

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY EXAMINERS

One American Place, Suite 2300

301 Main Street Baton Rouge, LA 70801

MINUTES

April 25, 2025

I. Roll Call/Call to Order/Confirmation of posting of notice and agenda

The roll was called at 9:10 AM with the following LSBOE board members present: Drs. Kasovich, Anastasio, Jong, LaPoint and Ms. Wicker. Drs. Lamar and Gerdes were absent. Also present were Public Guests, OAL Members and Board counsel Ms. Carrie Jones. Executive Director, Anna Cahill, was also present. Declaring a quorum was present, Dr. Kasovich called the meeting to order.

II. Adoption of Agenda

Dr. Anastasio moved to adopt the agenda, which was seconded by Dr. Jong. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Approval of Minutes

Discussion ensued regarding the use of initials within the minutes when referencing optometrists in certain situations. Dr. Anastasio moved to adopt the minutes with revisions to reflect this change, which was seconded by Dr. LaPoint. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Executive Director's Report

A. Finance and Budget Report – Ms. Cahill provided an update to the Board regarding the Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss documents.

B. License Activity

- 1. Renewals** – Ms. Cahill notified the Board of the delinquent list. There are only 8 people remaining with the July 1, 2025, deadline approaching.
- 2. Applicants/new licensees** – No update.
- 3. Endorsement requests** – No new requests.
- 4. Inactive requests** – No new requests.
- 5. Hardship requests** – No new requests.
- 6. Requests for reinstatement** – No new requests.
- 7. Complaints** – To be discussed during executive session.

C. Required Training

- 1.** Ms. Cahill reminded the Board to take their ethics training. She notified them that a new sexual harassment training link will be sent as well for those who missed the first one.
- 2.** Ms. Jones sent the Board the link for their Board of Ethics financial disclosure forms which are due on May 15.

D. Requests for Guidance

No new requests.

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY EXAMINERS
One American Place, Suite 2300
301 Main Street Baton Rouge, LA 70801
MINUTES
April 25, 2025

OLD BUSINESS

V. Welcome Home Reporting

Ms. Jones informed the Board where the report currently stands. Ms. Cahill notified the Board that the information has been added to the website but needs a few adjustments. She will also add the numbers to complete the report drafted by Mr. Herbert and have it ready for the next Board meeting.

VI. Occupational Licensing Review Program

Ms. Jones notified the Board that the participation form was signed but has not been submitted. Ms. Jones will submit the form to the OLRP. She confirmed that she is reviewing the rules that are pending the rulemaking process initiated by Mr. Herbert's office.

VII. CE Rule Promulgation Update

Ms. Jones is in the process of getting the information from Mr. Herbert to assess where the rule is pending in the process and to determine next steps to move it forward.

VIII. LLA Audit

Ms. Cahill notified the Board the audit is ongoing, and it should be completed soon.

IX. ARBO Contract Update

Ms. Cahill informed the Board that it will continue to pay the \$1,000 membership fee for ARBO, which includes OE tracker. However, the contract for auditing CE hours is being terminated. Ms. Cahill will conduct the CE audit. Dr. Kasovich suggested looking into other options to have CE hours audited by an outside source.

X. Telehealth Update

Dr. Kasovich provided an update regarding the current rules that exist for telehealth and what can be done to change/update the rules. Ms. Jones led a brief discussion regarding Act No. 322 (2023) that requires telehealth rulemaking.

NEW BUSINESS

- XI. LSBOE Attorney Contract/Resolution** - Dr. Kasovich presented and moved to accept a resolution memorializing the Board's decision at the March 21, 2025 meeting to award a contract for legal services to Ms. Jones. Dr. Anastasio seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. The Resolution will be submitted to the Louisiana Office of State Procurement.

