



Mississippi State Board of Optometry
Special Called Teleconference Meeting
November 13, 2025 | 6:30 PM
5 Old River Place, Suite 105, Jackson, MS 39202

MINUTES

In accordance with MCA § 25-41-11

- I. Call to Order
The Mississippi State Board of Optometry special called teleconference meeting was called to order by Board President, Kimberly Johnson Ragan, O.D., at 6:33 PM on Thursday, November 13, 2025.
- II. Roll Call
Cynthia Brown called the roll indicating the following members present via teleconference:
Lori Blackmer, O.D. (present via TEAMS at 6:43 PM)
Dax Eckard, O.D.
Kimberly Johnson Ragan, O.D.
Board Members Absent:
Anna Middleton, O.D.
Hilary Parrish, O.D.
A quorum was present for voting purposes.

Board representatives present at public location:
Cynthia Brown, Administrative Assistant
Leyser Hayes, Special Assistant Attorney General/Counsel for the Board
Yvonne Laird, Executive Director

Public present:
Noel Morgan, Simmons Consulting
- III. Approval of the Agenda
Dr. Blackmer moved, with a second by Dr. Eckard to approve the agenda with two (2) additions to item VII. Hardship Waiver Request. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
- IV. Scope of Practice Inquiries
A. Direct Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty (DSLT) Treatment Discussion
Gary Mason, ALCON representative, presented information regarding the DSLT Treatment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Dr. Eckard moved to go into closed session to determine whether an Executive Session is needed. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Dr. Blackmer moved, seconded by Dr. Eckard, that the Board had reason under Miss. Code Ann. §25-41-7 (4)(b) and (d), as amended, to go into Executive Session namely investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct or violations of law with respect to prospective litigation or issuance of an appealable order when an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the Board. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Dr. Blackmer moved, with a second by Dr. Eckard to come out of Executive Session. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

Executive Director Yvonne Laird announced actions taken during Executive Session, as follows:

- A. Direct Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty (DSLT) Treatment Discussion (continued)
- B. Glaukos' Epioxa for Noninvasive Keratoconus Therapy
- C. Photobiomodulation Therapy

Upon detailed review of the documented inquiries regarding A, B, and C above, and upon the advice of legal counsel, Dr. Eckard moved, with a second by Dr. Blackmer that the Board determined the MSBO's scope of practice as amended which has now been codified and is cited as Section 73-19-1, Miss. Code Ann. (2021) and in accordance with this provision "one who is engaged in the practice of optometry as a profession as defined in this subsection and who **has sufficient education and professional competence**, as defined by the State Board of Optometry", shall be authorized to examine, diagnose, manage and treat conditions and diseases of the eye and eyelid, including the following(a) the administration and prescribing of pharmaceutical agents rational to the diagnosis and treatment of conditions or diseases of the eye or eyelid; excluding administration that requires intraocular injection or intraocular implantation, (b) the performance of primary eye care procedures **not otherwise excluded** within this statute rational to the treatment of conditions or diseases of the eye or eyelid". Any further detail requested must be requested through a declaratory opinion request on the form prescribed by the Board. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried. A sample Declaratory Opinion Request will be provided Board members for informational purposes.

V. Report of Counsel [MCA § 25-41-7(4)(b)(d)]

A. 2025-637-08

Upon recommendation by the Board Investigator, Dr. Eckard, this case will remain open. Dr. Eckard moved with a second by Dr. Blackmer to allow counsel to obtain additional information by sister regulating board. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

B. 2025-927/644-09

Upon recommendation by the Board Investigator, Dr. Ragan, this investigation has been completed; however, no quorum was present for voting purposes due to the recusal of Dr. Dax Eckard. Tabled until the January 10, 2026, meeting.

C. 02-03-24

The Stipulation and Consent Agreement has been received from the Board of Nursing. Case closed. Dr. Blackmer moved, with a second by Dr. Eckard to share this information with the Medical Licensure Board. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

VI. Complaint Management Guidelines

After reviewing the guidelines presented, Dr. Eckard moved, with a second by Dr. Blackmer to implement the Complaint Management Guidelines as set forth with no changes and initiate an emergency rule and a proposed rule to set forth the guidelines in MSBO rules and regulations. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

VII. Request for Continuing Education Hardship Waiver

After reviewing the three (3) requests, Dr. Blackmer moved, with a second by Dr. Eckard to take the following action:

- A. Grant licensee #744 a waiver to allow additional virtual CE hours due to severe personal illness or injury as a statement from a medical physician has been received;
- B. Grant licensee #977 a waiver to allow additional virtual CE hours until and unless attendance at the ISVA conference in Bentonville, Arkansas January 23 – 25, 2025 has been validated; and
- C. Deny licensee #1061P-Y a waiver as it did not meet the circumstance for an exemption; however, allow for the use of two (2) CPR/AED hours to meet renewal requirements.

The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

VIII. Continuing Education Extenuating Circumstance Procedure and Application

After reviewing the procedures and application as presented, Blackmer moved, with a second by Dr. Eckard to implement immediately. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

IX. Dr. Eckard moved, with a second by Dr. Blackmer that the meeting be adjourned at 7:53 PM. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY WILL BE HELD AT 5 OLD RIVER PLACE, SUITE 105, ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2026, AT 12:00 NOON.

APPROVED:



Kimberly Johnson Ragan, O.D., Board President



Lori Blackmer, O.D., Board Member

Distributed for Board President & Legal Review: Friday, November 14, 2025

Distributed to Board Members: Monday, November 17, 2025



PUBLIC NOTICE

**Mississippi
State Board of Optometry**

**Special Called
Board Meeting**

**Thursday
November 13, 2025
6:30 PM**

**5 Old River Place, Suite 105
Jackson, Mississippi**

Posted pursuant to *Miss. Code Ann.* §25-41-5