

Minutes

Arkansas State Board of Optometry
Regular Board Meeting
Freeway Medical Tower Building
October 14, 2021

Dr. Bryant Ashley, Board President, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. The following Board members were present: Dr. Beatrice Reed, Dr. Susan DeBlack, Dr. Robert Fitzhugh, Mr. Mitchell Gentry, Mr. William White. Absent: Dr. Dan Hennessey. Also in attendance were: Ms. Tanya Ford, Board Secretary; Ms. Lacie Kirchner, Board Attorney; Mr. Matt Gilmore, Arkansas Department of Health; Ms. Vicki Farmer, Executive Director, Arkansas Optometric Association; Ms. Debbie Henley, Executive Assistant, ArOA; Dr. Allison Hall, ArOA.

Dr. Reed presented the minutes from the August 19, 2021 Board meeting. Mr. Gentry made a motion to approved the minutes. Dr. Fitzhugh made a second. The motion passed.

Ms. Ford presented the Financial Report.

Mr. Gentry made a motion to accept the financial report. Dr. Fitzhugh made a second. The motion passed.

Ms. Ford presented the Database Update. She is researching database companies which will have the capability to manage license renewals, CE, and other relevant processes. More information to come.

Ms. Ford presented Control Self-Assessment. We are in the process of control self-assessment which is risk assessment, due by the end of March 2022. More information to come.

Ms. Ford is working on online renewal modifications to improve the license renewal process.

Doctor Investigation report was presented by Atty. Kirchner. In the future, doctors undergoing the investigation process will remain anonymous. Discussion of doctor who disclosed DUI misdemeanor on January 2021 annual license renewal form. The doctor requested the Board accept a Consent Agreement. Dr. Fitzhugh made a motion not to accept the Consent Agreement at this time, and to have a Public hearing. Mr. White made a second. The motion passed.

Investigations regarding Contact Lens Express, Hess Gas Station, and Neighborhood Grocery are complete. The investigation results warranted no further Board action. Atty. Kirchner recommended requesting response from parties who have complaints against them prior to sending out an investigator.

Discussion of doctor who has multiple violations regarding patient records. Dr. Fitzhugh made a motion for a Public Hearing. Dr. DeBlack made a second. The motion passed.

Discussion of advertising/signage. Advertising cannot be misleading. Advertising can state what the optometrist is licensed to do.

Corneal cross linking discussed relative to scope of practice. Consensus is that it falls within optometry scope of practice regulations currently in effect.

Questions received by Board members should be funneled through Board office.

2022 Board meeting dates currently scheduled (includes first half of 2022):
February 17, April 21 (ArOA Convention), June 23 (licensing exam).
Motion made to accept by Dr. Reed. Dr. Fitzhugh made a second. Motion passed.

The next meeting date is November 18, 2021, Freeway Medical Tower Building.

Dr. Reed made a motion that per diem be paid to Board members. Dr. Fitzhugh made a second. The motion passed.

Mr. Gentry made a motion to adjourn. Mr. White made a second. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

Dr. Bryant Ashley, President

Dr. Beatrice Reed, Secretary/Treasurer