

A meeting of the **Connecticut Board of Examiners for Optometrists** was held on **March 20, 2013** at the Department of Public Health, 410 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut, in the third floor hearing room.

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BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:     Matthew Blondin, OD, Chairman – *via telephone*  
  Lawrence Lefland, OD – *via telephone*  
  Joseph Pavano, III, OD – *via telephone*  
  Regina A. Strand, OD – *via telephone*

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:     None

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Dr. Blondin called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

**I.     Minutes**

The minutes from the November 28, 2012 meeting were reviewed and approved.

**II.    Department of Public Health Updates**

Investigations Update

Gary Griffin, Department of Public Health, Practitioner Investigations Unit reported there are two cases involving optometrists being investigated by the DPH. Two additional cases have been referred to the Department's Office of Licensure Regulation and Compliance for further review. One case has been dismissed since the last meeting.

**III.   Old Business**

Continuing Education

Jeffrey Kardys, Board Liaison reported that House Bill 6644 proposes the addition of language regarding continuing education to sections 20-128a and 20-132a of the Optometry Practice Act. A copy of the bill will be emailed to the Board.

**IV.    NEW BUSINESS**

1.     Controlled Substance Registration – Any optometrists having questions about their Connecticut Controlled Substance registration should contact the State of Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection.

2.     Therapeutic Pharmaceutical Agents

Dr. Blondin has communicated with an Optometrist who wishes to use Therapeutic Pharmaceutical Agents.

Pursuant to Section 20-127(c), Connecticut General Statutes, optometrists who were first licensed in Connecticut prior to January 1, 1991, are permitted to acquire, administer, dispense and prescribe TPAs only after the optometrist has successfully completed: A course conducted by an accredited optometric or medical school which included a minimum of 96 classroom hours and 14 clinical hours in the didactic and clinical use of therapeutic ocular agents which included the successful completion of an examination administered by the duly accredited school or college of optometry or medical school conducting the course. Experience such as residency training or continuing education cannot be substituted for the required coursework.

Dr. Blondin will inform the individual to contact the DPH licensing office with any questions.

3. **Bill No. 1038 – An Act Concerning the Definition of Surgery**

The Board discussed how and if this proposed bill would impact the practice of Optometry. Dr. Pavano made a motion, seconded by Dr. Strand to the adopt the following as authored by Dr. Lefland.

The Board wishes to go on record in opposition to Senate Bill 1038, "An Act Concerning the Definition of Surgery".

1. Passage of the bill will rescind the ability of optometrists to perform a number of treatments that would suddenly be deemed to be "surgical" in nature.
2. Optometrists are well trained to remove foreign bodies from the eye as well as displace tissue through punctal plugs. These procedures have been performed thousands of times by Connecticut optometrists with no documented adverse events or complaints to this Board.
3. This bill would automatically change the Scope of Practice for a number of medical professions, including optometry. This bill should be the subject of a Scope of Practice Review Committee before it is entertained in the legislature.
4. There is no compelling threat to the public's health nor any need or reason to pass this legislation.
5. With federal passage of " The Affordable Care Act", more patients with health care benefits will need treatment. Limiting these procedures to only ophthalmology will result in patients having fewer choices of practitioners and longer waiting times for appropriate care.

**V. Additional Items**

The Board would like an update from Jennifer Filippone at the May 15, 2013 meeting concerning an interpretation of whether Wal-Mart can allow its employees to work for the independent Optometrists in Wal-Mart Stores.

**VI. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m. on a motion made by Dr. Lefland, seconded by Dr. Strand.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matthew Blondin, OD, Chairman  
Connecticut Board of Examiners for Optometrists

A meeting of the **Connecticut Board of Examiners for Optometrists** was held on **May 15, 2013** at the Department of Public Health, 410 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut, in the third floor hearing room.

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BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Matthew Blondin, OD, Chairman  
Lawrence Lefland, OD  
Joseph Pavano, III, OD  
Regina A. Strand, OD

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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Dr. Blondin called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

**I. Minutes**

The minutes from the March 20, 2013 meeting were reviewed and approved.

