

The Connecticut Board of Examiners for Opticians held a meeting on January 30, 2008 at the Department of Public Health, Capitol Avenue, Conference Room E, Second Floor, Hartford, Connecticut.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Raymond P. Dennis, LO, Chairman
Linda Conlin, LO
Ann Tosca, Public Member

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Gary Griffin, Practitioner Investigation Unit, DPH
Maritsa Morales, Licensing and Examination Analyst, DPH
Jeffrey Kardys, Board Liaison
Leslie Scoville, Staff Attorney, Legal Office, DPH

Chairperson Raymond Dennis called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

MINUTES – November 14, 2007

The minutes of the November 14, 2007 meeting were reviewed. Mr. Dennis moved and Ms. Tosca seconded that these minutes be approved as written. The motion passed.

LEGAL OFFICE BUSINESS

Tracy Aarons – Petition No. 2007-0719-000-034-Cease and Desist Consent Order
Leslie Scoville, Staff Attorney, Legal Office advised the Board that Tracy Aarons, the respondent is not licensed by the Connecticut Department of Health. The respondent owned and operated Cohen's Fashion Optical in Milford, Connecticut. The optical shop was issued optical shop license number 001675 on August 29, 2006. From about July 11, 2007 through about July 30, 2007 the optical shop was open for business without a licensed optician on duty. The respondent provided optical services without a license. Respondent has signed the Cease and Desist Consent Order. The Board unanimously voted authorized Chairman Dennis to sign the Cease and Desist Consent Order.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Investigations Update

Gary Griffin, Practitioner Investigation Unit explained the Department's legal procedure regarding investigations to Ms. Conlin, the newly appointed member of the Board. Mr. Griffin advised the Board that there are no active investigations at this time. He did report that there was a complaint regarding the sale of contact lenses in a beauty shop in Bloomfield. He indicated that the beauty shop was very cooperative regarding this issue and this operation was stopped while the Department's representative was on the premises.

B. Examination Update

Maritsa Morales, Licensing and Examination Analyst, updated the Board on the recent examinations.

C. Examination Appeals

Maritsa Morales, Licensing and Examination Analyst, reported that one candidate has appealed the results the examinations taken in November. This candidate appeared before the Board. The Board went into Executive Session at 9:20 A.M. to review this examination. After careful review and discussion by members of the Board it was determined that there would be no change in the grades and that this candidate will be required to retake the examinations. The candidate will receive this information in writing. Following a motion by Ms. Tosca and seconded by Mr. Dennis, the Executive Session adjourned at 9:40 A.M.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

A. Examination Dates

The following dates have been scheduled for the June, 2008 examinations

June 2 – Contact Lenses

June 10 – Optical

B. Plans for the Development of a New Licensing Examination

Now that the Board has a full complement of members, it was decided that plans for the development of a new licensing examination would move forward again. Members of the Board authorized Chairman Dennis to convene a group of approximately seven professionals to review the examinations following the next meeting of the Board in April.

All meetings will be scheduled for 9:00 a.m., at the Department of Public Health, 410 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Dennis made a motion and Ms. Tosca seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Tosca, Public Member
Connecticut Board of Examiners for Opticians

The Connecticut Board of Examiners for Opticians held a meeting on April 30, 2008 at the Department of Public Health, Capitol Avenue, Conference Room E, Second Floor, Hartford, Connecticut.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Raymond P. Dennis, LO, Chairman
Linda Conlin, LO
Ann Tosca, Public Member

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Gary Griffin, Practitioner Investigation Unit, DPH
Stephen Carragher, Health Program Supervisor, DPH
Jeffrey Kardys, Board Liaison

Chairperson Raymond Dennis called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

MINUTES – January 30, 2008

The minutes of the January 30, 2008 meeting were reviewed. Mr. Conlin moved and Ms. Tosca seconded that these minutes be approved as written. The motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Investigations Update

Gary Griffin, Practitioner Investigation Unit indicated that there were two ongoing investigations at this time. These are routine consumer complaints regarding eyeglasses. Mr. Griffin also advised the Board that there were two issues regarding selling cosmetic contact lenses at tattoo parlors in Connecticut. These businesses were advised of the State Statutes and all of these materials have been removed from the premises. There was also some discussion regarding the replacement of an Optician leaving a practice and how it relates to the compliance of the Connecticut Statutes.

B. Examination Update

Stephen Carragher, Health Program Supervisor provided the Board with an update regarding the June examinations. He indicated that presently there are a total of 28 candidates scheduled to write the examinations. The Board discussed the possibility of needing more proctors, especially for the contact lens portion of the examinations.

