

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY



MINUTES of the telephonic Board Meeting Tuesday, August 11, 2020, at 12 Noon

- 1. Call to Order**, President Chen Young, O.D. opened the meeting at 12:02 p.m. and asked for public comment. None was offered.
- 2. Roll Call Board members**, 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, Board Counsel Asheesh Bhalla, Esq., and Licensing Specialist Nancy Padilla.
- 3. Minutes.** Draft Meeting minutes for May 19, 2020 were not available. This agenda item was tabled.
- 4. Executive Director Reports**, The Executive Director reported experiences in implementing statutory and regulatory changes for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, CoVid-19's challenges in the staff's working environment, completing the Board office's move, and that most of the costs of the move were covered by the return of the \$1000.00 insurance deductible and the property owner's \$3000.00 reimbursement for certain expenses such as network cabling, window coverings, utility hook-ups and others.

The Executive Director also reported Nevada Optometric Association will be presenting a virtual Continuing Education program on August 12, 2020 titled "Nevada Optometry Laws in Plain English." Executive Director Jenkins will be the sole speaker. Over 400 individuals already have registered to.

The Executive Director also reported having received numerous recent complaints regarding patient concerns of optometrist compliance with CoVid-related mask and sanitation issues. She has been referring these complaints to the County Health Departments.

The Executive Director reported that a sum equal to the budgeted approved expenditures for the current fiscal year has been deposited into Board's operating account with Bank of America. Operating expenses are paid from that account. Revenues are being deposited into the City National Bank account.

5. ***For Possible Action** Election of Board President and Vice-President. Dr. Smith nominated Dr. Young to serve again as President. Dr. Austin Seconded the nomination of Dr. Young as President. Dr. Young accepted the nomination. No other nominations were made. Dr. Smith was nominated by Dr. Austin to continue as Board Vice President for 2020-21. Dr. Young Seconded the motion. Dr. Smith accepted the nomination. No other nominations were made. Both motions carried in favor unanimously.

6. ***For Possible Action** Discussion and potential adoption of Optometry Board direction and goals. Dr. Young complimented the Executive Director, Caren Jenkins for her diligence and success generally and especially for helping the Board to achieve its goals with the adoption of AB77 and revision of the regulations. Dr. Young then asked each Board member to present long- and short-term ideas for the agency and Executive Director to focus on in the future.

Dr. Smith:

- posting of meeting minutes and posting of orders of discipline promptly to avoid the problems experienced by the Dental Board. Board Counsel Asheesh Bhalla indicated that meeting minutes should be posted within 30 days of the meeting.
- making renewals more seamless
- continuing to review inappropriate prescribing by optometrists.
- move into more of an enforcement rather than education role after the CE presentation of new Nevada laws.
- reduction in the 2-year renewal fees considering that it should cost less to process renewals biennially.

Dr. Austin:

- offer a CE on a regular basis (maybe every 6 months).
- analyze Complaints received to identify any patterns.
- provide good public access for complaints, such as allowing "older people" to submit an oral complaint.
- add definition of Optometrist, Ophthalmologist and Optician roles with links to their appropriate Boards on our website
- improve our Board mission statement.
- review our laws one year before each Legislative session for needed changes or additions.
- review renewal fees and budget to consider possible fee reduction.

Mr. Johnson:

- possible reduction of licensing fees
- assure that our Board acts in the best interest of public health, ensuring optometry does not become a cartel in the state.
- identify and mandate 2-year eyeglass prescriptions for patients aged 18-65 unless a medical reason supports a shorter expiration date. Other members suggested different age ranges in discussion.

Dr. Young:


- investigate telehealth for future guidelines.
- review options if the state Boards consolidate under one umbrella
- send an automatic email receipt as a confirmation of submittal for applications, complaints, or contact requests.
- take action to enforce optometry statutes
- review all optometric practices to ensure ownership is by optometrists only.

7. Announcements. ***For Possible Action** Drew Johnson asked whether the December 15, 2020 meeting could be moved to a different date. No new date was decided upon. Staff was directed to cancel the meeting and poll the members for a convenient substitute date.

8. Public Comment. No public was present to offer comment.

9. Adjournment. Motion to adjourn at 1:02 p.m. by Dr. Smith, seconded by Dr. Austin, passed unanimously. Dr. Young adjourned the meeting.

These minutes were considered and approved by majority vote at the Nevada State Board of Optometry meeting on October 13, 2020.



Caren C. Jenkins, Executive Director