

TENNESSEE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY TASKFORCE MEETING MINUTES

DATE: September 8, 2021

TIME: 9:00 A.M. CST

LOCATION: Health Related Boards
Iris Room
665 Mainstream Drive
Nashville, TN 37243

TASKFORCE MEMBERS

PRESENT: Christopher Cooper, O.D., Board Vice Chair
Torrey Carlson, O.D.
Janette Pepper, O.D.
James Venable, O.D.

TASKFORCE MEMBERS

ABSENT: Do Nguyen, O.D.
Taylor Keys, O.D.
Mike Sandy, O.D.

STAFF PRESENT:

Kimberly Wallace, Unit Director
Maria Johnston, Board Administrator
Eric Winters, Associate General Counsel

Call to Order

Dr. Cooper called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM CST. A roll call was conducted by Ms. Wallace.

Call for Public Comment

Ms. Wallace made it known that Public Comments would be heard in this meeting, noting that those who would like the opportunity to make a comment should sign-in on the registry that was made available. As a reminder, Public Comments can also be submitted in writing and sent by mail to the TN Board of Optometry, 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, TN 37243 or submitted via email to Unit3HRB.Health@tn.gov.

Review and Discuss Rules Review Items for the Board of Optometry

Dr. Cooper reminded everyone of the Board's mission of protecting the public and thanked both the Office of Health Related Boards staff and the Taskforce Members for their participation and work as they look to review rules for submission to the Board for consideration of possible revisions.

The Taskforce conducted a brief conversation related to the use of non-binary pronouns and gender inclusive language throughout the rules, beginning with the sections of the rules they are currently tasked with reviewing, using "they/their" in place of "he/she."

The Taskforce also discussed changing references to "licensees" and "optometrists" to "optometric physician(s)." Further, references to "optometric needs" and similar phrases were discussed as being changed to "eye health," and "vision case services."

Mention was made of cultural competency issues, and it was noted that the Board will be reviewing Rule 1045-02-.05 Continuing Education at their meeting scheduled for October 6, 2021.

The Taskforce held considerable discussion regarding Rule 1045-02-.08 Corporate or Business Names and Advertising and Rule 1045-02-.09 Ocular and Contact Lens Prescriptions and Office Equipment. Multiple language revisions were suggested and will be compiled by Mr. Winters. The Taskforce will require additional time to complete their review of these two sections, and therefore, is not yet ready to present their work to the Board for consideration.

The Taskforce will continue to review Rule 1045-02-.08 Corporate or Business Names and Advertising and Rule 1045-02-.09 Ocular and Contact Lens Prescriptions and Office Equipment at their next meeting, scheduled for December 1, 2021, and will look to present their recommendations to the Board at a regularly scheduled meeting in 2022.

Call for Public Comment

Ms. Wallace mad a final opportunity available for public comments. No one requested to make a Public Comment.

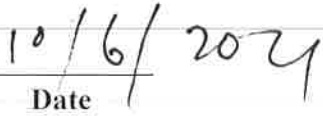
Adjourn

A motion was made by Dr. Cooper to adjourn, with a second made by Dr. Venable. There was no discussion of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

This meeting of the Optometry Taskforce Rules Review Committee was adjourned at 04:26 P.M. CST.

These Minutes were Ratified by the Board of Optometry on October 6, 2021.


Board Chair


Date