

MINUTES

UTAH Optometrist Licensing Board MEETING

October 1, 2008

Room 475 – 4th Floor – 9:00 a.m.
Heber Wells Building
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

CONVENED: 9:03 a.m.

ADJOURNED: 9:53 a.m.

Bureau Manager:

Clyde Ormond

Board Secretary:

Jacky Adams

Board Members Present:

Dane F Dansie, OD - Chairperson
D Lee Tanner, OD
Jeffrey H Seeholzer, OD
Russell W Purdy, OD
Wendy D Gibbs

Board Members Absent:

Bonnie Barker Rice
Michael L Cohen, OD

Guests:

Clive Watson, Utah Optometric Association
Annette Mahler, Utah Ophthalmology Association

DOPL Staff Present:

David Stanley, Division Director

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

Approve Minutes from the July 30, 2008 Board Meeting

Dr. Purdy seconded by Dr. Seeholzer made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 30, 2008 Board Meeting, the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the 2008 Board Chairperson

Dr. Purdy seconded by Dr. Seeholzer made a motion to reappoint Dr. Dansie as the Chairperson for the up coming year, the motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

American Optometric Association Conference

Dr. Purdy explained that he attended the American Optometric Association Conference meeting. He encouraged the Board to be cautious regarding changing the Scope of Practice for this profession, to limit a licensee's

usage of future technology.

Dr. Purdy then explained that the AMA (American Medical Association) is attempting to pass a resolution which would limit which professions could use the title of Dr.

Dr. Purdy further added that there is currently a proposed healthcare reform which would require all patients to have a primary care physician. The physician would be responsible for referring their patients to a specialist, as needed. Dr. Purdy felt that if this reform passes, it could increase the amount of “gate keeping” within some professions.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Update on Board’s letter of concern regarding ARBO’s proposed changes

At the July 30, 2008 meeting Dr. Cohen outlined some controversial issues which had arisen at the June 21st through 25th ARBO (Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry) convention. The Board had requested for a letter to be submitted to ARBO expressing the Boards concerns with ARBO’s proposal to control the vendors who sponsor educational speakers. The letter was reviewed, with the Board expressing their approval.

Dr. Dansie explained that he had been contacted by ARBO representatives, who were responsive to this Boards concerns. He further explained that an ARBO representative offered to meet with this Board to further explain the proposal.

After a detailed discussion the Board agreed that an ARBO representative should meet with this Board at the February 11, 2009 meeting at 9:30 a.m., to further explain why ARBO feels that vendor sponsors should be further regulated beyond the Pharmaceutical Guidelines.

The Board then discussed several ways in which this Board could limit the hold that ARBO currently has over most states, in regard to continuing education, and exam fees. One suggestion was to lower the total number of required COPE (Council on Optometric Professional Education) approved continuing education hours. Ms. Gibbs questioned what other states think about this issue, Mr. Ormond agreed to research this question and report to the Board at the February 2009 meeting.

2008 Continuing Education Hours

Mr. Ormond explained that at the July 30, 2008 meeting Mr. Watson expressed his concern with the potential for Optometrists to obtain their continuing education hours solely via the internet. The Division had agreed to submit a

comparison report to the Board outlining the total number of course hours submitted from the internet vs. correspondence hours.

Mr. Ormond then explained that a total of fifty-five continuing education audits had been reviewed, over twenty one hundred hours were reported, with only eighty-four being obtained from the internet.

Mr. Watson again expressed his concern. The Board did not feel that Mr. Watson's concerns were warranted at this time, however, the Board requested for the Division to continue to monitor the internet hours. And in the future if it becomes an issue, the Board may propose a change to R156-16a-304, to limit the total number of acceptable internet continuing education hours.

ARBO – Call for Action

Dr. Dansie explained that there is currently an opening on the ARBO Board. This Board declined submitting a recommendation, at this time.

2009 Board Meeting Dates

Reviewed, with no further action taken.

Contact Lens Expiration Dates

Dr. Dansie expressed his concern with the current wording of 58-16a-105 (15). He felt that if the statute is opened in the future, the contact lens expiration dates should be reduced to one year. Dr. Purdy indicated that lowering the expiration date to one-year is in the best interest of patient care, the remainder of the Board agreed.

ADJOURN:

9:53 a.m.

Note: These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcript but are intended to record the significant features of the business conducted in this meeting. Discussed items are not necessarily shown in the chronological order they occurred.

Date Approved _____ (ss)
Chairperson, Optometrist Licensing Board

Date Approved _____ (ss)
Bureau Manager, Division of Occupational & Professional Licensing