



## Board of Optometry Regular Meeting Minutes

October 11, 2024

**Location:** Labor & Industries, 7273 Linderson Way S.W., Room S119, Tumwater, WA 98501,  
and Microsoft Teams

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Board Members Present: Melissa Dacumos, Optometrist, Chair  
Riya Paranthan, Optometrist, Vice-chair  
Keren Yang, Optometrist  
Theodore Kadet, Optometrist

Board Members Absent: Palwinder Kaur, Optometrist

Staff Members Present: Amber Freeberg, Executive Director  
Katie Graue, Administrative Assistant  
Tara Mackemull, Program Assistant  
Shelbee Scrimo, Program Staff  
Shelly Buchanan, Supervising Staff Attorney  
Laura Riordan, Credentialing Supervisor

Others Present: Stephanie Cramer  
Shani Hue  
Paul Jensen  
Johndra McNeely, OD  
Dr. Paul Barney  
Mike Burgess  
Dana Cocke'  
Sophie Satone  
Paul Jensen  
Dana Reason  
Vicki Farmer  
Nicholas Leto  
Mark Maraman  
DJ Gonzales, OPS  
Nathan Scott  
Patricia Devine  
Susie Tracy  
William Prothero

Notice of this meeting was published on the Board of Optometry profession [website](#) and was sent out through the GovDelivery listserv.

## Open Session:

1. **Call to Order and Introductions – Melissa Dacumos, OD, Chair**  
Dr. Dacumos called meeting to order at 9:03 am.
2. **Approval of agenda**  
October 11, 2024, meeting agenda was moved, seconded, and approved.
3. **Approval of minutes**  
June 14, 2024, meeting minutes were moved, seconded, and approved.
4. **Rules Hearing -** The board will consider public comment and the adoption of proposed rules for
  - 4.1. Board of Optometry, Continuing Education, Chapter 246-851 WAC - Jurisprudence Examination.

In order to comply with Section 8 of Second Substitute House Bill (2SHB) 1724 (chapter 425, Laws of 2023) codified as RCW 18.130.077 and reduce barriers for optometrist to enter and remain in the health care workforce, the Board of Optometry (board) filed WSR 24-06-033 on February 28, 2024 proposing to move the jurisprudence (JP) exam required for initial licensure in Washington State to an optometrists first full continuing education (CE) reporting period.

- 4.1.1. This rule was open to testifying, no comments were made, and comments were closed.
- 4.1.2. A motion to approve was moved, seconded, and approved. Roll call vote was called for and all member unanimously approved by:

Melissa Dacumos, Optometrist, Chair  
Riya Paranthan, Optometrist, Vice-chair  
Keren Yang, Optometrist  
Theodore Kadet, Optometrist

- 4.2 Board of Optometry, Advanced Procedures Endorsement, Chapter 246-851 WAC.  
The board is proposing to amend and establish new sections in chapter 246-851 WAC to implement Substitute Senate Bill (SSB) 5389 (chapter 400, laws of 2023), which expands the optometrist scope of practice. The board filed WSR 23-16-043 on July 25, 2024, to open rules to make the required legislative changes.
  - 4.2.1. This ruling was opened to testifying at 9:21 am.

Dr. Stephanie Cramer testified, she represents the Washington Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons and the Washington State Medical Association. Dr. Cramer is opposed to this rule being written. Concerns for a weekend CME course to replace hands on training and schooling. Dr. Cramer stated that in the subcommittee meetings, she had really encouraged the Board of Optometry (board) to make that requirement more stringent so that optometrists can get the training they need on these procedures because they are so varied.

Written testimony was received from the Washington Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons, as well as the Washington State Medical Association. There concerns were echoed through the testimony Dr. Cramer's gave today.

No additional testimonies were received, and comments were closed at 9:29 am.

- 4.2.2.** A motion to approve was moved, seconded, and approved. Roll call vote was called for and all member unanimously approved by:

Melissa Dacumos, Optometrist, Chair  
Riya Paranthan, Optometrist, Vice-chair  
Keren Yang, Optometrist  
Theodore Kadet, Optometrist

Dr. Melissa Dacumos gave information about the next steps in the process. All of today's comments as well as the comments that were received in writing since the proposed rules will be summarized and become part of the official rule making file. The adopted rules by the board will be filed with the code revisor and the rules will be effective 31 (thirty-one) days from the date they are filed with the code revisor.

The summary of today's meeting and all the comments we have received during the public comment period will be shared with everyone who commented on the rule. Those attending this hearing and those requesting to receive a copy of the summary will.

Dr. Dacumos thanked everyone for their participation and this hearing was concluded at 9:31 am on October 11, 2024.

- 5. Open forum** - The board opened it up for comments from the audience for ten minutes each on issues of significance to the profession.

No Comments were made

- 6. Substantially Equivalent States – Amber Freeberg, Executive Director**

- 6.1** The board looked at the proposed states the department has determined substantially equivalent.

Dr. Dacumos held a discussion for other states and their equivalency.

Motioned to accept the list minus Oklahoma and South Dakota. Motion was moved, seconded, and approved.

- 7. Board Travel Approval - Melissa Dacumos, OD, Chair**

- 7.1** October 17-20, 2024 - The University of Pikeville Kentucky College of Optometry will be hosting an Expanded therapeutic Procedures Course and have invited board members to attend the course.

- 7.1.1** Dr. Dacumos motioned select herself to attend this course. Motion was moved, seconded, and approved.

- 7.2** October 25-27, 2024 – National Board Exam Review Committee will be meeting in Charlotte, NC.

7.2.1 Dr. Dacumos motioned select Dr. Riya Paranthan to attend this course. Motion was moved, seconded, and approved.

**8. Agenda-building, Amber Freeberg, Executive Director**

8.1 The board reviewed board business and discuss priority items for the December 6, 2024, agenda.

8.1.1 Dr. Keren Yang would like to discuss telehealth guidelines at the next meeting.

8.1.2 Board will discuss the two conferences members will be attending on October 17-20, 2024 and October 25-27, 2024.

**9. Adjournment of Open Session**

Dr. Dacumos motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:46 am, moved, seconded, passed unanimously.

**Submitted by:**

Amber Freeberg, Executive Director  
Board of Optometry

**Approved by:**

Melissa Dacumos, Chair  
Board of Optometry

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