

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49

FLORIDA | Board of Optometry

DRAFT MINUTES

April 8, 2015

Teleconference

Department of Health

4042 Bald Cypress Way

Tallahassee, FL 32399-3257



Timothy Underhill, OD

Chair

Stuart Kaplan, OD

Vice-Chair

Joseph Lesho

Program Operations Administrator

1 **General Board Business started: 12:36 p.m.**
2

- 3 I. The meeting was called to order by Dr. Underhill, Chair, at approximately 12:36 p.m. Those present for all or part of the
4 meeting included the following:
5

6 **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

7 Timothy Underhill, OD Chair
8 Stuart Kaplan, OD, Vice Chair
9 Christopher King, OD
10 Tamara Maule, OD
11 Clarence R. Presnell, R.Ph. – Excused at 1:09 p.m.
12 Carl Spear, OD
13

STAFF PRESENT:

Joseph Lesho, Program Operations Administrator
Michele Jackson, Regulatory Supervisor
Savada Knight, Regulatory Specialist II
Zohre Bahrayni, PhD, Management Analyst – Psychometrician
Ashley Falls, Government Operations Consultant II

14
15 **BOARD COUNSEL:**

16 Diane Guillemette, Assistant Attorney General
17 Office of Attorney General
18

19 **ALSO PRESENT:**

20 Jack Terry, OD, PhD, National Board of Examiners in Optometry
21 John Griffin, Esq., Florida Optometric Association
22

23 *Please note the minutes reflect the actual order agenda items were discussed and may differ from the agenda outline. AUDIO from*
24 *this meeting can be found online: <http://floridasoptometry.gov/meeting-information/past-meetings>*
25

26 **II. DISCUSSION**

27
28 **a. Florida Board of Optometry Laws and Rules Examination**
29

30 Dr. Bahrayni stated that the board agreed to outsource the Laws and Rules examination. She was unsuccessful in finding
31 testing companies due to the small candidate number and big companies were not willing to take over the administration of
32 the examination. She further explained that the department found a vendor to provide the Laws and Rules examination
33 which will be administered by the NBEO.
34

35 Dr. Underhill addressed Dr. Terry and asked if the examination can be taken online, or if the candidate take the
36 examination from a central location.
37

38 Dr. Terry stated the examination is offered with a great deal of variability, the questions are rotated and the candidates
39 can't have a pre-determine answered sheet and every examination is unique. The links are available to each state's laws
40 and rules, including the Florida examination.
41

42 Dr. Underhill expressed concerns that anyone could sit for the examination and take it And asked how the applicants are
43 identified and verified.
44

45 Dr. Bahrayni stated that the examination was taken in person in the past.
46

47 Dr. Underhill felt uncomfortable with the security system, and expressed concern that they would be going to an unsecure
48 system.
49

50 Dr. Terry explained that the candidate must have an OE tracker number.
51

52
53 Dr. Bahrayni addressed Dr. Terry and asked if the organization can work with other vendors to administer the examination.
54

55 Dr. Terry explained that the organization has a relationship with Pearson Vue, who currently administers Part III of the
56 PAM examination at a cost of \$150 to \$175 per person.
57

58 Dr. Bahrayni asked Dr. Terry if the examination can be added to Pearson Vue.

1 Dr. Terry stated that he will contact Pearson Vue to see if they are will to extend the contract to accommodate this
2 examination.
3

4 Dr. Bahrayni explained that the Department can work with Dr. Terry and Pearson Vue to allow the candidates to go to the
5 vendor site or to the NBEO testing center.
6

7 Dr. Terry explained that other states offer closed-book examinations, which can be taken on the same day the candidate
8 takes Part III at the NBEO facility.
9

10 Dr. Bahrayni asked Dr. Terry if they charged per person, or by the hour. Dr. Terry explained that the minimum fee time is a
11 4 hour block and then asked how many candidates seek licensure per year.
12

13 Dr. Bahrayni then explained that the average is around 110-130 candidates.
14

15 Dr. Terry asked how they can verify whether or not the candidates have reviewed the material if the exam is closed-book.
16

