

BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY

MINUTES OF MEETING

Wednesday, 16 February 2005

Open Session

The Open Session of the Board of Examiners in Optometry was called to order at 8:30 A.M. on the above date in Room 104, Cannon Building, Three Capitol Hill, Providence, Rhode Island, pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Open Meeting Law, so called, and other applicable provisions of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, as amended. A quorum was established.

Board Members in attendance:

David Mills, OD

Alessi A. Rispoli, OD

Ronald J. Serra, OD

Scott Surdut, OD

Board members not in attendance:

None

Staff members in attendance:

Kelly Doyle, Board Administrator, Health Professions Regulation

Maureen Hobson, Legal Counsel

Others in Attendance:

None

The minutes of the meetings held on 17 November 2004 were presented. On a motion by Dr. Serra and seconded by Dr. Mills, it was unanimously Voted to accept the Open and Executive minutes as presented and that the Executive minutes to remain sealed pursuant to Sections 42-46-4 and 42-46-5 of the Rhode Island General Laws.

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Minutes of Open Session

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Topics of Discussion

The Board reviewed and approved the application for licensure as an optometrist:

- Amy Falk

- Maura Trail

The Board reviewed the application of Lawrence Kaplan, OD, pending receipt of undergraduate transcripts, for licensure as an optometrist. The Board noted that according to section 3.2 of the Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Optometrists all applicants for initial licensure in Rhode Island must successfully complete the examination in the Treatment and Management of Ocular Diseases (TMOD) administered after 1 January 1999, or a transcript quality course of study as described in Section 3.2 (a) of the Rules and Regulations. The official score report of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry indicates that Dr. Kaplan was administered the TMOD prior to 1 January 1999. The Board instructed staff to inform Dr. Kaplan that he must successfully complete the TMOD, administered after 1 January 1999, or must demonstrate he took a transcript quality course of study as described in 3.2 of the Rules and Regulations before his application will be further considered for licensure. Staff will notify Dr. Kaplan of the Board's decision in writing.

The Board reviewed and approved the application of David Vito, OD for certification to treat glaucoma.

The Board reviewed the application of Russell Auclair, OD for

certification to treat glaucoma. The Board denied this request because the examinations are too generic and should have more details as noted in the Consultation Forms. Staff will notify Dr. Auclair to either use the suggested Consultation Forms, or resubmit the forms providing more details relating to the patient's examinations. Staff will notify Dr. Auclair of the Board's decision regarding this matter.

Adjournment to Executive Session

The Chair called for a motion to adjourn the Open Session and move to Executive Session pursuant to the Sections 42-46-4 and 42-46-5 (a)(1)(4) of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, in that confidential issues of fitness for licensure and investigative cases will be discussed, or oral examinations administered. On a motion by

Dr. Serra, and seconded by Dr. Surdut, it was unanimously so Voted to adjourn to Executive Session.

Return to Open Session

Dr. Serra called the Open Session back to Order at 10:00 AM.

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On motion of Dr. Serra, seconded by Dr. Mills, it was unanimously voted to keep confidential all matters discussed in Executive Session and to seal those minutes inasmuch as fitness for licensure and ongoing disciplinary matters were addressed.

The Board reported that the following final actions were taken while in Executive Session:

2004-02-OD: No Unprofessional Conduct.

Topics of Discussion (continued)

The Board and legal counsel reviewed and discussed a letter dated 9 February 2005 from Partrick Roddy regarding the Maryland General Assembly's consideration to change restrictions currently contained in the Maryland law regarding optometrists' scope of practice. Staff will inform Mr. Roddy of the Board's decision relating to this matter.

Announcements

Staff noted that a letter was sent to the RI Optometric Association requesting assistance recruiting new Board members due to the fact that the current term appointments have expired.

Old Business

The Board and Staff discussed the following relating to continuing education requirements: The Board noted that newly licensed optometrists may be exempt from continuing education requirements for the first calendar year of licensure only and therefore, will owe 20 credits per year for the balance of the remaining three year cycle.

Staff will develop a “welcome” letter, which will be mailed to newly licensed optometrists, informing the licensees of the above policy relating to continuing education requirements.

New Business

None

Adjournment

The Chair called for a motion to adjourn the Open Session pursuant to the Sections 42-46-4 and 42-42-5 of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island. On a motion by Dr. Surdut and seconded by Dr. Serra, it was unanimously so Voted to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Doyle

Board Administrator