

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY EXAMINERS**

**6201 Florida Blvd. Baton Rouge, LA 70806**

**MINUTES**

**November 8, 2024**

**I. Roll Call/Call to Order/Confirmation of posting of notice and agenda**

The roll was called at 9:04 am with the following LSBOE board members present: Drs. Kasovich, Lamar, Anastasio, Jong, Gerdes, LaPoint and Mrs. Wicker. Also present were Public Guests, OAL Members and Board counsel Mr. AJ Herbert. Executive Director, Anna Cahill, was present via phone call due to illness.

Declaring a quorum was present, Dr. Kasovich called the meeting to order.

**II. Adoption of Agenda**

Motion to adopt the updated agenda (Jong/Lamar) - approved/adopted without objection. Passed unanimously.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

Mrs. Wicker motioned for the approval of the minutes from the October 4, 2024, meeting. Dr. Lamar seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**IV. Secretary's Report**

- a. **Finance and Budget Report** – Ms. Cahill provided an update to the Board regarding the Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss documents.
- b. **License Activity**
  - a. **Renewals** – Ms. Cahill notified the Board that renewal invoices will be going out this month.
  - b. **Applicants/new licensees** - No update.
  - c. **Endorsement request** – Two requests. Ms. Cahill notified the Board of the current fees (\$1,500 nonrefundable) associated with licensure by endorsement. Dr. Kasovich made a motion to amend this rule to only impose the \$1,500 fee if the license is approved. Dr. Lamar seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.  
Dr. Kasovich presented the two licensure by endorsement requests: Dr. Trang and Dr. Tong. Both licenses were approved pending the receipt of proof of advanced procedures training.
  - d. **Inactive requests** – One request.
  - e. **Hardship requests** – No new requests.
  - f. **Request for reinstatement** - No new requests.
  - g. **Complaints** – to be discussed during executive session
- c. **Required Training**
  - a. Ms. Cahill reminded the Board to take their sexual harassment prevention and ethics training.
- d. **Requests for Guidance**

# LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY EXAMINERS

6201 Florida Blvd. Baton Rouge, LA 70806

## MINUTES

November 8, 2024

- a. Mr. Herbert notified the Board that there were no new requests for guidance received since the previous meeting.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### V. LSBOE Insurance Premium

Ms. Cahill requested guidance on a payment plan to give to the Office of Risk Management for the LSBOE's ORM insurance premium, which saw a significant increase to over \$11,000. Dr. Kasovich motioned that the invoice be paid in quarterly payments. Dr. Lamar seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

#### VI. Update on LSBOE Rules in Development

- a. **Continuing Education (per Act 194 of 2023)** – The discussion for ACT 194 was moved to new business under the report of the meeting with LDH.
- b. **Dispensing Pharmaceuticals** – No new updates.
- c. **Alternate Path to Licensure (NBEO)** – No new updates.
- d. **Telehealth** – Dr. Lamar provided an update on his telehealth research in states with similar scope of practice as Louisiana. A brief discussion was held regarding each state's telehealth rules, fees and policies. This issue will continue to be studied.

### NEW BUSINESS

- A. **2025 LSBOE Budget**- Ms. Cahill notified the Board that she is working with the CPA to prepare the 2025 budget.
- B. **Report on meeting with LLA**- Dr. Kasovich provided a brief overview of his meeting with LLA. The meeting pertained to the litigation with the OAL and efforts to resolve the litigation through settlement. The LLA expressed its support for the resolution of the litigation through settlement if the LSBOE did not feel it was cost-effective to pursue the litigation.
- C. **Report on meeting with LDH**- Dr. Kasovich and Dr. LaPoint briefed the Board of their meeting with the new leadership team at LDH. The meeting should facilitate a good working relationship between the LSBOE and the new leadership team at LDH for the benefit of the public.
- D. **Fees associated with online activity**- Dr. Anastasio inquired about credit card fees associated with using Authorize.net for payments. A brief discussion was held. Ms. Cahill notified the Board that she will work with the CPA to provide the Board with more information regarding credit card fees.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY EXAMINERS**  
**6201 Florida Blvd. Baton Rouge, LA 70806**  
**MINUTES**  
**November 8, 2024**

Motion (Wicker/Jong) – A roll call vote was held to go into executive session; the motion passed unanimously. (Entered 10:08am) Dr. Gerdes excused himself from the room for discussion of the OAL litigation during executive session.

**VII. Litigation**

- A. By OAL v Heitmeier, et al No C-729018 19th JDC State of Louisiana**
- B. By LSBOE v OAL et al No. C-729434 19th JDC State of Louisiana**
- C. Report on September 6 meeting between LSBOE & OAL members**
- D. Meeting with LLA set for October 22**

**VIII. Update on Complaints**

- a. Pending Complaints**
- b. New Complaints since last Meeting**

**IX. Requests for Reinstatement from Prior Disciplinary Action**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – (Exited 10:39am)**

**XIV. Report on Items Discussed in Executive Session**

Dr. Kasovich made a motion to ratify the approaches to resolve the OAL litigation which were discussed at the November 12 meeting with LLA. Dr. Lamar seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Dr. Kasovich next made a motion to continue to work with the OAL on a settlement. Dr. Anastasio seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Dr. Gerdes abstained from both votes.

**XVI. Public Comment - No public comment.**

**XVII. Next Meeting - Board members agreed that the next meeting/hearing will be scheduled for December 13, 2024 in Baton Rouge for 9:00am.**

**Adjourn - Meeting adjourned at 10:51am.**

---

Paul Lapoint, O.D.  
Secretary LSBOE

---

Kevin Kasovich, O.D.  
President LSBOE