**II. Department of Public Health Updates**

**Investigations Update**

Gary Griffin, Department of Public Health, Practitioner Investigations Unit reported there is one case involving optometrists being investigated by the DPH. One case was dismissed since the last meeting. Two additional cases have been referred to the Department's Office of Licensure Regulation and Compliance for further review.

*Dr. Pavano arrived at 9:06 a.m.*

**III. Old Business**

**Continuing Education**

House Bill 6644 proposes the addition of language regarding continuing education to sections 20-128a and 20-132a of the Optometry Practice Act. Jennifer Filippone, Section Chief, Department of Public Health provided an update regarding this bill.

**Definition of Surgery**

Senate Bill 1038 – Ms. Filippone reported that no action has been taken on this bill since a public hearing on March 20, 2013. The Department of Public Health testified suggesting that this matter be referred to the scope of practice review process established pursuant to Public Act 11-209.

**Wal-Mart**

Ms. Filippone reported that DPH is still reviewing the issue of Wal-Mart employees working for independent Optometrists practicing in Wal-Mart locations.

**IV. Office Of Licensure Regulation And Compliance**

**Lance Alpert, OD – Petition No. 2011-103**

Linda Fazzina, Staff Attorney Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Dr. Alpert. Respondent was present with Attorney Michael Margolis.

Dr. Lefland and Dr. Strand recused themselves from the discussion and vote in this matter.

Dr. Pavano and Dr. Blondin indicated that the resolution seemed a bit excessive but would vote to approve the Consent Order in that it was agreed to by respondent.

Dr. Pavano moved and Dr. Blondin seconded to approve the Consent Order. The motion passed. Dr. Blondin signed the Order.

Respondent can request a modification of the Order at a later date.

**V. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 a.m. on a motion made by Dr. Lefland, seconded by Dr. Pavano.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matthew Blondin, OD, Chairman  
Connecticut Board of Examiners for Optometrists

A meeting of the **Connecticut Board of Examiners for Optometrists** was held on **July 29, 2013** at the Department of Public Health, 410 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut, in conference room C on the third floor.

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BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Matthew Blondin, OD, Chairman – *via telephone*  
Lawrence Lefland, OD – *via telephone*  
Joseph Pavano, III, OD – *via telephone*  
Regina A. Strand, OD – *via telephone*

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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Dr. Blondin called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

**Office Of Licensure Regulation And Compliance**

Ross Zeldes, OD – Petition No. 2013-63

Diane Wilan, Staff Attorney Department of Public Health presented a Motion for Summary Suspension in the matter of Dr. Zeldes. Respondent was present without representation. Dr. Blondin moved and Dr. Strand seconded, to grant the motion for Summary Suspension because Dr. Zeldes represented an immediate danger to public health and safety if he continued to practice. The motion passed unanimously.

A hearing will be scheduled for Monday, August 12, 2013 at 9:00 a.m.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m. on a motion made by Dr. Strand, seconded by Dr. Blondin.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matthew Blondin, OD, Chairman  
Connecticut Board of Examiners for Optometrists

A meeting of the **Connecticut Board of Examiners for Optometrists** was held on **September 18, 2013** at the Legislative Office Building, 300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut, in hearing room 2-B.

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BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Matthew Blondin, OD, Chairman  
Lawrence Lefland, OD  
Joseph Pavano, III, OD  
Regina A. Strand, OD

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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Dr. Blondin called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

**I. Minutes**

The minutes from the May 15, 2013 and July 29, 2013 meetings were approved on a motion by Dr. Pavano, seconded by Dr. Lefland.

**II. Department of Public Health Updates**

Investigations Update

Gary Griffin, Department of Public Health, Practitioner Investigations Unit reported that one case was dismissed since the last meeting. Two additional cases have been referred to the Department's Office of Licensure Regulation and Compliance for further review.

**III. New Business**

A. Assistant Attorney General Henry Salton explained the various options the Board has at their disposal to respond to questions sent to the Board concerning whether certain procedures are within the scope of Optometric practice in Connecticut.

