General Board Business started: 7:01 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER:
Dr. Timothy Underhill, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:01 a.m. Those present for all or part of the meeting included the following:

BOARD MEMBERS:
Timothy Underhill, O.D., Chair
Terrance Naberhaus, O.D., Vice-Chair
Tamara Maule, O.D.
Stuart Kaplan, O.D.
Christopher King, O.D., F.A.A.O.
Rosa McNaughton, J.D., M.S.

BOARD MEMBER NOT PRESENT:
Rod Presnell, R.Ph. (not excused)

BOARD STAFF:
Bill Miller, Executive Director
Sharon Guilford, Program Operations Administrator
Jose Montalvan, Regulatory Supervisor/Consultant

BOARD COUNSEL:
Larry Harris, Assistant Attorney General
Office of Attorney General

DISCUSSION OF RULE:
The board discussed and action was taken on the following rules:

- 64B13-4.001, Florida Administrative Code

64B13-4.001 Examination Requirements.
(1) The Florida licensure examination authorized in section 463.006(2), F.S., shall consist of the following parts:
(a) Part I – the Applied Basic Science (ABS) portion of the examination developed by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO) a written examination on applicable Florida laws and rules governing the practice of optometry developed by the Florida Department of Health;
(b) Part II – the Patient Assessment and Management (PAM) portion of the examination developed by the NBEO which includes an embedded Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease (TMOD) examination. An applicant for licensure in Florida must obtain a passing score on the TMOD section of the examination a practical examination containing a clinical portion and a pharmacology/ocular disease portion developed by the Florida Department of Health;
(c) Part III – the Clinical Skills (CSE) portion of the examination developed by the NBEO. In addition to an overall passing score on the CSE portion, an applicant for licensure in Florida must obtain a score of 75 percent (75%) or better on the Biomicroscopy, Binocular Indirect Ophthalmoscopy, and Dilated Biomicroscopy and Non-Contact Fundus Lens Evaluation skills the Applied Basic Science portion of the examination developed by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO); and
(d) Part IV – a written examination on applicable Florida laws and rules governing the practice of optometry developed by the Florida Department of Health, which may not be taken prior to graduation from a school or college of optometry and application for licensure, the Patient Assessment and Management portion of the examination developed by the NBEO.

(2) An applicant for licensure must achieve a passing score grade on all four parts of the Florida licensure examination. A score of 84 percent (84%) or better must be obtained in order to achieve a passing score on Part IV I of the Florida licensure examination. A score of 80 percent or better must be obtained on each section of Part II in order to achieve a passing score on Part II of the Florida licensure examination. Passing scores for Part I, Part II, and Part III and Part IV of the Florida licensure examination are established by the NBEO. Given constant advances in research, and developing knowledge in the area of basic and clinical science as applied to the diagnosis, correction, remedy, and relief of insufficiencies or abnormal conditions of the human eyes and their appendages, variances in the scope of optometric practice among the states, and the importance of fundamental clinical skills to patient health and safety, passing scores on Part I, Part II, and Part III and Part IV of the Florida licensure examination must be obtained within the seven (7) year period immediately preceding June 1 of the year that the applicant takes Parts I and II of the Florida licensure examination application to take Part IV of the licensure examination. Provided, however, an applicant must submit qualifying passing scores on Part III and Part IV no later than July 1 of the year the applicant applies to take Parts I and II of the Florida licensure examination.

(3) [Deleted in its entirety]
(3 4) Certification Examination. A licensee applying for certification must obtain a passing score on either the TMOD examination embedded in the Patient Assessment and Management portion of the examination developed by the NBEO or a passing score on the stand alone TMOD examination developed by the NBEO the TMOD part of the Patient Assessment and Management portion of the NBEO or must have obtained a passing score on the state certification examination.
Skills Contained in Part III, the Clinical Skills (CSE) portion, of the NBEO examination

Dr. King provided a summary of the Skills contained in Part III, the clinical Skills (CSE) portion of the NBEO examination. He stated that if the board determined to require passing scores in all skill areas the passing rate would be low. He also provided an update on North Carolina’s requirements. North Carolina requires the successful passing of three specific skills.

Dr. Jack Terry, Executive Director with the National Board of Examiners in Optometry, provided an overview of the NBEO examination especially the Skills contained in Part III.

The board determined the following skills would be required to successfully pass the NBEO examination:

- 9 Biomicroscopy
- 18 Binocular Indirect Ophthalmoscopy
- 19 Dilated Biomicroscopy and Non-Contact Fundus Lens Evaluation

After a lengthy discussion, Dr. Naberhaus moved to approve the changes in Rule 64B13-4.001(1)(a), F.A.C. The motion was seconded and carried 6/0.

