



## Dispensing Optician Examining Committee Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2024

**Location:** Department of Health, 111 Israel Rd SE TC2 Rm 166 Conference Room, Tumwater, WA 98501, and Microsoft Teams

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Committee members present: Kathy Kristjanson, LDO, Vice-chairperson  
Monica Brenzel, LDO

Committee members absent: None

Staff members present: Jennifer Santiago, Executive Director  
Kristina Bell, Program Manager  
Shelbee Scrimo, Administrative Assistant  
Megan Maxey, Policy Analyst  
Noelle Chung, AAG

Others present Aracely Arias  
Nina Day  
Greg Parsons

Notice of this meeting was published on the Dispensing Optician Examining Committee profession [website](#) and was sent out through the GovDelivery listserv.

## Open Session:

**1. Call to Order – Kathy Kristjanson, LDO, Vice-chairperson.**

Meeting was called to order at 9:00am

**2. Open Forum – Kathy Kristjanson, LDO, Vice-chairperson.**

No comments at this time.

**3. Approval of March 6, 2024, Agenda - Kathy Kristjanson, LDO, Vice-chairperson.**

The committee motioned, seconded, and approved the March 6, 2024, agenda.

**4. Approval of September 25, 2023, Committee Meeting Minutes - Kathy Kristjanson, LDO, Vice-chairperson.**

The committee motioned, seconded, and approved the September 25, 2023, meeting minutes.

**5. Staffing Update– Kathy Kristjanson, LDO, Vice-chairperson, Jennifer Santiago, Executive Director.**

Ms. Kristjanson informed the committee of the new Executive Director Amber Freeberg. Member Desire McClung has stepped down so Ms. Kristjanson will be acting chair.

Ms. Santiago gave an update on the Office of Health Professions and how the credentialing team will be moving over to our office.

**6. Program Report – Kristina Bell, Program Manager.**

**6.1 Interim Operating Budget Report**

Ms. Bell presented the current budget and reviewed the decrease in fund balance.

**6.2 Credentialing Statistics**

Ms. Bell Provided an overview of the credentialing statistic report.

Credential Type	Status	Number of Credentials
Optician Dispensing Apprentice Registration	Active	998
Optician Dispensing Apprentice Registration	Pending	34
Optician Dispensing License	Active	916
Optician Dispensing License	Pending	28

**7. Dispensing Optician Apprenticeship hours – Kathy Kristjanson, LDO, Vice-chairperson.**

The committee discussed barriers currently in law around Dispensing Optician Apprentices and took public comment on the matter.

**Greg Parsons:** Is there any discussion on why Washington requires both the NCLE and ABO exams? Many other states do not require both.

**Nina Day, OAW:** The association wants to keep the six years and 6000 hours even though there has been suggestion that these numbers be reduced. Has there been any investigation on why the Dispensing Optician numbers are down and what can we do to increase?

**8. Adjournment - Kathy Kristjanson, LDO, Vice-chairperson.**  
Meeting was adjourned at 9:55am

**Submitted by:**  
Kristina Bell, Program Manager  
Dispensing Optician Examining Committee

**Approved by:**  
Kathy Kristjanson, Chair  
Dispensing Optician Examining Committee

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