



Mississippi State Board of Optometry
Regular Scheduled Meeting
April 11, 2026
5 Old River Place, Jackson, MS 39202

MINUTES

In accordance with MCA § 25-41-11

- I. Call to Order
The Mississippi State Board of Optometry regular scheduled meeting was called to order by Board President, Kimberly Ragan, O.D., at 9:02 AM, on Saturday, April 11, 2026.
- II. Roll Call
Cynthia Brown called the roll indicating the following members present:
Lori Blackmer, O.D. Dax Eckard, O.D.
Anna Middleton, O.D. Hilary Parrish, O.D.
Kimberly Ragan, O.D.
A quorum was present for voting purposes.

Board representatives present at public location:
Cynthia Brown, Administrative Assistant
Denise DeRossette, Cornerstone Consulting Group
Yvonne Laird, Executive Director
Pamela Ratliff, Special Assistant AG / Deputy Director – Boards and
Commissions/Counsel for the Board

Members of the Public Present:
Sarah Link, CAE, Executive Director, MS Optometric Association
- III. Approval of the Agenda
Dr. Middleton moved, with a second by Dr. Parrish to add VI.C., Case number 2026-0000-03. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

IV. Financial Update

Denise DeRossette of Cornerstone Consulting Group provided the financial overview for FY2026 year-to-date ending March 31, 2026; FY2027 appropriations; and FY2028 budget projections, as follows:

1. FY2026 Budget	\$256,272.00
Revenue	\$182,030.30
Expenditures and Open POs	\$151,984.00
Balance in Clearing Account	\$389,537.73

Dr. Parrish moved, with a second by Dr. Middleton, that the financial report be accepted, pending audit. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

2. FY2027 Overview

Mrs. DeRossette provided information related to HB1916 Appropriation for MSBO in the amount of \$259,022 which was signed by the Governor on March 25, 2026, for FY2027 [July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027]. Dr. Blackmer moved, with a second by Dr. Parrish to accept the line item budget as presented. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

3. FY2028 Budget Recommendations

The FY2028 budget will be presented at the July 11, 2026 meeting for consideration.

V. Financial Status Report

Refer to Item IV above.

VI. Executive Session / Report of Counsel [MCA § 25-41-7(4)(b)(d)]

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Dr. Middleton 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:

previously cleared by Dr. Parrish. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

- c. Dr. Middleton moved, with a second by Dr. Blackmer to approve the Society 8 CE course for one (1) hour that will be presented April 14, 2026, previously cleared by Dr. Parrish. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

2. Legislative Update

Yvonne Laird provided a 2026 legislative session update regarding the passage of the following:

- a. HB925 – Creating Logic for Efficiency and Accountability Reform (CLEAR) Act;
- b. HB1651 – State agencies, prohibit spending for private personal or professional services unless such cannot be provided by another state agency;
- c. HB1916 – Appropriations, Optometry, Board of for FY27 in the amount of \$259,022.00;
- d. SN49 – confirmation of Dax Eckard to represent the Third Supreme Court District, five-year term beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2030
- e. SB2453 – motor vehicle window tinting; allow MS licensed optometrists to diagnose for purposes of a medical exemption authorizing. Board President Ragan recognized Sara Link, Executive Director of MOA and she shared with the Board that the specific conditions were not identified as it is left up to the optometrist under their clinical diagnosis if window tinting is warranted. This authority was lifted in 2012; and this bill simply reinstated an optometrist's authority.

No board action required.

IX. Executive Director's Report

A. Website Analysis

Cynthia Brown presented the website analysis for the following:

- 1. January 1 through January 31, 2026: 663 views to the MSBO website consisting of 325 new viewers and a total of 367 total users;
- 2. February 1 through February 28, 2026: 654 views to the MSBO website consisting of 405 new viewers and a total of 444 total users;
- 3. March 1 through March 31, 2026, which reflected 591 views to the MSBO website consisting of 264 new viewers and a total of 313 total users.

No board action required.

B. Contact Information Mailout

Cynthia Brown advised that contact information update request was mailed to all active practice locations on file on March 2, 2026. 433 information requests were mailed; 283 replies were received for a 65% return rate. Three (3) indicated their practice locations had moved but had not previously informed the Board Office; two (2) indicated they had retired; however, had failed to inform the Board Office; three (3) indicated they were no longer practicing; however, had failed to notify the Board; and five (5) were returned, marked "not

deliverable as address. These were re-mailed to the home addresses on file. As of this meeting, no replies have been received.