C. Development of a New Licensing Examination

Following the business portion of this meeting, the Board will meet with a group of professionals to review the structure of the current licensing examination and plans for changes/development of a new examination. An update will be provided at the August Board meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond P. Dennis, LO, Chairman
Connecticut Board of Examiners for Opticians

The Connecticut Board of Examiners for Opticians held a meeting on August 13, 2008 at the Department of Public Health, Capitol Avenue, Conference Room E, Second Floor, Hartford, Connecticut.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Raymond P. Dennis, LO, Chairman
Linda Conlin, LO
Loray Courchaine, Public Member

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Jeffrey Kardys, Board Liaison
Gary Griffin, Practitioner Investigation Unit, DPH
Maritsa Morales, Licensing and Examination Analyst, DPH
Kathleen Boulware, Practitioner Investigations Unit, DPH

Mr. Dennis called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Ms. Courchaine was welcomed to her first meeting as a member of the Board

MINUTES – April 30, 2008

The minutes of the April 30, 2008 meeting were reviewed. Ms. Conlin moved and Mr. Dennis seconded that these minutes be approved. The motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Health Assistance interVention Education Network for Connecticut Health Professionals – (HAVEN)

Maureen Dinnan, Esq., Neubert, Pepe & Monteith and Kathleen Boulware, Practitioner Investigations Unit, Department of Public Health gave a presentation regarding the Health Assistance interVention Education Network for Connecticut Health Professionals (HAVEN). This program was developed pursuant to Public Act 07-103.

Currently enrolled in the program are 28 doctors, 35 RNs, 9 LPNs, 4 veterinarians, and 4 dentists among others, but no licensed opticians at this time.

B. Investigations Update

Gary Griffin, Practitioner Investigation Unit reported that there were 2 ongoing investigations at this time, both involving consumer complaints. One has been referred to Brendan Walsh for standard of care compliance, and the other is expected to be resolved by a consent order.

C. Examination Update

Maritsa Morales, Licensing and Examination Analyst reported that on June 2, 2008, 21 candidates wrote the contact lens practical exam resulting in 13 passes and 8 failures.

On June 10, 2008, 22 candidates wrote the eyewear practical exam resulting in 15 passes and 7 failures.

Ms. Morales also noted that the registration deadline for the November exam is September 12, 2008. The exams are tentatively scheduled for November 4, 2008 for contact lenses, and November 10, 2008 for eyewear, pending reservation of the necessary rooms at Middlesex Community College.

D. Examination Appeals

Three candidates appealed the results of the June 2nd and June 10th examinations and appeared before the Board. Following a motion by Mr. Dennis and seconded by Ms. Conlin, the Board went into Executive session at 9:55 A.M. to review the examination results of the three candidates. After careful review and discussion by members of the Board, it was determined that the results would remain the same. No votes were taken in executive session.

The candidates will receive this information in writing as soon as possible. The Executive Session adjourned at 10:20 A.M.

E. Development of a New Licensing Examination

Mr. Dennis reported and it was decided to convene a group of licensed opticians to review the eyewear portion of the practical exam at the November 19, 2008 Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Conlin made a motion and Mr. Dennis seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Conlin, LO
Connecticut Board of Examiners for Opticians

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 November 19, 2008 at the Department of Public Health, Capitol Avenue, Conference Room E, Second Floor, Hartford, Connecticut.

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Jeffrey Kardys, Board Liaison
Gary Griffin, Practitioner Investigation Unit, DPH
Steve Carragher, Health Program Supervisor, DPH
Dennis Antonucci, LO
Dottie Byus, LO
Raymond Dennis, LO
Bruce Tooker, LO

Chairperson Linda Conlin called the meeting to order at 8:58 a.m.

Skip Rivard was welcomed as a member of the Board

MINUTES – August 13, 2008

The minutes of the August 13, 2008 meeting were reviewed. Loray Courchaine moved and Linda Conlin seconded that these minutes be approved. The motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Schedule Meeting Dates for 2009

Following are the dates for Board Meetings scheduled for 2009.

January 28, 2009

April 22, 2009

August 26, 2009

December 2, 2009

All meetings will be scheduled for 9:00 a.m., at the Department of Public Health, 410 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

B Investigations Update

Gary Griffin, Practitioner Investigation Unit reported that there are six ongoing investigations at this time, three are with the legal office and three are up for action.

C. Examination Update

Maritsa Morales was absent, examination update postponed until the January 28, 2009 meeting.

D. Development of a New Licensing Examination

Following a motion by Skip Rivard and seconded by Loray Courchaine, the Board went into Executive session at 9:25 a.m.

The Board met with a group of professionals to review the structure and content of the current eyewear licensing examination and plans for changes/development of a new examination.

Executive session concluded at 11:15 a.m.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Chair invited the opticians back for the January 28, 2009 meeting. A round up discussion to go over the proposed changes to the exam will be held at that time. An e-mail with these changes will be sent in advance.
2. Raymond Dennis informed the Board that he will be acting as a liaison for the COA, handling anonymous complaints of statute violations.

ADJOURNMENT

Loray Courchaine made a motion and Skip Rivard seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Loray Courchaine
Public Member
Connecticut Board of Examiners for Opticians