

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY



MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

February 9, 2021

1. **Call to Order.** President Chen Young, O.D. opened the telephonic meeting at 12:01 p.m. and asked for public comment. No public comments were offered.
2. **Call to Order and Roll Call.** President Chen Young, O.D., Vice President Mariah Smith, O.D., Jeff Austin, O.D., and Drew Johnson were all in attendance. Also present were Executive Director Caren C. Jenkins, and Board Counsel Asheesh Bhalla, Esq.. Public attendees included Joseph Nevil, and NOA Executive Director, Terri Ogden.
3. **Consideration and approval of the minutes of the December 10, 2020, Board meeting.** All members having had an opportunity to consider the proposed minutes, Dr. Austin moved, and Dr. Smith seconded the motion to adopt the minutes without correction. Unanimous passage.
4. Report, discussion and decision regarding the Board's involvement and participation in the Professional Licensing Collaborative and **legislative action** regarding occupational licensing. (Jenkins). President Young asked if any Board members wanted to attend the calls. Executive Director, Caren Jenkins indicated that she would continue to attend the calls and provide feedback to our Board members. Mr. Johnson agreed to continue our membership level as participants, unless there were any drawbacks to that, then he would defer to Ms. Jenkins recommendation. Dr. Smith, and Dr. Austin, also agreed to remain as being listed as a participant rather than a member of the collaborative and to receiving feedback from Ms. Jenkins. President, Dr. Young asked if the collaborative agreement group was considering more efficient and cost-effective measures for individual Boards to have their audits performed. Executive Director, Jenkins reported that Senator Spearman, the chair of commerce and labor in the Senate, has invited licensing Boards to participate in their discussions. Senator Spearman wants to assure that diversity issues and opportunities in Nevada are addressed in licensing Boards. Spearman also advocates for smaller Boards to be brought into the fold of the state system so that they have access to services, such as the audit division of the LCB, as well as bill drafting and payroll services to facilitate efficiencies.
5. Consideration and acceptance of the FY **2020 Audit Report** from Steele & Associates CPAs. Dr. Smith commented that our budget and the actual budget were considerably different, and since

it was our first 2-year renewal there was a lot to be learned. She hoped we could better predict the actual budget in the years to come. Executive Director, Caren Jenkins clarified to the Board members that the budget was set before the new legislation was passed and effective. The budget was set for one year, and she expected that our actual 2020-2021 budget would be much closer than the 2019-2020 budget year. Mr. Johnson asked for Caren Jenkins to comment on the lost physical licensing documents uncovered during the audit. Ms. Jenkins explained that a past employee had a car accident, while transporting licensee files, and several of the documents may not have been recovered or scannable at that time. Ms. Jenkins was satisfied that Judi Kennedy, the previous Executive Director, would not have licensed anyone who did not pass the required examinations, or did not have the required credentials. Mr. Johnson made a motion to accept the 2020 Audit Report, and Dr. Smith seconded the motion. Board members voted for unanimous passage.

6. Consideration of and approval of Audit service provider for FY2021 through FY2024. Executive Director, Caren Jenkins proposed a new audit service provider, named I.D. Bailey, who has quoted us \$12,500.00-\$13,00000 for the three audit years considered. Dr. Austin agrees we should change auditors every three years, but the amount quoted seemed high. Caren Jenkins asked the Board members for other auditor recommendations for which we should seek for a quote. Mr. Johnson indicated that it is commonplace to change auditors every three years and agreed to moving ahead if Ms. Jenkins felt comfortable with I.D. Bailey, however he also agreed the quote seemed a bit high. Dr. Austin made a motion that two additional quotes are sought for auditing our Board financials. Dr. Smith seconded the motion for two additional quotes. Unanimous passage.

7. Determination of whether to share licensee addresses on request, and whether certain information gathered during licensure /renewal should be kept confidential (other than social security numbers, and banking and health records). Dr. Smith voiced her concerns of publishing our licensee personal data and requested nothing more than name and practice address are provided to the public. Dr. Young requested that only the licensee's name, practice address, license number and practice phone number are made public. Asheesh Bhalla clarified the state of the law, indicating that anything in the custody of the state is a "public record," but that does not mean that, that public record is publicly releasable. Each document we hold is a public record, but we still maintain confidentiality of those records and the private information contained within those records.

8. Staff Report:

- Ms. Jenkins announced a change in bookkeeping Services to Carson Tahoe Tax Services.
- Ms. Jenkins provided a January 1, 2021 License statistics report (see meeting materials).

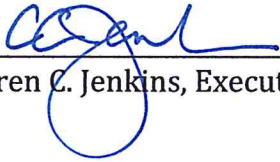
9. Announcements/requests for future consideration (No action on these items at this meeting). Dr. Smith requested that we discuss the removal of legislation in the future pertaining to the provision of providing information of licensees to other licensees. Dr. Smith also requested that we check into getting optometrists listed on CLIA waivers as the medical director, this will allow optometrists to have their own laboratory testing performed within the office without the endorsement of an ophthalmologist. Dr. Young requested the Board discuss telehealth framework for the future.

10. Public Comment. No public comment was offered.

11. Adjournment. Motion to adjourn by Dr. Smith, seconded by Dr. Austin. Unanimous motion carried at 1:12 p.m.

FY 2021 Remaining regular meeting schedule Tuesdays at Noon by telephone: April 13, 2021 and June 8, 2021.

These minutes were considered and approved by majority vote at the Nevada State Board of Optometry meeting on April 13, 2021.



Caren C. Jenkins, Executive Director