C. YAG Outcomes

Cynthia Brown advised that YAG Procedures Outcomes Reports has been updated due to late reporting and reflected 5,585 total reported procedures performed, six (6) have paid the required One Hundred Dollar (\$100.00) fine for late submission; three (3) failed to pay the required One Hundred Dollar (\$100.00) fine for late submission; and one (1) failed to submit and failed to renew. Dr. Eckard moved, with a second by Dr. Parrish, to authorize staff to send the retirement application to those who indicated retirement; send violation letter indicating no fine and requesting new practice location information and authorize Pamela Ratliff to proceed with preparation of notice of intent to deny license renewal against those individuals who failed to pay the levied fine. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

D. FAQ Change

Dr. Parrish moved, with a second by Dr. Middleton to make the required change to the website FAQs which authorize an optometrist licensed to practice optometry in the State of Mississippi to attest that a person has a diagnosed physical condition or disease that is seriously aggravated by minimum exposure to sunlight and that entitles such persons to a certificate of medical exemption from the provisions of law regulating motor vehicle windshield and window tinting under Miss. Code Ann. of 1972, Title 63 – Motor Vehicles and Traffic Regulations; specifically, Section 63-7-59(4). This change was authorized by the Mississippi Legislature and signed into law by the Governor on March 13, 2026. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

E. Compliance Checklist

Yvonne Laird introduced the updated Compliance Checklist with statute and rule citations for use in random inspections of licensed optometric practices. The approval of this checklist and determination of inspection protocol and inspectors will be tabled until the July 11, 2026, meeting.

F. Case Log Detail

Yvonne Laird introduced the development of the case log for the period January 2000 through present. This log will be maintained numerically as well as alphabetically.

No board action required.

X. Old Business

A. YAG Licensure by Endorsement

The Board acknowledged for future applicants, Miss. Code Ann. 73-19-193 which allows the credentials for licensed out-of-state optometrist applying for licensing by endorsement in Mississippi to perform authorized ophthalmic YAG laser posterior capsulotomy procedures when the requirements meet or exceed the requirements in MCA 73-19-191 or the applicant has satisfactory outcome data from prior ophthalmic YAG laser posterior capsulotomy procedures documented by third-party evidence. Dr. Blackmer moved, with a second by Dr. Eckard to qualify "satisfactory outcomes" as being no less than

twenty (20) procedures within the last two (2) years as validated by a state regulatory board. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

B. Photobiomodulation (PBM)

After reviewing the information provided, Dr. Eckard moved, with a second by Dr. Middleton that photobiomodulation is an intense light therapy procedure as allowed by MCA 73-19-1 and Rule 1.1.A.8. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

C. Scope of Practice – Optometry Examining Board of Canada

Dr. Middleton moved, with a second by Dr. Parrish to take no action regarding the expanded scope of practice by the Optometry Examining Board of Canada for the addition of oral drug prescribing and administrative authority and the addition of restricted activities of applying laser for the purpose of cutting and destroying tissue (YAG, SLT with certified practice requirement). The vote was unanimous.

Motion carried.

XI. New Business

A. Contracts for Approval

1. Dr. Blackmer moved, with a second by Dr. Eckard to approve the contract with U.S. Next for support of monitoring, maintenance and support for 2 workstations, to include 2 (two) online file sync accounts at \$490.00 per month [Note: a decrease from 3 (three) workstations for a total of \$554.70 per month]. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
2. Dr. Blackmer moved, with a second by Dr. Middleton, to approve the contract with Cornerstone Consulting Group for financial services, budget services and GAAP close-out, with noted increases subject to determination by DFA. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
3. Dr. Parrish moved, with a second by Dr. Middleton, to approve the contract for management services with J-Bar and Associates, Inc., with no changes. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

President Ragan called for a recess at 11:40 AM

President Ragan called the meeting back to order at 12:30 PM

4. Refer to Item VII.B. Minutes of Special Called Meeting of February 17, 2026. Dr. Middleton moved, with a second by Dr. Parrish to amend the previously approved minutes of February 17, 2026, to read, 'The Board moved, with a vote of three (3) to two (2) that DSLT is not an intraocular surgical procedures contemplated in Miss. Code Ann. § 73-19-1 (3) and therefore, by definition, is not otherwise excluded from the practice of optometry.' The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

XII. Approval of Expenses

After review, Dr. Blackmer moved with a second by Dr. Middleton to authorize MSBO expenses as previously reviewed by Dr. Ragan, President and Dr. Parrish, Secretary. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

XIII. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Dr. Eckard moved, with a second by Dr. Blackmer to adjourn the meeting at 12:45 PM The vote was unanimous.

Motion carried.

Signatures:



Kimberly Johnson Ragan, President



Hilary Parrish, Secretary

Distributed for Board Counsel, President & Secretary's Review: April 13, 2026

Distributed to Board Members: April 21, 2026

Approved in the MSBO Meeting on July 11, 2026

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY WILL BE HELD AT 5 OLD RIVER PLACE, SUITE 105, ON SATURDAY, JULY 11, 2026, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE EXAMINATION(S).



PUBLIC NOTICE

Mississippi State Board of Optometry

Regular Scheduled Board Meeting

**Tuesday
April 11, 2026
9:00 AM**

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

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

