

# LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY EXAMINERS

One American Place, Suite 2300

301 Main Street Baton Rouge, LA 70801

## MINUTES

May 16, 2025

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

The roll was called at 9:09 AM with the following LSBOE board members present: Drs. Kasovich, Anastasio, Jong and Ms. Wicker. Drs. Lamar, PaPoint and Gerdes were absent. Also present were Public Guests, OAL Members and Board counsel Ms. Carrie Jones. Executive Director, Anna Cahill, was also present. Declaring a quorum was present, Dr. Kasovich called the meeting to order.

### II. Public Comment – There were no public comments.

### III. Adoption of Agenda

Dr. Anastasio moved to adopt the agenda, which was seconded by Dr. Jong. The motion passed unanimously.

### IV. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Kasovich moved to adopt the minutes from the previous meeting, which was seconded by Dr. Anastasio. The motion passed unanimously.

### V. Executive Director'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**

- 1. Renewals** – Ms. Cahill notified the Board of the delinquent list. There are only 8 people remaining with the July 1, 2025, deadline approaching.
- 2. Applicants/new licensees** – Ms. Cahill informed the Board that applications have started coming in for the licensing exam taking place in July.
- 3. Endorsement requests** – No new requests.
- 4. Inactive requests** – No new requests.
- 5. Hardship requests** – No new requests.
- 6. Requests for reinstatement** - No new requests.
- 7. Complaints** – To be discussed during executive session.

#### **C. Required Training**

- Ms. Cahill reminded the Board to take their ethics training. She notified them that a new sexual harassment training link will be sent as well for those who missed the first one.

#### **D. Requests for Guidance**

No new requests.

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**OLD BUSINESS**

**VI. Welcome Home Reporting**

Ms. Jones informed the Board where the report currently stands. She and Ms. Cahill are working on finalizing the website and report and will share with the Board once it is complete.

**VII. Occupational Licensing Review Program**

Ms. Jones notified the Board that the participation form has been submitted and the start date for the program is June 1, 2025.

**VIII. CE Rule Promulgation Update**

Ms. Jones has started obtaining files from Mr. Herbert's office and is getting up to date as they come in.

**IX. LLA Audit**

Ms. Cahill notified the Board that all requested documents have been submitted with the exception of the Louisiana Attestation Questionnaire. Any questions answered with 'No' on the questionnaire must be supported with an explanation. Dr. Kasovich made a motion to submit the presented Resolution and questionnaire. Dr. Anastasio seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**X. ARBO Contract Update**

Ms. Cahill notified the Board that she will send the termination request to ARBO once Ms. Jones has finalized the verbiage.

**XI. DoD Licensure by Endorsement**

Dr. Kasovich reminded the Board of the request from J.M. He informed the Board that J.M. has agreed to take the law and laser portion of the exam in July. If a passing score is received on both, a licensure by endorsement will be granted.

**XII. NCS Phone Invoices**

There was no update.

**XIII. Advanced Procedures Tracking**

Ms. Cahill informed the Board that the tracking for advanced procedures has been kept and takes place during the renewal process for all licenses.

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### **XIV. Annual Meeting**

Dr. Kasovich reminded the Board of the upcoming annual meeting taking place on Saturday, June 7 at 3:30pm in Baton Rouge.

### **XV. CPA Search**

Dr. Anastasio provided an update in her search to the Board. Ms. Cahill will send Dr. Anastasio all CPA related work information in order to assist with the search.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**XVI. Pending Legislation** – Ms. Carrie provided an update to the Board on the following bills: HB99, HB682 and HB423.

**XVII. Kentucky Board request for letter** - Dr. Kasovich informed the Board of a request from the Kentucky Optometry Board for a letter of support from LSBOE in the Kentucky's efforts to accept the Canadian 'part 1' equivalent in lieu of part 1 of NBEO. A brief discussion was held. Dr. Kasovich asked for guidance from Ms. Jones on whether or not LSBOE should send a response letter with Board opinion on the matter. Ms. Jones advised that the Board is okay doing their own research and reaching out to the Kentucky Board with follow up questions on the matter.

**XVIII. Delayed licensing/opioid training requirement** - Dr. Kasovich informed the Board of the LSBOE rule regarding tracking advanced procedures performed by all licensed optometrists in Louisiana. Discussion ensued. Ms. Cahill confirmed that she will search for the outcome report to continue obtaining these numbers.

**XIX. Welcome Home Request** - Dr. Kasovich informed the Board that they have received their first request for endorsement through the Welcome Home Act but it did not meet the requirements.

**XX. ARBO Annual Meeting** - Dr. Kasovich requested that the Board support his attendance to the ARBO Annual Meeting taking place on June 22-24, 2025 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Ms. Carrie informed the Board of the current travel reimbursement policy. Dr. Anastasio motioned to approve Dr. Kasovich's request to attend the meeting and have travel, fees, etc. reimbursed by the Board for his attendance. Dr. Jong seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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Dr. Kasovich made a motion to go into executive session, which was seconded by Mrs. Wicker. A roll call vote was conducted and the motion passed unanimously. The Board entered into the executive session at 10:30 AM.

- Ayes – Drs. Kasovich, Anastasio, Jong and Mrs. Wicker. Nays – None.

**XXI. Update on Outstanding Litigation**

**A. OAL v Heitmeier, et al, No C-729018 19<sup>th</sup> JDC State of Louisiana**

**B. LSBOE v OAL et al, No. C-729434 19<sup>th</sup> JDC State of Louisiana**

**C. Update on Ethics Board Proceedings related to LSBOE/OAL pending litigation**

**XXII. Update on Complaints**

**A. Pending Complaints**

**B. New Complaints Since Last Meeting**

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board exited executive session and returned to open meeting at 10:45 AM.

**Report on Items Discussed in Executive Session**

No action was taken during executive session.

**XXIV. Next Meeting**

The next meeting/hearing will be scheduled for June 27, 2025, in Baton Rouge at 9:00 AM.

**XXV. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:53 AM.