

# NEVADA STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY



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## MINUTES

### Nevada State Board of Optometry telephonic meeting Tuesday, November 5, 2019, at 12 Noon

#### 1. **Call to Order**, Roll Call.

Dr. Young called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. via telephone conference. All Board members attended, along with staff: Caren C. Jenkins, Executive Director, Laura Adair, Licensing Specialist. Also in attendance were Senior Deputy Attorney General Rosalie Bordelove, Jeannette Belz, Lobbyist, and Terri Ogden of NOA, Kenneth Kopolow, O.D., Steve Girisgen, O.D., Tim Elson, Esq. and Chaz Hernandez.

#### 2. **\*For Possible Action.** Consideration and approval of additional revisions to NAC 636 related to:

- **factors to determine proper mobile optometry recipients;**

The board discussed available state and federal data from the Dept. of Health and Human Services – primary care HPSA statistical population data as possible sources in order to determine mobile optometry license eligibility based on three factors (1) mobility impairment, (2) underserved based on income, and (3) underserved based on geography.

Ms. Jenkins stated that the HPSA scores that range from 0-25 are calculated based on population to provider ratio, percentage of population below 100 of Federal Poverty Levels, and travel time to the nearest source of care.

Member Johnson made the motion to accept the Federal DHHS data in place of data from state demographer, and to limit mobile optometry services to individuals whose

primary residence is in and where services are offered in a census tract identified as 13 or above. These areas are designated as moderate to severe shortage areas. Dr. Smith seconded the motion, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Ms. Jenkins asked the board if it would be appropriate for an academic institution or public health agency that offered services to the community to qualify for a mobile optometry license, and if there should be limitations.

As a followup to discussion regarding the definition of mobile optometry, Dr. Austin proposed the following language be adopted:

Mobile optometry is the act of moving optometric instruments or equipment to different locations that are not established optometry offices for the purpose of conducting eye examinations. This definition does not include the act of an optometrist moving between different established optometric offices that have fixed equipment and instruments.

- **processing applications for glaucoma certification by endorsement;**

Ms. Jenkins stated that the board needs to identify what factors should be used to evaluate whether a state's certification to treat persons diagnosed with glaucoma are "substantially similar to those applicable to the issuance of a certificate to treat persons diagnosed with glaucoma in this State" as stated in AB77. In addition, once another jurisdiction has been accepted will all other candidates from that jurisdiction need to come before the Board? Dr. Smith suggested that applications initially be reviewed on a case by case basis and then protocols be established for each state. However, state laws can change.

Ms. Jenkins suggested staff could conduct a 50-state survey by contacting each jurisdiction to determine current status of certification to establish protocols, or data could be obtained from ARBO or a national professional optometry organization.

- **limits on repeating CE coursework;**

Dr. Austin raised a concern that there is nothing in statute or policy to prevent an optometrist from repeating the same CE's during the renewal period. However it was determined that as this has not been an issue in the past with any particular optometrist, and a "no-repeat" policy does not need to be addressed at this time.

- **special fill-in licensure;**

It was discussed that there may be optometrists who are semi-retired, for example, who are available to fill-in for optometrists on vacation or family/medical leave, however they are limited to no more than 14 fill-in days per license year. A special license for an additional fee would allow an optometrist under these circumstances to allow them additional fill-in days.

