

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 14, 2025

CALL TO ORDER.

Dr. Hopping called the November meeting of the Texas Optometry Board (TOB) to order at 8:00 a.m.

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

Ronald L. Hopping, O.D. Chair
Judy Chambers, Public Members
Tory Moore, O.D. Member
Steve Nguyen, O.D. Member
James Oevermann, O.D. Member
Carey Patrick, O.D. Member (see note below)
Rene Peña, Public Member
Mala Sharma, Public Member
Bill Thompson, O.D. Member
Janice McCoy, Executive Director
Martin Cohick, Assistant Attorney General

MINUTES. The Board reviewed the August 15, 2025, meeting minutes. A motion was made by Mrs. Chambers to accept the minutes as drafted and seconded by Mrs. Sharma. The motion passed unanimously (FOR – 8/OPPOSED – 0/ABSTAIN – 0).

At 8:02 a.m., Dr. Hopping noted that Carey Patrick, O.D. Member was present.

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 as the Board is in a time of quiet, now is the time to think what the Board can do better. He reported on the NBEO policy change regarding releasing Board scores. He stated he was working on tests that meet the initial testing requirements for consistency in inspection reviews.

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 in which she asked about a zoom call with fourth year students regarding the licensing process. Dr. Oevermann provided an update from Dean Twa of the University of Houston College of Optometry (UHCO). The Dean is concerned about the NBEO passing rate declining. The Dean also mentioned some highlights including NIE funding, Dr. Berstein's \$23 million grant, and the new simulators at UHCO.

ARBO Quarterly Report: Mrs. McCoy reported on the ARBO resolution asking Board to present a quarterly report from ARBO at Board meetings and mentioned the most recent report was included in the Board packet. Dr. Patrick stated it would be beneficial for the Board to hear from the ARBO executive director periodically.

2026 Meeting Schedule: The Board agreed on the following meeting schedule for 2026. February 19-20 in Austin, May 14 virtual, July 30-31 in Austin, and November 13 in Austin.

Executive Director Evaluation: Dr. Patrick moved to go into Executive Session to discuss confidential personnel matters as authorized by Section 551.074 of the Government Code. The motion was seconded by Dr. Oevermann. The motion passed unanimously. (FOR-9/AGAINST-0/ABSTAIN-0).

At 8:30 a.m. the Board went into Executive Session to discuss confidential personnel matters. The Board returned to Open Session at 8:46 a.m. Dr. Hopping reported the Board did not take any action during the Executive Session. Dr. Nguyen thanked Mrs. McCoy for her work as Executive Director.

At 8:50 a.m., Dr. Hopping reopened public comment. Comments were received from Jasmin Filpo OD, MBA, FAAO. Dr. Filpo asked the Board to clarify and write rules related to the Military Limited Volunteer License statute.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Ms. McCoy presented the Executive Director's Report. She reported that for FY25 (end August 31, 2025), the Board lapsed approximately \$24,000 – which is just under 4% of the agency's appropriated budget. For the first two months of FY26, the Board had 79% of the budget remaining with 10 months left in the year. She reported at this time there were no financial concerns to report and the Board is in good financial standing.

She reported the agency filed its FY25 Annual Performance Measures on October 1, 2025. The report was included in the Board packet.

She reported licensing stats as of November 5, 2025:

Total Licensees	5,450 (5,102 active; 338 inactive; 10 retired)
Total OGS	4,366 (4,248 active; 111 inactive, 7 retired)
Military	120

She reported the draft website was distributed to Board members on October 16, 2025 and it would go live sometime in the next two weeks. The updated jurisprudence exam went live with NBEO on October 1, 2025 and no issues or concerns about the updated exam have been expressed to the Board.

Finally, she gave an update on renewals. Renewals were supposed to open October 20, 2025, but the agency's database was caught up on the AWS internet issues and they did not open until the next day (October 21, 2025). She reported the agency had been experiencing issues with CE Broker not recognizing CPR/BLS courses so paid renewals were not processing. It appears a solution has been found and renewals are now processing as expected.