17 Dr. Kaplan explained that his concern is the security of the exam, and said that more information is needed before a
18 decision can be made.
19

20 Dr. Maule asked can the exam be combined in conjunction with Part III, and if it can be re-taken at a different location if
21 the candidates fail.
22

23 Dr. Terry said he will contact Pearson Vue to find out if that would be possible. He also stated that candidates can receive
24 their scores immediately after taking Part III, and if they fail, they can take a break and come back for a second time. He
25 noted that the passing rate is high.
26

27 Dr. Bahrayni stated that the passing rate for the Florida Laws and Rules exam is 100%.
28

29 Dr. Terry stated administering the Laws and Rules exam in conjunction with Part III of the nation exam is likely the best
30 option, and said he will contact Pearson Vue to see if they are willing to agree to the change. He also asked if the Board felt
31 comfortable with administering the exam at the NBEO facility. He explained that in doing so, they could verify the
32 candidate's identity, and have cameras watching the examination room to ensure the security of the exam.
33

34 Dr. Underhill asked how NBEO administers Part III of the national examination, and asked what the process would be for
35 candidates who have already passed Part III of the national examination, but still need to take the Laws and Rules
36 examination.
37

38 Dr. Terry explained that Part III is administered Monday-Friday from August 1st-April 30th, and two days per week during
39 May-July, which gives candidates a total of 250 days per year for testing. He then said that candidates requiring only the
40 Laws and Rules examination would have to travel to Charlotte to take the examination.
41

42 Dr. Underhill then asked how much time is allowed for the candidates to complete the examination.
43

44 Dr. Bahrayni explained that there are 25 examination questions, and that the candidates have 1 hour to complete the
45 examination.
46

47 Dr. Underhill opined that the only plausible way for this to be implemented would be to have all of the candidates take the
48 examination at the NBEO facility.
49

50 Dr. Kaplan asked how long it would take to implement the change. Dr. Bahrayni stated that the Department would like to
51 have it completed no later than July.
52

53 Dr. Underhill asked if the board will continue to have control of the content of the examination.
54

55 Dr. Bahrayni explained they will be working with consultants from the Department to create the examination questions,
56 and that the Board members are welcome to attend and participate in the discussion.
57

1 Dr. Kaplan made a motion to allow NBEO to take over development of the Laws and Rules examination, and to have it
2 administered at the NBEO facility in conjunction with Part III of the national examination, or separately as needed. Dr.
3 Maule seconded the motion.
4

5 Dr. Kaplan amended his motion to allow the Board to maintain control of the content of the examination. Dr. Underhill
6 accepted the amendment.
7

8 **Board Action:** Motion to allow NBEO to take over development of the Laws and Rules examination, and to have it
9 administered at the NBEO facility in conjunction with Part III of the national examination, or separately as needed, and to
10 also allow the Board to maintain control of the content of the examination made by Dr. Kaplan. Seconded by Dr. Maule.
11 Vote: 5 yeas / 0 opposed; motion carried
12

13 Additional discussion ensued regarding changes to the Board's rules that would be required to allow for implementation of
14 this change.
15

16 **Board Action:** Motion to open Rule 64B13-4.001, F.A.C., for development made by Dr. King. Seconded by Dr. Kaplan.
17 Vote: 5 yeas / 0 opposed; motion carried
18

19 Dr. Underhill then appointed Dr. Kaplan to replace former member Dr. Naberhaus as the Rules Committee Chair, and
20 directed him to work with Ms. Guillemette on the rule development.
21

22 Ms. Guillemette noted that the Board's Annual Regulatory Report is due soon, and that she would like to work with the
23 Board to have it completed.
24

25 **Board Action:** Motion to delegate Dr. Kaplan to assist with the Annual Regulatory Report made by Dr. Maule. Seconded
26 by Dr. King.
27 Vote: 5 yeas / 0 opposed; motion carried
28

29 **General Board Business concluded at 1:31 p.m.**
30

31 The meeting was adjourned at 1:31 p.m.