Dr. Naberhaus moved to require the passing scores in the areas of Biomicroscopy, Binocular Indirect Ophthalmoscopy, and the Dilated Biomicroscopy and Non-Contact Fundus Lens Evaluation of the NBEO examination. The motion was seconded and carried 6/0.

Dr. Naberhaus moved that 75% shall be the passing score in the three areas. The motion was seconded and carried 6/0.

- 64B13-4.002, Florida Administrative Code

64B13-4.002 Reexamination.

An applicant who fails to achieve a passing score on Part IV I or Part II of the state examination for licensure shall be required to retake only that portion of the licensure examination on which he or she failed to achieve a passing grade, provided that the applicant shall be limited to two (2) retakes within a twelve (12) twenty-eight (28) month period from the date of the original failure. The Board may grant an extension of time of one additional year to allow a second retake based on medical disability substantiated by documentation from the applicant’s physician. If the applicant fails to achieve a passing score grade on Part IV as provided above, the applicant’s passing scores on Part I, Part II, and Part III of the licensure examination (including scores of 75% or better on the three skills identified in Rule 64B13-4.001(1)(c)) must have been obtained within the time period set forth in Rule 64B13-4.001 (2) before the applicant will be allowed any further attempts to obtain a passing score on Part IV he or she shall be required to take the
complete state examination for licensure and certification examination in order to be entitled to be licensed.

Dr. Naberhaus moved to approve the above changes to Rule 64B13-4.002, F.A.C. The motion was seconded and carried 6/0.

- 64B13-4.003, Florida Administrative Code

64B13-4.003 Examination Review Procedure
An applicant is entitled to review his or her examination questions, answers, papers, grades and grading key used on Part IV of the licensure examination in the state examination for licensure; however, no applicant may copy any materials provided for his or her review. Such review shall be conducted during regular business hours, in the presence of a representative of the Board at the Board’s official headquarters. To schedule a review of Part IV, an applicant must request a review within twenty-one (21) days of the official score release date. An applicant is entitled to review his or her examination questions, answers, papers, grades and grading key used in Part I, Part II, and Part III of the licensure examination the National Board of Optometry examination to the extent authorized by security or access guidelines of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry national examination.

Dr. Naberhaus moved to approve the above changes to Rule 64B13-4.003, F.A.C. The motion was seconded and carried 6/0.

- 64B13-4.004, Florida Administrative Code

64B13-4.004 Manner of Application
(1) Any person desiring to be a licensed as a certified optometrist practitioner shall apply to the department to take the licensure examination. The board will determine if an applicant qualifies for licensure examination. The board will approve an each applicant for licensure as a certified optometrist who:
(a) No change
(b) Submits satisfactory proof that the applicant:
1. through 2. No change
3. Has graduated from a school or college of optometry approved by the board which has been accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) and which remains accredited by ACOE.
4. 3- No change
5. 4- No change
6. Has successfully completed all parts of the licensure examination required by Rule 64B13-4.001, F.A.C.
(2) All applications for licensure as a certified optometrist examination shall be made on the form titled “Application for Licensure as Certified Optometrist Optometry Examination” number DH-MQA 1128 (Revised 12/13 5/40), which is hereby incorporated by reference and can be obtained from the board office or at: http://www.floridasoptometry.gov/  http://www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa/optometry. All
Applications for licensure as a certified optometrist examination shall include the application fee as specified in subsection 64B13-6.001(7), F.A.C., the department administrative cost as specified in Rule 64B-1.016, F.A.C., and the initial licensure fee as specified in subsection 64B13-6.001(1), F.A.C. No application shall be deemed complete which does not set forth all the information required by said forms and which fails to include all fees as set forth in this rule. Applications for licensure must be received by the Department at least 120 days prior to the examination.

(3) No change

(4) Any licensed practitioner licensed to practice optometry in Florida prior to July 1, 1993 who is not a certified optometrist and who desires to be licensed as a certified optometrist shall apply to the department for certification. The board will approve a licensed practitioner for licensure as a certified optometrist who satisfies the requirements of subsection (1)(b)4. and 5. above, successfully completes the certification examination set forth in Rule 64B13-4.001(3), F.A.C. and remits the fee established in Rule 64B13-6.001(7) F.A.C.

Dr. Naberhaus moved to approve the above changes to Rule 64B13-4.004, F.A.C. The motion was seconded and carried 6/0.

NEXT MEETING DATE – March 21st – Orlando

General Business ended: 7:57 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT:
The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 a.m.