COMMITTEE REPORTS.

ADMINISTRATIVE/LICENSING COMMITTEE.

Dr. Patrick, Chair of the Administrative/Licensing Committee, provided the report. She reported in FY25 Quarter 4, 110 new licenses were issued and 4 licenses were renewed. Through the first two months in FY26 Quarter 1, 33 new licenses have been issued and 438 licenses renewed.

Dr. Patrick provided the remainder of the report in the form of a motion. The Committee moved to accept two applications for Licensure without Examination (Joel Dizon and Jinjong Chung) and to cancel one license (#11423) for failure to pay the initial licensing fee. As the motion came from a committee, no second was needed. The motion passed unanimously (FOR-9/AGAINST 0/ABSTAIN-0).

COMMITTEE ON PEER ASSISTANCE.

Mrs. Chambers 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. She stated the report showed a Board ordered optometrist still in the program, but that person completed the program in May 2025.

CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE. Dr. Nguyen provided the report in the form of a motion. The Committee moved to approve 17 total reviewed courses (comprising 26 DT hours and 2 general hours) As the motion came from a committee, no second was needed. The motion passed unanimously (FOR-9/AGAINST 0/ABSTAIN-0).

Additionally, the committee directed staff to work on a clarification of what constitutes the categories of continuing education so both providers and licensees know how to properly upload courses to CE Broker.

INVESTIGATION-ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE.

Ms. McCoy provided a summary of investigative activity to the Board regarding complaints and investigations for FY25 Q4: Total Number of Cases Closed: 35 / Average Days to Close in Quarter: 53 / Total Number of Inspections Conducted: 21. She reported that for the first two months of FY26, the agency has closed 16 cases – 3 with violation found, 2 as non-jurisdictional, and 11 as no violation. She reported there were 22 cases currently open: 9 at SOAH (2 awaiting final PFD and 7 awaiting hearing), and 13 under investigation.

Administrative penalties to approve:

- 2025-00087 \$200 - §351.353 Violations found during Board review
- 2025-00092 \$200 - §351.353 Violations found during Board review
- 2025-00101 \$250 - §351.353 Violations found during Board review
- 2025-00102 \$500 - §351.359, §104.003, §351.262 – Professional Identification
- 2026-00005 \$200 - §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 Mrs. Chambers. The motion passed unanimously. (FOR-9/AGAINST-0/ABSTAIN-0)

RULES COMMITTEE. Dr. Thompson provided a report in the form of four separate motions.

He moved the Board finally adopt without changes amendments to 22 TAC 272.5 (related to Definitions) as published in the September 26, 2026 issue of the Texas Register. As the motion came from a committee, a second was not needed. The motion passed unanimously (FOR – 9/OPPOSED – 0/ABSTAIN – 0).

He moved the Board propose new rule 22 TAC 271.4 (related to Licensing for Military Service Member, Military Veteran, and Military Spouse) for publication in the Texas Register. As the motion came from a committee, a second was not needed. The motion passed unanimously (FOR – 9/OPPOSED – 0/ABSTAIN – 0).

He moved the Board repeal rule 22 TAC 273.14 (related to License Applications for Military Service Member, Military Veteran, and Military Spouse) for publication in the Texas Register. As the motion came from a committee, a second was not needed. The motion passed unanimously (FOR – 9/OPPOSED – 0/ABSTAIN – 0).

He moved the Board propose amendments to 22 TAC Rule 279.16 (related to Telehealth Services) for publication in the Texas Register. As the motion came from a committee, a second was not needed. The motion passed unanimously (FOR – 9/OPPOSED – 0/ABSTAIN – 0).

ANNOUNCEMENTS. Dr. Patrick mentioned changes to Florida’s law creating a level of licensure for telehealth that only provided from refraction visits.

ADJOURNMENT. Dr. Patrick moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 am. Dr. Moore seconded. The motion passed unanimously (FOR – 9/OPPOSED – 0/ABSTAIN – 0).

Approved:



Presiding Officer

2/20/2026

Date



Executive Director

2-20-26

Date