

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY



MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

April 13, 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, Board Counsel Asheesh Bhalla, Esq., and License Specialist, Nancy Padilla. Public attendees included Steve Girisgen, O.D., Joseph Lao, O.D., Lawrence Wang, O.D., Kareen Yeung Landerville, O.D. and NOA Executive Director, Terri Ogden.
- 3. Consideration and approval of the minutes of the February 9, 2021, 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. Board consideration and approval of Robert Gilbert, O.D.'s Petition for Declaratory Relief regarding telehealth practice.** The Board considered the requestors' proposal to practice optometric telehealth with Nevada patients. After listening to input from Dr. Joseph Lao, and Dr. Yeung Landerville, the Board deliberated. Dr. Austin made a motion that optometric examinations or vision therapy be prohibited from being offered remotely. The motion was seconded by Dr. Young. After further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.
- 5. Board consideration of new therapeutic devices in the treatment of dry eye and meibomian gland dysfunction (MGD). Lawrence Wang, O.D. seeks a Board determination whether these treatments are within the scope of practice in NRS 636.** Dr. Wang presented his request to the Board members stating that these technologies are quickly becoming standard practice because they are noninvasive, do not require cutting or suturing and meet the current requirements of NRS 636. Dr. Austin made a motion that Intense Pulsed Light, Red Light Therapy, thermal devices, radiofrequency device and similar treatments may be utilized by optometrists so long as the treatments fit within the scope of practice described in NRS 636. Dr. Smith second the motion. After significant discussion, all members voted in favor of the motion.

6. Staff Report:

Executive Director Caren Jenkins presented the proposals she received from Casey/Neilon and Eide Baily accounting firms for conducting the Board's annual audit. Drew Johnson motioned to contract with Casey/Neilon, as it appeared the firms services would be comparable, but Casey/Neilon's price was lower. Dr. Austin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

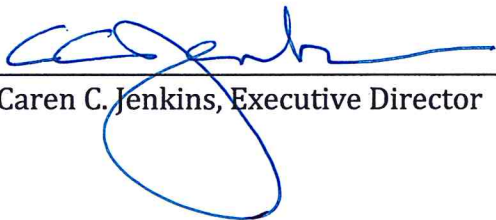
- Caren Jenkins provided an update on proposed 2021 Legislation affecting optometry and professional licensing boards and suggested that no opportunities to amend NRS 636 were apparent. Previously the Board had discussed fine tuning the chapter if an opportunity presented itself in an already pending bill.
- Nancy Padilla described changes to be made to the Board's website in preparation for the 2022-2024 renewal period.

7. Public Comment. No public comment was offered.

8. Adjournment. Motion to adjourn by Dr. Smith, seconded by Dr. Austin. Unanimous motion carried at 1:41 p.m.

FY 2021-2022 Regular meeting schedule Tuesdays at Noon by telephone: June 8, 2021, July 13, 2021, November 9, 2021 (Live appearance in Las Vegas), January 11, 2022, March 15, 2022, and May 10, 2022 (Live appearance in Reno). A meeting in September and other meetings will be added as needed.

These minutes were considered and approved by majority vote of the Nevada State Board of Optometry at its meeting on June 8, 2021.



Caren C. Jenkins, Executive Director