INFORMATION FORM FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

NAME OF BOARD/COMMISSION: Board of Examiners in Optometry

MEMBERSHIP COMPOSITION:

TOTAL NUMBER: 7

PROFESSIONAL: 5 Licensed Optometrists CONSUMER: 2

REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS:

DAY: Wednesday TIME: 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
PLACE: 4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21215
FREQUENCY: 6 Times a year. 4th or 5th Wednesday of odd-numbered months; January, March, May, July, September and the 3rd Wednesday of November.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Quality Enhancement and Improvement, Continuing Education, Executive, Legislative, Disciplinary Review, and Ad Hoc committees may meet during alternate months, when the Board does not meet.

FREQUENCY:

DETAIL OF MONTHLY TIME COMMITMENT:

The meetings usually last from 9:30 a.m. until 12:30 but can go longer depending on the length of the agenda. The Board meets 6 times per year. There are other activities such as hearings in Annapolis. Board members also invest time in reviewing Board packets and other material as well as communicating with Board staff and Counsel as needed.

FUNCTION OF BOARD/COMMISSION: (Brief Description)

To credential and approve applicants for licensure, participate in administration of national licensing examination, certify optometrists to use diagnostic pharmaceutical agents and therapeutic agents in the practice of optometry, promulgate and adopt regulations to govern the practice of optometry in Maryland, monitor continuing education program, investigate complaints against licensees concerning alleged violations of the law and conduct hearing concerning these violations and to discipline licensees found to be in violation of the law.

OTHER DUTIES OF MEMBERS: (Types of Committees, Exams, etc)

Members serve as liaisons for matters concerning the Budget, Credentialing, Rehabilitation and ARBO (Assn. of Regulatory Boards of Optometry).

Continuing Education Committee reviews and approves continuing education sponsors and requests for certification upgrade.

Quality Enhancement and Improvement Committee (QEI) reviews patient records, discusses issues relevant to therapeutic optometrists and drafts educational topic bulletins.
Legislative Committee reviews all proposed legislation concerning and impacting the Board, including rules and regulation development; attends legislative hearings in Annapolis.

Disciplinary Review Committee reviews all complaints and positive responses to character and fitness questions on applications for original and renewal license.

Executive Committee is composed of the president and 2 Board members. Its function is to provide quick feedback on matters, conduct urgent business when a regular meeting is not scheduled and serve as the Board’s governance committee.

Ad Hoc Committee is convened by the President to address special issues, Board concerns and projects, such as the Board Retreat, Strategic Planning, Policy Development, Regulatory Review, etc.

COMPENSATION

Each member receives $150.00 per diem for meeting attendance as well as mileage reimbursement at the current State rate. Compensation is also available for participation and attendance at Board approved events, special meetings and legislative hearings.

For additional information, you can visit the Board’s website at www.dhmh.maryland.gov/optometry.

Revised November 2016