

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 15, 2025

CALL TO ORDER.

Dr. Hopping called the August meeting of the Texas Optometry Board (TOB) to order at 8:01 a.m.

ROLL CALL. A roll call vote was taken and quorum was present for the meeting.

Ronald L. Hopping, O.D. Chair

Tory Moore, O.D. Member

Steve Nguyen, O.D. Member

James Oevermann, O.D. Member

Carey Patrick, O.D. Member

Rene Peña, Public Member

Bill Thompson, O.D. Member

Janice McCoy, Executive Director

Kathy Johnson, Assistant Attorney General

Judy Chambers and Mala Shara were excused for personal business.

MINUTES. The Board reviewed the May 9, 2025, meeting minutes. A motion was made by Dr. Patrick to accept the minutes as drafted and seconded by Dr. Thompson. The motion passed unanimously (FOR – 7/OPPOSED – 0/ABSTAIN – 0).

PUBLIC COMMENT. Dr. Hopping solicited public comment. No comments were received.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT. Dr. Hopping presented the Board Chair Report. He thanked the Board members for their service in protecting Texans and staff for keeping the agency running. He stated that the Executive Director evaluation would take place at the November meeting as Mrs. Chambers was absent. He stated the Board had three representatives at the ARBO annual meeting. In response to the request from TOA last Spring, he sent a letter to TOA outlining the Board's findings in its month long investigation of NBEO. He mentioned the Board was in conversations with TOA regarding updating its enabling statute.

GENERAL MATTERS.

Optometry School Liaison Reports: Dr. Moore provided an update for the Rosenberg School of Optometry (RSO) from his meeting with Dean of RSO, Stephanie Schmiedecke Barbieri, OD. She was happy to know there was a liaison with the Board. Her biggest concern was getting staff licensed by the Board in a timely manner. Dr. Moore provided her with the guide to the online application process. Dr. Oevermann stated he was unable to touch base with Dean Twa of the University of Houston College of Optometry (UHCO).

ARBO Annual Meeting: Dr. Thompson provided an update of the ARBO Annual Meeting attended by himself, Dr. Patrick, and Mrs. McCoy. His highlights of the meeting included the telehealth task force panel presentation, the OE Tracker presentation, the Attorney Generals presentation, and the NBEO panels (three different presentations).

Statutory Modernization Workgroup: Dr. Nguyen provided an update of the Statutory Modernization Workgroup stating the workgroup was reviewing the agency's enabling statute for possible clean-up amendments related to licensing, discipline, and agency operations to present to the Legislature.

FY26 Budget: Mrs. McCoy presented the FY26 initial budget for approval of the Board. A motion was made by Dr. Patrick to accept the budget as presented and seconded by Dr. Moore. The motion passed unanimously (FOR – 7/OPPOSED – 0/ABSTAIN – 0).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT. Ms. McCoy presented the Executive Director's Report. She reported that through July 31, 2025, the Board had 18 percent of its budget remaining with 8 percent of the year remaining. She reported that there were no financial concerns to report and the Board is in good financial standing.

She reported the agency filed its FY25 Q3 Performance Measures on June 19, 2025, and explained, as usual, the agency was out of range on a few measures but positive for the agency.

She reported that as of February 26, 2025, there were 5,406 total licensees (5,066 active; 330 inactive; 10 retired), of which 4,317 were OGS (4,200 active; 110 inactive, 7 retired) and 118 were military.

She provided an update on the website redevelopment. Finally, she thanked Dr. Patrick and Dr. Thompson for their work on updating the jurisprudence exam and noted the exam is in the process of being updated with the NBEO.

COMMITTEE REPORTS.

ADMINISTRATIVE/LICENSING COMMITTEE.

Dr. Patrick, Chair of the Administrative/Licensing Committee, provided the report. She reported in in FY25 Quarter 3, 48 new licenses had been issued and 5 licenses had been renewed. Through the first two months in FY25 Quarter 4, 101 new licenses have been issued and 4 licenses renewed.

Dr. Patrick provided the remainder of the report in the form of a motion. The Committee moved to accept one application for Licensure without Examination (Jones). As the motion came from a committee, no second was needed. The motion passed unanimously (FOR-7/AGAINST 0/ABSTAIN-0).

COMMITTEE ON PEER ASSISTANCE.

Dr. Patrick provided an update on the PRN program. She reported that the Board has two optometrists (both volunteer enrollments) in the Professional Recovery Network (PRN) program. Additionally, after a competitive bid process (4 bids received), the Board awarded a new contract to the current provided.

CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE. Dr. Nguyen provided the report in the form of a motion. The Committee moved to approve 11 total reviewed courses (comprising 12 DT hours, 1 opioid hour, and 1 general hour) with 2 of the courses being conditionally approved pending additional material review. As the motion came from a committee, no second was needed. The motion passed unanimously (FOR-7/AGAINST 0/ABSTAIN-0).

INVESTIGATION-ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE.

2025-00044

Dr. Hopping requested Ms. McCoy summarize the recommendations of the Investigation-Enforcement Committee for Case No. 2025-00044. Ms. McCoy reported the following

In case Number 2025-00044, the Investigation-Enforcement Committee found the respondent violated Section 351.501(a)(6) of the Texas Optometry Act and recommends that the Respondent shall pay an administrative monetary fine of \$750.00 no later than three months from the date of the fully executed Order. In addition, the Respondent shall provide evidence his office procedures have been updated and staff training has been done regarding authorization to dispense medications.

Dr. Thompson moved to accept the recommendations of the Investigation-Enforcement Committee related to Case Number 2025-00044. The motion was seconded by Dr. Oevermann. The motion passed unanimously. Dr. Patrick and Dr. Nguyen abstained from the vote. (FOR-5/AGAINST-0/ABSTAIN-2)

Ms. McCoy provided a summary of investigative activity to the Board regarding complaints and investigations for FY25 Q3: Total Number of Cases Closed: 16 / Average Days to Close in Quarter: 82 / Total Number of Inspections Conducted: 42 / Penalties Assessed: 4. For the first two months of FY25 Q4: Total Number of Cases Closed: 18 / Average Days to Close in Quarter: 55 / Total Number of Inspections Conducted: 21 / Penalties Assessed: 5.

She reported there were 33 cases currently open: 9 at SOAH (2 awaiting final PFD and 7 awaiting hearing), 1 reviewed by the Board today and 23 under investigation.

Related to reviewing total inspections, the Board discussed updating the Inspection Review Form. The updated form will be presented at the November 2025 Board meeting for review.

Administrative penalties to approve:

2025-00053 - \$200 - §351.353 Violations found during Board review

2025-00068 - \$200 - §351.353 Violations found during Board review

2025-00069 - \$250 - §351.353 Violations found during Board review

2025-00070 - \$300 - §351.353 Violations found during Board review

2025-00073 - \$300 - §351.353 Violations found during Board review

Dr. Patrick moved to accept the administrative penalties issued by the Executive Director. The motion was seconded by Dr. Nguyen. The motion passed unanimously. (FOR-7/AGAINST-0/ABSTAIN-0)

RULES COMMITTEE. Dr. Thompson provided a report in the form of a motion. He moved the Board finally adopt amendments to 22 TAC Rule 275.2 (related to continuing education) for published in the Texas Register. As the motion came from a committee, a second was not needed. The motion passed unanimously (FOR - 7/OPPOSED - 0/ABSTAIN - 0).

He moved that the Board propose amendments to 22 TAC 272.5 (related to definitions) for publication in the Texas Register. As the motion came from a committee, a second was not needed. The motion passed unanimously (FOR - 7/OPPOSED - 0/ABSTAIN - 0).

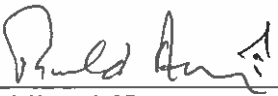
Dr. Thompson updated the Board that the rules committee discussed amendments to rules related to military licensing and amendments related to telehealth standardized health forms as a result of legislation enacted by the 89th Texas Legislature. The Committee also discussed creating guidance related to Patient Records when closing or selling a practice. All of these items were pended by the Committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS. Dr. Hopping reminded members the next Board meeting would be held in Austin on November 13-14, 2025.

Dr. Patrick publically acknowledged the passing of Dr. Hopping's father, Richard Hopping, O.D and expressed condolences to Dr. Hopping and his family on behalf of the Board.

ADJOURNMENT. Dr. Nguyen moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 am. Dr. Oevermann seconded. The motion passed unanimously (FOR – 7/OPPOSED – 0/ABSTAIN – 0).

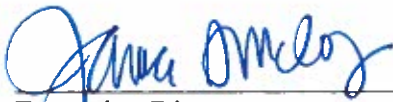
Approved:



Presiding Officer

11-14-2025

Date



Executive Director

11-14-2025

Date