

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY EXAMINERS**  
**1101 Medical Center Blvd. Marrero, LA 70072**  
**MINUTES**  
**May 17, 2024**

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

The roll was called at 8:30am with present: Drs. Gerdes, LaPoint, Richardson, and Sehon.

Not present: Mr. Lopez. Also present were Executive Director Anna Cahill, Public Guests/OAL Members and Board counsel Mr. AJ Herbert.

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

**II. Adoption of Agenda**

Mr. Herbert suggested to amend the agenda add appointment of a new Secretary to the agenda. Motion to adopt updated agenda (Sehon/Richardson) - approved/adopted without objection. Passed unanimously.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

Dr. Lapoint motioned for the approval of the minutes from the April 2, 2024 meeting. Dr. Sehon 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 of licensees who have not yet renewed and must do so by July 1, 2024 without a hearing. Delinquent list was discussed during executive session.
  - b. **Applicants/new licensees**
  - c. **Endorsement request**
  - d. **Inactive requests** – Ms. Cahill notified the Board of two drop requests.
  - e. **Hardship requests** – discussed during executive session
  - f. **Request for reinstatement**
  - g. **Complaints** – discussed during executive session
- c. **Required Training**
  - a. Ms. Cahill reminded the Board to take their sexual harassment prevention and ethics training resources from BOE.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**V. Executive Director Contract**

Mr. Herbert discussed the current interim contract with the Board. A brief discussion was held. Dr. Gerdes made a motion to move from a temporary position to permanent with a 12 month notice to vacate provision. Dr. Lapoint seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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**VI. Telehealth – Rule Status**

No update

**VII. Dispensing Pharmaceuticals – Rule Status**

No update

**VIII. Alternate Route of Licensure (NBEO) – Rule Status**

No update

**IX. ACT 194: CE to comply with statute – Rule Status**

No update

**X. AG and BEO review of consideration of the Secretary as voting board member**

No update

**XI. Consideration of generation professional and consulting services agreement with Daryl Purpura**

Mr. Herbert asked the Board if there was an interest to have Mr. Purpura to do an annual audit. After a brief discussion it was agreed to have Mr. Purpura assist with the audit but not take it on himself.

**XII. Rule to implement the disability accommodations required by Act 393**

Mr. Herbert provided an update to the Board regarding Act 393. He notified the Board that our suggestions are in line with the state DoA recommended template. Dr. Lapoint motioned to implement the disabilities accommodation required by Act 393. Dr. Sehon seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion (Sehon/Lapoint) – No objections. Passed unanimously. (Entered 9:28 am)

**XIII. 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. Mediation between LSBOE and OAL**

**a. Reconsideration of OAL offer**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – (Exited 10:40am)**

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

Mr. Hebert reported that there were no action items discussed in executive session.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Administer law test remotely in Lou of in person for reciprocity license applicants** – A brief discussion was held but no action was taken.

**B. Board member attendance at ARBO** – Dr. Gerdes requested the Board support his attendance for June 16-18, 2024.

**C. Election of new Secretary** – Dr. Sehon nominated Dr. LaPoint effective June 3, 2024. Dr. Richardson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**XV. Newsletter**

Dr. Richardson suggested that a newsletter discussion the difference of the entities OAL and LSBOE would be a good topic. Dr. Sehon suggested CE hours clarification as a topic.

**XVI. Public Comment**


No public comment


**XVII. Next Meeting**

Board members agreed that the next meeting/hearing will be scheduled for July 19, 2024 at West Jefferson Hospital for 8:30am.

**Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 10:58am.

  
Paul Lapoint, O.D.  
Secretary LSBOE

  
Kevin Kasovich, O.D.  
President LSBOE