

A Meeting of the **Connecticut Board of Examiners for Optometrists** was held on February 28, 2007 at the Department of Public Health, 410 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut, in Conference Room E on the second floor.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Edward F. Pinn, O.D., Chairman
Leora Berns, O.D.
Henry W. Siegrist
John Sienko, O.D.
Patricia Henrietta Simmons
Eugene Winakor, O.D.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Jeffrey Kardys, Board Liaison
Jennifer Filippone, Section Chief, Practitioner Licensing and Investigations
Gary Griffin, Investigations Supervisor, DPH

Dr. Pinn called the meeting to order at 9:15.

I. MINUTES – November 8, 2006

The minutes of November 8, 2006 were reviewed. Dr. Winakor made a motion, seconded by Dr. Berns, to approve the minutes as edited. The motion passed with all in favor.

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. Investigations Update

Gary Griffin that there are five optometrist complaints under investigation by the Department of Public Health. The cases, which involve standard of care issues, are awaiting review by an optometrist consultant. Currently no cases have been referred to the Department's Legal Office.

B. Council on Endorsed Licensure Mobility for Optometrists (CELMO)

The Board reviewed a DVD presentation from the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry regarding the CELMO program, which is an initiative to facilitate license mobility for optometrists. Dr. Berns made a motion, seconded by Ms. Simmons, to allow the Department of Public Health to utilize CELMO as a method towards licensure by endorsement.

C. Proposed Legislation

Bill 7159 An Act Updating the Scope of Practice of Optometry. Jennifer Filippone, Section Chief, Department of Public Health Office of Practitioner Licensure and Investigations was present for this discussion. The Board expressed its support for this legislation and urges the DPH to support it as well.

Bill 7155 - An Act Concerning a Professional Assistance Program for Health Care Professionals Stanley Peck, Section Chief, Legal Office, Department of Public Health provided an overview of proposed legislation that would establish a program for impaired health care practitioners. Dr. Sienko made a motion, seconded by Dr. Winakor, to support the concept of a program for impaired health care practitioners provided the following conditions are met

- implementation of a single program,
- confidentiality for program participants
- referral to DPH of those individuals who fail to comply with the program conditions
- program accountability to the DPH.

The motion passed unanimously.

III. OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Winakor announced he will be retiring from practice in July 2007.

IV. ADJOURN

Dr. Sienko made a motion, seconded by Dr. Winakor, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Sienko, O.D.
Connecticut Board of Examiners for Optometrists

A Meeting of the **Connecticut Board of Examiners for Optometrists** was held on May 2, 2007 at the Department of Public Health, 410 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut, in Conference Room E on the second floor.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Edward F. Pinn, O.D., Chairman
Leora Berns, O.D.
John Sienko, O.D.
Patricia Henrietta Simmons
Eugene Winakor, O.D.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Henry W. Siegrist

ALSO PRESENT: Jeffrey Kardys, Board Liaison
Jennifer Filippone, Section Chief, Practitioner Licensing and Investigations
Gary Griffin, Investigations Supervisor, DPH

Dr. Pinn called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m.

I. MINUTES – February 28, 2007

The minutes of February 28, 2007 were reviewed. Dr. Winakor made a motion, seconded by Dr. Berns, to approve the minutes as edited. The motion passed with all in favor.

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. Investigations Update

Gary Griffin that there are seven cases under investigation by the Department of Public Health. Five prior complaints and two new cases since the last meeting.

B. Proposed Legislation

a) License by Endorsement – Jennifer Filippone, Section Chief, DPH provided an update. No changes have been made, input from the Board to be considered. This legislation will appear in the Department's technical revision bill.

b) An Act Updating the Scope of Practice of Optometry. Jennifer Filippone, Section Chief, Department of Public Health Office of Practitioner Licensure and Investigations was present for this discussion. This bill provides for an increase in continuing education to 20 hours. This will necessitate changes to the regulations. Dr. Pinn requested that the Board have input into the new regulations and would like to discuss this further at the September 2007 meeting.

c) Bill 7155 - An Act Concerning a Professional Assistance Program for Health Care Professionals. A compromise has been reached between the Department and the Coalition of Health Care Professionals. Ms. Filippone highlighted some of the facets of this bill including funding, confidentiality and annual audits.

d) Ms. Filippone reported that there is a proposed bill that would require on-line profiles for health care practitioners. This would provide the public with educational and disciplinary background on practitioners. There is currently a program in place for physicians.

III. OTHER BUSINESS

Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO) Annual meeting. This years meeting will be held in Boston in June. Ms. Filippone will explore funding for attendees. Dr. Pinn stated that he may attend.

