



# LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY EXAMINERS

911 Tech Drive, Ruston, LA 71270  
Ph: 318-335-2989 E-Mail: lsboe@yahoo.com

Meeting Agenda for January 20, 2023

Meeting start time 9:00am

Location: Law Office of Taggart and Morton LLC

1100 Poydras St. Suite 2100

New Orleans, La 70163

9:00 am–1:00pm (estimated Adjournment)

David Heitmeier, O.D.  
New Orleans, LA  
President

Gary Avallone, O.D.  
Ruston, LA  
Secretary

Gerald Gerdes, O.D.  
Lafayette, LA  
Member

Dale Benoit  
Belle Chasse, LA  
Member

Christopher W. Wroten, O.D.  
Denham Springs, LA  
Member

Paul LaPoint, O.D.  
Bunkie, LA  
Member

- I. Roll Call/Call to Order/Confirmation of posting of notice and agenda
- II. Adoption of Agenda
- III. Approval of Minutes
- IV. Ms. Kathleen Allen- Presentation on the Code of Governmental Ethics
- V. Secretary's Report –
  - a. Finance and Budget Report
    - i. P&L, Balance Sheet, Budget Comparison
  - b. License Activity – All to be discussed in Executive Session (if needed)
    - i. Renewals
    - ii. Applicants/New Licensees
    - iii. Retirement requests
    - iv. Endorsement request - results
    - v. Inactive requests
    - vi. Hardship requests
    - vii. Request for Reinstatement from Prior Disciplinary Action
    - viii. Complaints
  - c. Required Training
    - i. Ethics Training
    - ii. Sexual Harassment Prevention

## OLD BUSINESS

- VI. Louisiana Legislative Audit 2020
  - a. general update –
  - b. Recovery from OAL – To be discussed in Executive session
- VII. Review of the Unresolved Audit findings
  - a. Lack of controls over collection
  - b. Lack of written policies and procedures

- VIII. Telehealth Rule status
  - a. specific to a provider that must be in the facility
  - b. Telehealth application and registration fee - application pending legal approval
  - c. renewal \$100 for in-state home address licensees and \$500 for out of state home address licensees
- IX. Dispensing of Pharmaceuticals - Rule status – Mr. Herbert
- X. CE - Rule Status – Mr. Herbert
- XI. Alternate Routes of Licensure Testing – Rule Status (NBOE)
- XII. 2021 LLA update –
- XIII. Reciprocity La. R.S. 37:1051
- XIV. Discussion on Changes to Continuing Education: COPE accreditation, synchronous CE, approved sources, and online CE

**NEW BUSINESS**

- XV. Discussing on expanding approve sources of CE
- XVI. Compensation – Dr. Lewis
- XVII. Applicants From Other States R.S.37:1054
- XVIII. Proposed contract with Deep South Investigations for private investigative services for the board
- XIX. Discussion on a Limited Active License

**ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION (upon motion and 2/3 vote) (La. R.S. 42:17)**

- XX. Potential Litigation: LLA audit report and mediation status to recover amounts owed the LSBOE, and proposal received from counsel for the Optometry Association of Louisiana with respect to same (La. R.S. 42:17(A)(2) and/or (A)(4))
  - a. General Update
  - b. Recovery from OAL
  - c. Review of unresolved Audit Findings
- XXI. 2021 LLA Update
- XXII. Complaints, Endorsement and Reactivation request
  - A. Continuation of review or updates of formal complaints from prior meetings
  - B. Complaints and Investigations of Complaints (La. R.S. 42:17(A)(4))
    - i. Complaint against Barthelemy’s Optical by Allyson Fisher, O.D. – Status
    - ii. Complaint by John Bollich, O.D. - Status
    - iii. Complaint against America’s Best – Status
  - C. Reactivation requests
  - D. Request for Reinstatement from Prior Disciplinary Action
  - E. Endorsements
- XXIII. Report on Items Discussed in Executive Session and the making of any motions for votes in connection therewith
- XXIV. Public Comment
- XXV. Next Meeting
- XXVI. XXI .Adjourn