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY EXAMINERS

One American Place, Suite 2300

301 Main Street Baton Rouge, LA 70801

MINUTES

April 25, 2025

- XII. NCS Phone Invoices** - Dr. Kasovich informed the Board of a backlog of invoices received. Discussion ensued. Ms. Jones suggested holding off on payment until more details regarding the invoices can be gathered.
- XIII. Advanced Procedures Tracking** - Dr. Kasovich informed the Board of the LSBOE rule regarding tracking advanced procedures performed by all licensed optometrists in Louisiana. Discussion ensued. Ms. Cahill confirmed that she will search for the outcome report to continue obtaining these numbers.
- XIV. Annual Meeting** - Dr. Kasovich informed the Board that the LSBOE Annual Meeting will take place on June 7, 2025, at 3:30 PM at Embassy Suites in Baton Rouge. Dr. Kasovich moved for the Board to approve the room rental fee associated with the meeting, which was seconded by Dr. Anastasio. The motion passed unanimously.
- XV. DoD Licensure by Endorsement** - Dr. Kasovich notified the Board that the application for reciprocity licensure by endorsement for J.M. was originally denied. J.M. subsequently asked for reconsideration based on DoD endorsement. Ms. Jones discussed LA R.S. 37:3651, which provides licensure for individuals with military training, including DoD civilian employees, and how the license criteria differs slightly from the Board's standard reciprocity endorsement criteria.

In response to J.M.'s request for reconsideration and taking LA R.S. 37:3651 (licensure for individuals with military training and experience, including DoD civilians) into consideration, Dr. Kasovich moved to approve the application conditioned on the applicant passing the law and laser test to demonstrate competency at a similar scope, which was seconded by Dr. Jong. The motion passed unanimously.

- XVI. CPA Contract** - Dr. Kasovich discussed the status of the 2025 contract/engagement with the current CPA. He suggested that the Board search for a new CPA that is closer in proximity to where the LSBOE conducts business. The current CPA is located in Ruston. Dr. Kasovich moved to revise the length of the proposed contract to reflect an end date of June 30, 2025, before returning the signed contract/engagement letter to the CPA, which was seconded by Dr. Anastasio. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Member Wicker left the meeting at 10:55 AM.

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY EXAMINERS
One American Place, Suite 2300
301 Main Street Baton Rouge, LA 70801
MINUTES
April 25, 2025

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Dr. Kasovich made a motion to go into executive session, which was seconded by Dr. Jong. A roll call vote was conducted and the motion passed unanimously. The Board entered into the executive session at 11:04 AM.

- Ayes – Drs. Kasovich, Anastasio, Jong, and LaPoint. Nays – None.

XVII. Update on Outstanding Litigation

A. OAL v Heitmeier, et al, No C-729018 19th JDC State of Louisiana

B. LSBOE v OAL et al, No. C-729434 19th JDC State of Louisiana

C. Update on Ethics Board Proceedings related to LSBOE/OAL pending litigation

XVIII. Update on Complaints

A. Pending Complaints

B. New Complaints Since Last Meeting

XIX. Requests for Reinstatement from Prior Disciplinary Action

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board exited executive session and returned to open meeting at 12:02 PM.

Report on Items Discussed in Executive Session

Following executive session, the Board advised Ms. Cahill to assign item numbers to complaints moving forward. The new complaint discussed during executive session was assigned Item #2025-01.

XX. Votes on Items Discussed in Executive Session

In considering the new complaint since the last board meeting, in Item #2025-01, Dr. Anastasio moved to take no action, which was seconded by Dr. Jong. The motion passed unanimously.

XXI. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

XXII. Next Meeting

The next meeting/hearing will be scheduled for May 16, 2025, in Baton Rouge at 9:00 AM.

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY EXAMINERS
One American Place, Suite 2300
301 Main Street Baton Rouge, LA 70801
MINUTES
April 25, 2025

XXIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:06 PM.

Paul LaPoint, O.D.
Secretary LSBOE

Kevin Kasovich, O.D.
President LSBOE