

The Connecticut Board of Examiners for Opticians held a meeting on March 4, 2009 at the Department of Public Health, Capitol Avenue, Second Floor Law Library, 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 Maritsa Morales, Licensing and Examination Analyst, DPH Joelle Newton, Staff Attorney, Legal Office, DPH

---

Chairperson Linda Conlin called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

### **MINUTES – November 19, 2008**

The minutes of the November 19, 2008 meeting were reviewed. Skip Rivard moved and Linda Conlin seconded that these minutes be approved. The motion passed.

### **Investigations Update**

Gary Griffin, Practitioner Investigation Unit reported that at this time there are four ongoing investigations, two are with the legal office.

Ray Dennis filed a complaint that a shop on Franklin Avenue was illegally selling costume contact lenses.

### **Legal Office Business**

Cohen Fashion Optical, Inc., Danbury CT – Petition No. 2007-0719-057-003  
Presentation of Consent Order – Joelle Newton – Staff Attorney, Legal Office, DPH

During July 2007 through August 2007 respondent optical shop was open for business without a licensed optician on duty. Also, the optical shop allowed employees to dispense eyewear to customers without a licensed optician on duty.

Discussion among board brought to light that Tracy Aarons, the respondent for Cohen Fashion Optical, Inc. is a repeat offender who has been fined for similar offences in the past. The Board felt that the fine should be increased for this repeat offender. The amount of \$7,000 was agreed upon. Questions were also raised about who would be responsible for the fine since it appears that Tracey Aaron may no longer be with Cohen Fashion Optical, Inc. Legal Office to investigate further.

Loray Courchaine made a motion to take no action pending further investigation. Seconded by Skip Rivard and passed unanimously.

**Examination Update**

Maritsa Morales reported the results from the Contact Lens Exam on November 4, 2008. Of the thirteen candidates, eight failed and five passed. The Eyewear Exam was held on November 10, 2008. Of the sixteen candidates, six failed and ten passed.

There was one appeal from the Contact Lens Exam. Candidate # 1 sent a letter to the board asking for review of three questions. Upon review, Candidate # 1 was given points for the test ball curvature. Maritsa will notify the candidate of the change in grade.

The June 2009 examination days were set:  
June 1, 2009 - Contact Lens  
June 8, 2009 – Eyewear

Applications for the exams need to be submitted by April 10, 2009. Skip Rivard requested that this deadline to be stressed on the website.

**Development of a New Licensing Examination**

Skip Rivard wrote a summation of the changes made to the eyewear exam during the November 19, 2008 Board meeting. These changes will be implemented with the June 2009 exam. A handbook of definitions was also submitted to be used by the exam proctors to aid in grading future exams.

**Adjournment**

Loray Courchaine made a motion and Skip Rivard seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Loray Courchaine  
Public Member  
Connecticut Board of Examiners for Opticians

The Connecticut Board of Examiners for Opticians held a meeting on May 27, 2009 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: Jeffrey Kardys, Board Liaison  
Gary Griffin, Practitioner Investigation Unit, DPH  
Maritsa Morales, Licensing and Examination Analyst, DPH  
Stanley Peck, Section Chief, Legal Office, DPH  
Dan Shapiro, Assistant Attorney General  
Leslie Scoville, Staff Attorney, Legal Office, DPH  
Kathleen Boulware, Practitioner Investigations Unit

---

Chairperson Linda Conlin called the meeting to order at 8:57 a.m.

#### **MINUTES – MARCH 4, 2009**

The minutes of the March 4, 2009 meeting were reviewed. Skip Rivard moved and Loray Courchaine seconded that these minutes be approved. The motion passed.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATES**

- A. Investigations Update  
Gary Griffin, Practitioner Investigation Unit, reported that at this time there are no current investigations. Four cases have been referred to the legal office.
- B. Examination Update  
Maritsa Morales, Licensing and Examination Analyst, DPH, reported that there will be 33 candidates taking the contact lens exam on Monday, June 1, 2009. 28 candidates for the June 8, 2009 eyewear exam and 22 candidates for the state law exam.

#### **LEGAL OFFICE BUSINESS**

- A. Cohen Fashion Optical, Inc., Danbury CT – Petition No. 2007-0719-057-003  
Presentation of Consent Order – Leslie Scoville, Staff Attorney, Legal Office, DPH  
A consent order signed by Tracy Aarons along with a \$1,000 check was presented to the board. Board member Skip Rivard expressed reservations about accepting such a low fine from a repeat offender, but after discussion, the board assented. Loray Courchaine made a motion to accept the reprimand against Cohen Fashion optical. Linda Conlin seconded the motion. The motion passed and Linda Conlin signed the consent order.
- B. Paul Beckert, LO – Petition No. 2008-1105-038-003  
Motion for Summary Suspension – Stanley Peck, Section Chief, Legal Office, DPH  
Stanley Peck presented the Statement of Charge, and a Summary Suspension Order against Paul Beckert of Wallingford, Connecticut. Based on the documents presented, there exists a threat to public health and safety, which warrants the Summary Suspension of Mr. Beckert's license. Motion to grant the Summary Suspension Order presented by Linda Conlin and seconded by Skip Rivard. The motion passed and Linda Conlin signed the order. A hearing was set for Friday June 5, 2009 at 9:00 at the Department of Public Health Building

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Following a motion by Skip Rivard and seconded by Loray Courchaine, the Board went into Executive session at 9:40 a.m. to discuss the content of upcoming examinations.

