

## Minutes

Arkansas State Board of Optometry  
Regular Board Meeting  
Freeway Medical Tower Building  
Little Rock, Arkansas  
November 21, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Board President Dr. Beatrice Reed at 1:30 p.m. Members present: Dr. Susan DeBlack, Dr. Robert Fitzhugh, Dr. James Hertzog, Dr. Matt Jones, and Dr. Beatrice Reed. Also present were Matt Burns, ArOA Executive Director, Dr. Allison Hall, State Board Executive Director, Suzette Weast, Amber LeClerc, and Board attorney, Julie Chavis.

Minutes from August 15, 2024 meeting were presented by Dr. Fitzhugh. A motion was made by Dr. DeBlack, seconded by Dr. Jones to accept minutes as presented. Motion passed.

### **Under State Board Updates:**

Executive Director, Suzette Weast presented the financial report. A motion was made by Dr. Jones, seconded by Dr. DeBlack to accept as presented. Motion passed. Mrs. Weast stated that the reserve balance should be reducing to a 3-year operating balance with the fee reductions in place from the legislative directive.

Mrs. Weast also stated that convention receipts of board members needed to be submitted. She stated that CE/Renewals were going well and notices will go out. She reported that duplicate Branch License adjustments had to be made and were accomplished.

### **Old Business:**

1. Dr. Reed gave her report on the Convention.
2. Dr. Fitzhugh gave report on one complaint that was dismissed regarding sexual misconduct. Nothing valid about the complaint was observed.  
A detailed discussion about complaints was presented by Board Attorney Julie Chavis about what to do and what not to do.
3. Mrs. Weast reported on Stanton Optical writing contact lens and glasses prescriptions for 2 years not 1 year. Also, a boutique in Northwest Arkansas was selling contact lenses. However, all things about them has been taken down. No action taken.
4. Dr. Reed brought forth a discussion regarding the Acthar presentation at the August 2024 Board Meeting. Motion by Dr. DeBlack, seconded by Dr. Hertzog to confirm the medication is within scope of Practice for Arkansas Optometrist with Advanced Procedures Licenses. Motion passed.  
A letter of information from the Ohio Board of Optometry was presented by Dr. Reed.

### **New Business:**

1. CDC Clinical Practice Guidelines for prescribing opioids; discussion by Mrs. Weast. She presented that Jamie Turpin, PHarmD could present at convention a Cope-approved DEA course for the guidelines, if approved. Mrs. Turpin has begun the application process to request approval.
2. Non-Cope Course Request for Contiguous States: discussion by Dr. Jones.  
Dr. Reed then presented a map of the US showing Arkansas and Illinois were only 2 states requiring Cope approval for all out-of-state continuing education.
3. Background checks: Discussion by Dr. Reed about presentation at August 2024 Board meeting and background checks for all candidates for licensure instead of only for endorsement licensure candidates.

4. A letter from Kentucky State Board of Optometry was presented by Dr. Reed stating Kentucky Board may accept Canada Board (OEBC) as an alternative to NBEO. For our information only.
5. February 20, 2025 Board Meeting: Presented by Mrs. Weast. Optometric Physician testing and 3 candidates for endorsement testing.
6. Added item to agenda:  
Optometric Rules Revision Process: Presented by Dr. Reed. Although started about 1½ years ago, Arkansas Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders ceased process. Dr. Reed, Mrs. Weast, and Attorney Chavis will write a general summary proposed changes to submit to the Governor's office for approval.

### **Open Items**

1. Next meeting February 20, 2025
2. Per Diem and Mileage Motion by Dr. DeBlack, seconded by Dr. Jones. Motion passed.

Motion to adjourn by Dr. Hertzog and seconded by Dr. Jones. Motion passed.