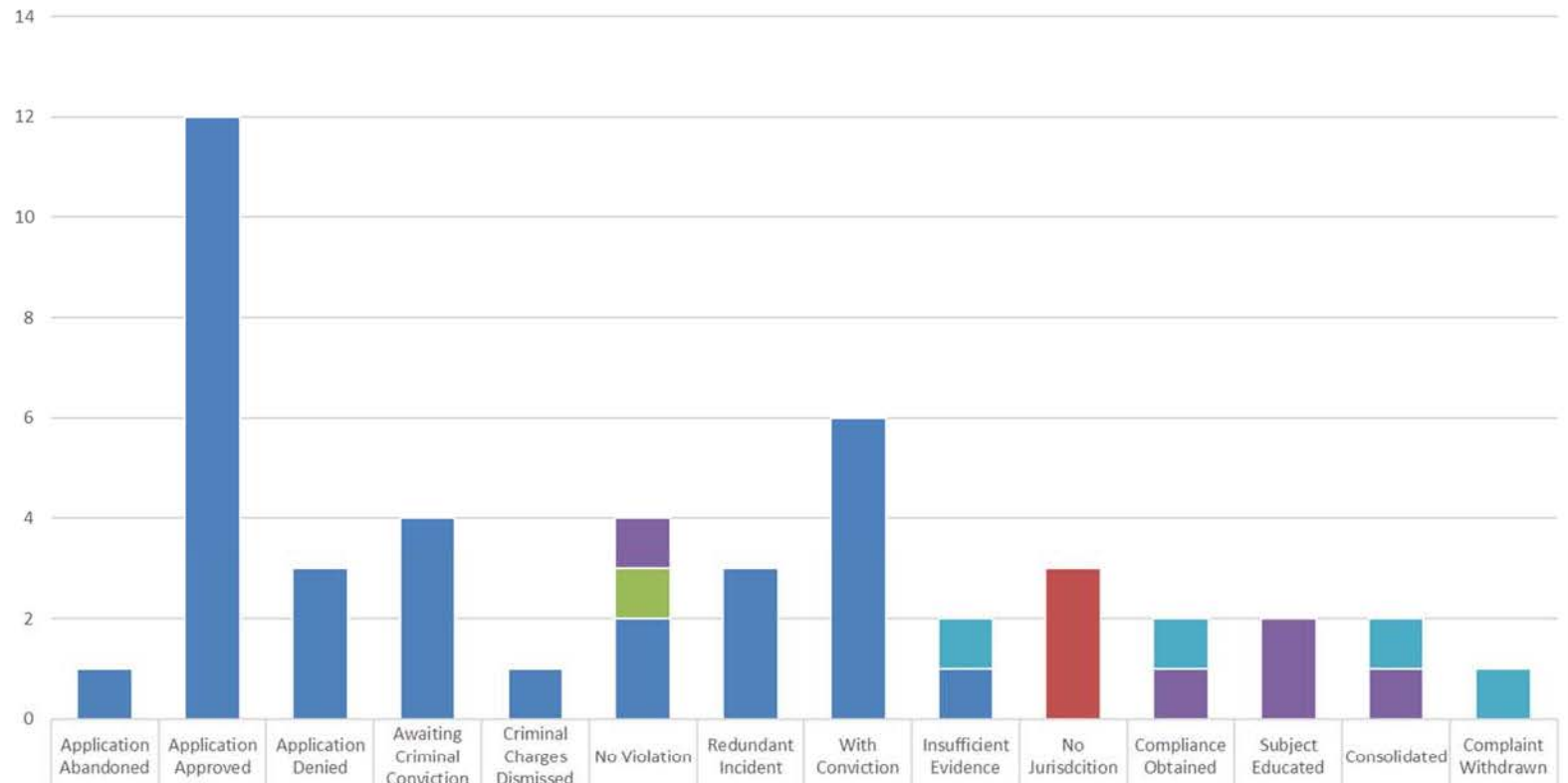


OPT Cases Closed - Quarter 2



■ Unprofessional Conduct			6	4	5	1		2	3
■ Unlicensed/Unregistered		1	1	3		1		1	
■ Sexual Misconduct							1		
■ Product/Service Quality			1						
■ Non-Jurisdictional			2			3	4		
■ Incompetence/Negligence					1				
■ Criminal Charges/Convictions	1	1	1	2					

RDO Cases Closed - Quarter 2



Unprofessional Conduct									1		1	1	1
Unlicensed/Unregistered						1					1	2	1
Product/Service Quality						1							
Non-Jurisdictional										3			
Criminal Charges/Convictions	1	12	3	4	1	2	3	6	1				