Motion to end the Executive session made by Skip Rivard and seconded by Linda Conlin at 10:10 a.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Skip Rivard made a motion and Linda Conlin seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Loray Courchaine  
Public Member  
Connecticut Board of Examiners for Opticians

The Connecticut Board of Examiners for Opticians held a meeting on August 26, 2009 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: Maritsa Morales, Licensing and Examination Analyst, DPH  
Leslie Scoville, Staff Attorney, Legal Office, DPH  
Kathleen Boulware, Practitioner Investigations Unit  
Maureen Dinnan, Executive Director – HAVEN  
Frank Manna, DPH

---

Chairperson Linda Conlin called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

#### **MINUTES – MAY 27, 2009**

The minutes of the May 27, 2009 meeting were reviewed. Skip Rivard moved and Loray Courchaine seconded that these minutes be approved. The motion passed.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Memorandum of Decision Paul Beckert, LO – Petition No. 2008-1105-038-003

Memorandum tabled pending arrival of representative from the office of the Attorney General .

License Reinstatement Request – Jeffrey Panella, #001196

Frank Manna, Department of Public Health presented a license reinstatement request for Jeffrey Panella.

Skip Rivard made a motion, seconded by Loray Courchaine to recommend denial of Mr. Panella’s license. Board referred the application to DPH for investigation, paying particular attention to the renewal signature to determine if there was fraud regarding C.E. credits.

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

Maureen Dinnan, Executive Director provided the annual update regarding the Haven Program. It was reported that no Opticians are currently in the program.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATES**

##### **A. Investigations Update**

Kathleen Boulware, Practitioner Investigation Unit, reported that at this time there is one investigation. Two cases have been referred to the legal office for further review.

- B. Examination Update  
Maritsa Morales, Licensing and Examination Analyst, DPH, reported the results from the Contact Lens Exam on June 1, 2009. Of the thirty candidates, twenty passed. The Eyewear Exam was held on June 8, 2009. Of the twenty seven candidates, twenty passed.

There were no appeals from either exam.

Dates for the fall 2009 exams:  
Contact Lens – Tuesday November 10.  
Eyewear – Monday November 16.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Board discussed Continuing Education Credit and ways to insure that these are being obtained.

### **LEGAL OFFICE BUSINESS**

- A. Kennedy & Perkins, Inc., Branford, CT – Petition No. 2008-0408-057-001  
Leslie Scoville, Staff Attorney, Legal Office, DPH presented a Consent Order in this matter.  
No one was present on behalf of Kennedy & Perkins, Inc.

Loray Courchaine made a motion, seconded by Skip Rivard to approve the Consent Order, which imposes a reprimand and a \$2,500.00 Civil Penalty. The motion passed and Linda Conlin signed the order.

### **NEW BUSINESS-Continued**

#### **Memorandum of Decision - Paul Beckert, LO – Petition No. 2008-1105-038-003**

Attorney General's office reached by phone to clarify the term of suspension.  
Loray Courchaine made a motion, seconded by Skip Rivard to approve the Memorandum of Decision, which suspends respondent's license for six months followed by probation for one year. The motion passed and Linda Conlin signed the order.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Skip Rivard made a motion and Loray Courchaine seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:49 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Loray Courchaine  
Public Member  
Connecticut Board of Examiners for Opticians

The Connecticut Board of Examiners for Opticians held a meeting on December 2, 2009, 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  
Maritsa Morales, Licensing and Examination Analyst, DPH  
Stacy Owens, Staff Attorney, Legal Office, DPH

---

Chairperson Linda Conlin called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

### **MINUTES – August 26, 2009**

The minutes of the August 26, 2009 meeting were reviewed. Skip Rivard moved and Loray Courchaine seconded that these minutes be approved. The motion passed.

### **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATES**

#### **A. Investigations Update**

Gary reported that there are two cases under investigation. Both are consumer complaints involving eyeglasses. No cases have been referred to the legal office for further review.

Two new optical shops have been approved, one in Stamford and Norwich.

#### **B. Examination Update**

Maritsa Morales, Licensing and Examination Analyst, DPH, reported the results from the Eyewear Exam on November 10, 2009. Of the thirteen candidates, ten passed. The Contact Lens Exam was held on November 16, 2009. Of the fifteen candidates, eleven passed.

To date, there have been no appeals from either exam.

### **PRACTICAL EXAMINATION**

Board discussed changes to the contact lens examination.

Issues discussed included, the use of radio scopes in the exam, reinstatement of a problem solving section using slides, and an upgrade of the proctor sheets.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

License Reinstatement Request – Jeffrey Panella, #001196

Skip Rivard asked for an update on this case. It was reported that the case is still under investigation.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Scheduled Opticians Board Meeting Dates for 2010**

Following are the dates for Board Meetings scheduled for 2010.

February 24, 2010 (Snow day – March 3, 2010)

May 12, 2010

August 25, 2010

December 8, 2010

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

Linda Conlin made a motion and Loray Courchaine seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:46 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Loray Courchaine

Public Member  
Connecticut Board of Examiners for Opticians