IV. ADJOURN

Dr. Sienko made a motion, seconded by Dr. Berns, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Edward Pinn, O.D.
Connecticut Board of Examiners for Optometrists

A Meeting of the **Connecticut Board of Examiners for Optometrists** was held on September 12, 2007 at the Department of Public Health, 410 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut, in Conference Room E on the second floor.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Edward F. Pinn, O.D., Chairman
Leora Berns, O.D.
John Sienko, O.D.
Patricia Henrietta Simmons

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Henry W. Siegrist

ALSO PRESENT: Jeffrey Kardys, Board Liaison
Jennifer Filippone, Section Chief, DPH
Gary Griffin, Investigations Supervisor, DPH
Eugene Winakor, O.D.

Dr. Pinn called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m.

Dr. Winakor announced that due to his relocation to the State of Massachusetts, he resigned from the Board with an effective date of July 1, 2007. Dr. Winakor was thanked for his many years of dedicated service to the Board, the Department of Public Health, and the State of Connecticut.

I. MINUTES – May 2, 2007

The minutes of May 2, 2007 were reviewed. Ms. Simmons made a motion, seconded by Dr. Sienko, to approve the minutes as edited. The motion passed with all in favor.

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. Investigations Update

Mr. Kardys reported on behalf of Gary Griffin, Department of Public Health, Practitioner Investigations Unit that there are five cases under investigation by the Department of Public Health. In addition 3 cases have been referred to the Department's Legal Office for further review.

B. Continuing Education

Public Act 07-92 increased the requirement for continuing education to twenty (20) hours annually. Jennifer Filippone, Section Chief, Department of Public Health Office of Practitioner Licensure and Investigations was present for this discussion. She explained that the Department of Public Health will begin the process for promulgating regulations to implement the new continuing education requirements.

Brian Lynch O.D., Chairman, Legal Affairs, Connecticut Association of Optometrists (CAO) addressed the Board concerning this matter. Dr. Lynch stated that he recommends that the twenty hours of continuing education consist of 16 hours of face to face education and 4 hours of online and/or journal reading based learning.

Lawrence Lefland, OD. addressed the Board. Dr. Lefland stated his personal recommendation that continuing education include jurisprudence education, medical record keeping and diabetes education.

Dr. Sienko made a motion, seconded by Dr. Berns, recommending that the new continuing education requirements consist of no more than six (6) hours of distance based learning. In addition, that there be at least 6 hours of education in pathology, diabetes and ocular treatment; at least 6 hours of education in the use of ocular agents-t; no more than four hours of education in practice management. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Licensure by Endorsement

The Board discussed Public Act 07-252, which allows DPH to license by endorsement an optometrist who holds a Council on Endorsed Licensure Mobility for Optometrists certificate issued by the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry.

Dr. Pinn stated that according to the American Optometric Association, for Connecticut to be considered an endorsement state, current statutes and/or regulations need to meet certain requirements. Jennifer Filippone, Section Chief, Department of Public Health Office of Practitioner Licensure and Investigations will review this issue and report back to the Board at the November 7, 2007 meeting.

III. ADJOURN

Ms. Simmons made a motion, seconded by Dr. Sienko, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Sienko, O.D.
Connecticut Board of Examiners for Optometrists

A Meeting of the Connecticut Board of Examiners for Optometrists was held on November 7, 2007 at the Department of Public Health, 410 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut, in Conference Room E on the second floor.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Edward F. Pinn, O.D., Chairman
Leora Berns, O.D.
Patricia Henrietta Simmons

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Henry W. Siegrist
John Sienko, O.D.

ALSO PRESENT: Jeffrey Kardys, Board Liaison
Gary Griffin, Investigations Supervisor, DPH

Dr. Pinn called the meeting to order at 9:21 a.m.

I. MINUTES –September 12, 2007

The minutes of September 12, 2007 were reviewed. Dr. Berns made a motion, seconded by Dr. Pinn, to approve the minutes as edited. The motion passed with all in favor.

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. Investigations Update

Gary Griffin, Department of Public Health, Practitioner Investigations Unit reported that there are five cases under investigation by the Department of Public Health. 3 additional cases have been referred to the Department's Legal Office for further review.

B. Continuing Education

The Department of Public Health is in the process the process for promulgating regulations to implement the new continuing education requirements.

The Board would like an update at the first meeting in 2008.

C. Licensure by Endorsement

The Board reviewed a letter to Dr. Pinn from Steve Eyler, OD of the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO) concerning endorsement requirements.

Dr. Eyler reported that ARBO's CELMO Committee met in October in St. Louis with one of its agenda items being the communications concerning the difference in the AOA's and CELMO's endorsement requirements. The CELMO Committee modified it eligibility requirements to exactly match the AOA's endorsement language. The new requirement now reads: "The optometrist must hold the highest level of prescriptive authority in the state in which they currently practice"

D. Meeting Dates for 2008

Following are the meeting dates scheduled for 2008.

February 27, 2008

May 7, 2008

September 10, 2008

November 12, 2008

All meetings will be scheduled for 9:15 a.m., at the Department of Public Health, 410 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

III. ADJOURN

Ms. Simmons made a motion, seconded by Dr. Berns, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leora Berns, O.D.
Connecticut Board of Examiners for Optometrists