

AGENDA

CONNECTICUT BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR OPTICIANS

Wednesday, August 11, 2010, at 9:00 AM
Department of Public Health
410 Capitol Avenue, Hartford CT
Conference Room A/B, Cafeteria Building

CALL TO ORDER

I. MINUTES

Review and approval of the minutes from May 12, 2010.

II. OLD BUSINESS

- Optical shop permit for a licensed optician employed by a physician
- DPH letter to student of the ODD program at Middlesex Community College
- Optical shop permit for a licensed optician employed by a physician
- Optical Shop Renewals
- Cosmetic Contact Lenses
- Reinstatement updates
Paul Beckert
Jeffrey Panella

III. Department of Public Health Updates

- A. Investigations Update
Gary Griffin, Practitioner Investigation Unit, DPH
- B. Examination Update
Deborah Brown, Health Program Assistant, Department of Public Health

IV. ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURN

The following minutes are draft minutes which are subject to revision and which have not yet been adopted by the board.

The Connecticut Board of Examiners for Opticians held a meeting on May 12, 2010, at the Department of Public Health, Capitol Avenue, Second Floor, Conference Room E, Hartford, Connecticut.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Linda Conlin, LO, Chairperson
Loray Courchaine, Public Member
Skip Rivard, LO

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Gary Griffin, Practitioner Investigation Unit, DPH
Jeffrey Kardys, Board Liaison
Kathleen Boulware, RN, Practitioner Investigation Unit
Maureen Dinnan, HAVEN
Alfreda Gaither, Staff Attorney, Legal Office, DPH
Deborah Brown, Health Program Assistant, DPH
Steve Carragher, Health Program Supervisor, DPH

Chairperson Linda Conlin called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

MINUTES – February 24, 2010

The minutes of the February 24, 2010 meeting were reviewed. Skip Rivard moved and Loray Courchaine seconded that these minutes be approved. The motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Annual Update

Maureen Dinnan provided the annual update on the Health Assistance interVention Education Network for Connecticut Health Professionals (HAVEN) program. The program is growing; 210 professionals were served in 2009. None were opticians. HAVEN plans to reach out through professional organizations to try to reach more clients.

B. Is an optical shop permit needed for a licensed optician employed by a physician?

After review of and discussion about the applicable state statutes it was determined that the best way to clarify the legality of this was to ask for an opinion from the Attorney General's office. Motion for the Board to draw up the specific question for the Attorney General's office proposed by Loray Courchaine and seconded by Linda Conlin. Skip Rivard abstained from the vote.

C. Can a convicted felon obtain an Optician's License?

A student in the Optician's program is inquiring if there would be any bar to his obtaining an opticians license because he has a felony conviction in his past. After discussion, Steve Carragher provided a "possible, but no promises" letter to be delivered to the student.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Richard L. Kennedy, Jr., Optician – Petition No. 2009-0513-038-002
Gary Griffin, Practitioner Investigation Unit, DPH, produced 20 Continuing Education credits from Mr. Kennedy. Motion was made by Loray Courchaine to accept these credits, seconded by Linda Conlin and approved by the Board. Skip Rivard abstained from the vote.
- B. Ethics Course – Paul Beckert
Question was asked as to whether Paul Beckert had completed the required ethics course and if his license had been reinstated. Kathleen Boulware reported that she believed that the license was reinstated, and that she would verify that he had completed the ethics course and report back to the Board.
- C. Update – Contact Lens Exam
No changes for the upcoming exams. It is expected that changes will be implemented for this fall's exams.
- D. Examination update – Deborah Brown, Health Program Assistant, DPH reported that the admit letters for the June exams were mailed, and that the start time is 8:30 A.M.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATES

- A. Investigations Update
Gary Griffin, Practitioner Investigation Unit, DPH, reported that there are four cases under investigation, two optical shops and two licensed opticians.
- B. Cosmetic Contact Lenses
Skip Rivard submitted allegations of illegally sold contact lenses to the Attorney General's Office. In response, Kathleen Boulware, RN, Practitioner Investigation Unit, DPH reported that Consumer Protection and the Attorney General's office are investigating these illegal sales supplied by Theg, Inc. Theg, Inc. claims on their website that these lenses are FDA approved – they are not. Cease and Desist orders were issued to retailers selling these lenses. Most pled ignorance and were cooperative in removing the lenses from their shelves.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Optical Shop Selling Permit Renewals
Skip stressed the need for permit renewals to be signed by the licensed optician and not the owner of the shop. A letter reinforcing this will go out via the Connecticut Opticians Association website.
- B. License Reinstatement Request – Jeffrey Panella, #001196
Kathleen Boulware, RN, Practitioner Investigation Unit, DPH reported that she believes his license was reinstated, but will email the definitive answer to the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Loray Courchaine made a motion and Skip Rivard seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Loray Courchaine
Public Member
Connecticut Board of Examiners for Opticians