- The Board reviewed an inquiry from Caytey Steele, Managing Director, Steele Compliance, Inc. asking if Optometrists can order blood tests and/or send blood samples to a laboratory for analysis. On a motion by Dr. Lefland, seconded by Dr. Pavano, the Board stated (1) An optometrist can order any diagnostic test from a licensed laboratory or imaging center if it pertains to the diagnosis of eye disease or systemic disease that may impact ocular health, and (2) An optometrist or an optometric assistant under the optometrist's supervision, can, using a glucose meter, determine a patient's blood glucose levels via a finger prick to obtain a blood sample. The sample can be used in-office or sent to an outside laboratory for analysis.
- The Board reviewed an inquiry from Amy H. Tseng, President, Biotissue asking if Optometrists in Connecticut can use CPT code 65778. On a motion by Dr. Lefland, seconded by Dr. Strand, the Board stated that it is within the scope of practice of optometrists licensed to practice Advanced Optometric Care, to apply Prokera contact lenses or contact lenses of similar material to treat appropriate ocular disease and use CPT code 65778.
- The Board reviewed an inquiry from Beth McMunn, OD asking if Optometrists in Connecticut can use the term "Optometric Physician". On a motion by Dr. Lefland, seconded by Dr. Pavano, the Board stated it is permissible under Connecticut Statutes for an optometrist licensed in the State of Connecticut, to differentiate himself from a medical doctor by using the terms; optometrist, doctor of optometry and/or optometric physician.

B. An overview of the adjudications process was presented by Assistant Attorney General Henry Salton.

**IV. Office Of Licensure Regulation And Compliance**

C LeRoy W. Bentham, OD – Petition No. 2011-11146

David Tilles, Staff Attorney Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Dr. Bentham. Neither respondent nor his attorney was present.

Dr. Pavano moved and Dr. Strand seconded to approve the Consent Order. The motion passed unanimously. Dr. Blondin signed the Order.

V. **Other**

Ohan Karagozian, Licensed Optician addressed the Board and asked if an optometrist can enter into a contract/agreement in which he agrees to limit his practice to not selling eyeglasses or contact lenses. It was the Board's consensus that an optometrist can voluntarily limit his practice.

VI. **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m. on a motion made by Dr. Pavano, seconded by Dr. Strand.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matthew Blondin, OD, Chairman  
Connecticut Board of Examiners for Optometrists

A meeting of the **Connecticut Board of Examiners for Optometrists** was held on **November 20, 2013** at the Department of Public Health, 410 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut, in hearing room on the third floor.

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BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Matthew Blondin, OD, Chairman  
Lawrence Lefland, OD  
Joseph Pavano, III, OD  
Regina A. Strand, OD

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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Dr. Blondin called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

**I. Minutes**

The minutes from the September 18, 2013 meeting were approved on a motion by Dr. Pavano, seconded by Dr. Strand.

**II. Department of Public Health Updates**

Investigations Update

Gary Griffin, Department of Public Health, Practitioner Investigations Unit reported there are no cases currently being investigated by the Department. One case has been referred to the Department's Office of Licensure Regulation and Compliance for further review.

**III. New Business**

A. The Board reviewed an inquiry from Diane Fulton, Assistant Vice President of Insurance, Diopsys, Inc. asking if Visual Evoked Potential (VEP) and Electroretinography (ERG) are within the scope of practice in Connecticut. On a motion by Dr. Lefland, seconded by Dr. Pavano, the Board stated that it is within the scope of practice of Connecticut licensed optometrists or an optometric assistant under the direct supervision of the optometrist, to perform, on a patient, Electroretinography (ERG) or Visual Evoked Potential (VEP) testing, to detect, diagnose and monitor appropriate defects, diseases and/or conditions of the eye and/or visual pathway.

**IV. Office Of Licensure Regulation And Compliance**

C LeRoy W. Bentham, OD – Petition No. 2011-11146

David Tilles, Staff Attorney Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Dr. Bentham. Neither respondent nor his attorney was present. Dr. Pavano moved and Dr. Strand seconded to approve the Consent Order. The motion passed unanimously. Dr. Blondin signed the Order.

**V. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 a.m. on a motion made by Dr. Pavano, seconded by Dr. Strand.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matthew Blondin, OD, Chairman  
Connecticut Board of Examiners for Optometrists