

AGENDA

CONNECTICUT BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR OPTOMETRISTS

Wednesday, November 20, 2013
9:00 AM

Department of Public Health
410 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut
Hearing Room – Third Floor

CALL TO ORDER

I. **MINUTES**

Review and approval of the minutes of the September 18, 2013 meeting.

II. **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATES**

Investigations Update

Gary Griffin, Investigations Supervisor, DPH

III. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Scope of Practice Question re: Visual Evoked Potential (VEP) and Electroretinography (ERG)

IV. **ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

ADJOURN

The Department of Public Health is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

*If you require aid/accommodation to participate fully and fairly,
please contact the Public Health Hearing Office at 860-509-7566.*

The following minutes are draft minutes which are subject to revision and which have not yet been adopted by the Board.

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.

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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 declaratory ruling process in relation 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 Advance 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