Optometry License Applications FY 17/18 - 18/19

OPT: Optometrist License

BOL: Branch Office License

SOL: Statement of Licensure

FNP: Fictitious Name Permit

		FY 17/18	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4			FY 18/19
		Total	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
OPT Exam Requests	Paper Exam Requests Received	16	0	0	0	0	0	0							0
	Online Exam Requests Received	325	18	20	29	18	14	20							119
	Approved Paper Exam Requests	13	1	0	0	0	0	0							1
	Approved Online Exam Requests	318	20	13	0	49	17	14							113
	Paper Exam Request Cycle Time (Avg.)	27	36	0	0	0	0	0							36
	Online Exam Request Cycle Time (Avg.)	9	31	11	0	30	28	12							25
	Withdrawn/Cancelled Applications	16	0	0	0	0	0	0							0
	Exam Requests Pending	12	9	16	45	14	11	17							17
OPT License Apps	License Applications Opened	351	22	15	1	52	17	14							121
	Licenses Issued	210	68	53	32	33	11	13							210
	License Application Cycle Time (Avg.)	132	138	134	126	179	230	135							146
	Withdrawn/Cancelled	44	4	3	3	2	0	3							15
	License Applications Pending	263	213	172	138	155	161	159							159

Optometry License Applications FY 17/18 - 18/19

OPT: Optometrist License

BOL: Branch Office License

SOL: Statement of Licensure

FNP: Fictitious Name Permit

		FY 17/18	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4			FY 18/19
		Total	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
BOLs	Paper Applications Received	27	0	2	2	4	0	0							8
	Online Applications Received	53	4	5	3	4	4	2							22
	Paper Applications Approved	31	2	1	0	3	3	0							9
	Online Applications Approved	45	1	3	0	6	3	3							16
	Avg. Cycle Time (Paper)	55	55	21	0	44	36	0							41
	Avg. Cycle Time (Online)	43	25	10	0	44	23	25							29
	Withdrawn/Cancelled	11	2	2	1	2	0	0							7
	Pending Apps	5	4	5	9	6	4	3							3

		FY 17/18	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4			FY 18/19
		Total	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
SOLs	Paper Applications Received	117	0	2	0	5	3	2							12
	Online Applications Received	165	24	33	17	30	15	30							149
	Paper Applications Approved	83	1	9	0	1	0	0							11
	Online Applications Approved	162	23	33	15	27	16	28							142
	Avg. Cycle Time (Paper)	38	46	98	0	87	0	0							92
	Avg. Cycle Time (Online)	30	0	0	0	0	0	0							0
	Withdrawn/Cancelled	45	0	1	1	11	0	0							13
	Pending Apps	17	17	9	10	6	8	12							12

		FY 17/18	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4			FY 18/19
		Total	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
FNPs	Paper Applications Received	62	3	4	0	7	6	3							23
	Online Applications Received	114	11	9	3	13	22	10							68
	Paper Applications Approved	68	2	3	0	2	3	2							12
	Online Applications Approved	82	8	11	2	1	15	3							40
	Avg. Cycle Time (Paper)	79	54	52	0	82	55	106							67
	Avg. Cycle Time (Online)	60	40	47	56	77	63	62							54
	Withdrawn/Cancelled	32	0	2	0	0	1	0							3
	Pending Apps	15	19	16	17	34	43	51							51

Optometry License Renewals FY 17/18 - 18/19

OPT: Optometrist License

BOL: Branch Office License

SOL: Statement of Licensure

FNP: Fictitious Name Permit

		FY 17/18	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4			FY 18/19
		Total	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
OPTs	Paper Renewals Approved	1355	91	118	94	136	52	26							517
	Online Renewals Approved	2385	201	232	213	236	268	229							1379
	Avg. Cycle Time (Paper)	9	7	8	5	10	22	19							34
	Avg. Cycle Time (Online)	5	2	3	6	7	2	1							15

		FY 17/18	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4			FY 18/19
		Total	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
BOLs	Paper Renewals Approved	210	0	0	0	0	0	0							0
	Online Renewals Approved	138	0	0	0	0	0	0							0
	Avg. Cycle Time (Paper)	6	0	0	0	0	0	0							0
	Avg. Cycle Time (Online)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0							0

		FY 17/18	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4			FY 18/19
		Total	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
SOLs	Paper Renewals Approved	112	15	17	9	13	5	3							62
	Online Renewals Approved	243	27	29	22	16	18	20							132
	Avg. Cycle Time (Paper)	3	6	5	6	3	6	19							6
	Avg. Cycle Time (Online)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0							0

		FY 17/18	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4			FY 18/19
		Total	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
FNPs	Paper Renewals Approved	881	0	1	1	0	3	11							16
	Online Renewals Approved	555	1	1	1	2	513	190							708
	Avg. Cycle Time (Paper)	7	0	645	1	0	0	6							46
	Avg. Cycle Time (Online)	2	0	0	0	0	71	0							0

Registered Dispensing Optician Applications FY 17/18 - 18/19

RDO: Registered Dispensing Optician

CLD: Contact Lens Dispenser

SLD: Spectacle Lens Dispenser

NRCLD: Non-Resident Contact Lens Dispenser

		FY 17/18	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4			FY 18/19
		Total	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
RDOs	Paper Applications Received	59	0	2	1	0	0	0							3
	Online Applications Received	152	10	21	17	22	21	17							108
	Paper Applications Approved	84	1	2	6	4	1	0							14
	Online Applications Approved	52	1	3	11	9	8	4							36
	Avg. Cycle Time (Paper)	127	168	156	136	79	71	0							120
	Avg. Cycle Time (Online)	80	82	142	103	85	100	82							98
	Expired/Withdrawn/Cancelled	44	1	8	24	2	7	9							51
	Pending Apps	76	83	93	70	77	82	86							86

		FY 17/18	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4			FY 18/19
		Total	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
CLDs	Paper Applications Received	62	0	1	0	1	2	3							7
	Online Applications Received	92	4	15	6	8	23	9							65
	Paper Applications Approved	67	2	0	1	9	1	0							13
	Online Applications Approved	60	10	6	9	32	13	8							78
	Avg. Cycle Time (Paper)	88	156	0	199	80	103	0							153
	Avg. Cycle Time (Online)	75	116	100	109	62	88	72							94
	Expired/Withdrawn/Cancelled	18	3	0	3	0	1	0							7
	Pending Apps	43	32	42	35	35	45	49							49

Registered Dispensing Optician Applications FY 17/18 - 18/19

RDO: Registered Dispensing Optician

CLD: Contact Lens Dispenser

SLD: Spectacle Lens Dispenser

NRCLD: Non-Resident Contact Lens Dispenser

		FY 17/18	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4			FY 18/19
		Total	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
SLDs	Paper Applications Received	153	4	8	2	4	6	6							30
	Online Applications Received	257	21	48	23	34	35	21							182
	Paper Applications Approved	196	3	8	4	8	2	5							30
	Online Applications Approved	146	8	21	22	48	26	28							153
	Avg. Cycle Time (Paper)	120	59	59	146	116	141	66							92
	Avg. Cycle Time (Online)	77	131	125	122	89	107	90							104
	Expired/Withdrawn/Cancelled	49	4	11	3	4	3	2							27
	Pending Apps	118	128	144	140	118	128	120							120

		FY 17/18	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4			FY 18/19
		Total	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
NRCLDs	Paper Applications Received	2	0	0	0	0	0	0							0
	Online Applications Received	2	0	0	0	0	0	1							1
	Paper Applications Approved	2	0	0	0	0	0	0							0
	Online Applications Approved	0	0	0	1	0	0	0							1
	Avg. Cycle Time (Paper)	225	0	0	0	0	0	0							0
	Avg. Cycle Time (Online)	0	0	0	111	0	0	0							111
	Expired/Withdrawn/Cancelled	2	0	0	0	0	0	0							0
	Pending Apps	2	2	2	1	0	1	2							2

Registered Dispensing Optician Renewals FY 17/18 - 18/19

RDO: Registered Dispensing Optician

CLD: Contact Lens Dispenser

SLD: Spectacle Lens Dispenser

NRCLD: Non-Resident Contact Lens Dispenser

		FY 17/18	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4			FY 18/19
		Total	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
RDOs	Paper Renewals Approved	502	29	32	30	9	9	11							120
	Online Renewals Approved	89	9	8	22	9	15	30							93
	Avg. Cycle Time (Paper)	57	7	14	65	8	15	38							27
	Avg. Cycle Time (Online)	108	0	1	9	1	10	8							7
	Pending Paid Paper Applications	45	47	48	49	49	50	51							51
	Pending Paid Online Applications	13	15	15	15	16	16	16							16

		FY 17/18	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4			FY 18/19
		Total	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
CLDs	Paper Renewals Approved	197	9	14	8	32	5	21							89
	Online Renewals Approved	200	17	20	22	72	36	29							196
	Avg. Cycle Time (Paper)	59	74	77	64	62	24	136							81
	Avg. Cycle Time (Online)	32	46	36	54	119	23	59							70
	Pending Paid Paper Applications	17	17	21	28	30	34	37							37
	Pending Paid Online Applications	8	11	12	12	12	14	17							17

		FY 17/18	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4			FY 18/19
		Total	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
SLDs	Paper Renewals Approved	443	24	21	31	67	18	49							210
	Online Renewals Approved	340	48	49	53	107	63	69							196
	Avg. Cycle Time (Paper)	54	61	92	59	88	64	115							85
	Avg. Cycle Time (Online)	24	27	40	68	100	32	56							60
	Pending Paid Paper Applications	83	90	98	111	114	124	128							128
	Pending Paid Online Applications	37	40	42	43	47	52	53							53

FY 17/18	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	FY 18/19
----------	----	----	----	----	----------

		Total	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
NRCLDs	Paper Renewals Approved	1	0	0	0	1	1	0							2
	Online Renewals Approved	2	0	0	1	0	0	1							2
	Avg. Cycle Time (Paper)	15	0	0	0	96	41	0							35
	Avg. Cycle Time (Online)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0							0
	Pending Paid Paper Applications	0	1	0	0	0	0	0							1
	Pending Paid Onling Applications	0	0	0	0	0	0	0							0