

OREGON BOARD OF OPTOMETRY



Board Newsletter

November 2020

Rule Changes that affect you

COVID-19 has changed many things in our lives. Not all of them have been bad. The Board has proposed allowing COPE Public Health (PB courses) for OBO license renewal credit. Those rules were filed and approved at the November 6, 2020 Board meeting. The rule changes are effective as of **November 10, 2020**. That means that courses completed on or after that date are eligible for license renewal. Any COPE PB courses completed before that date are **NOT** eligible for use for license renewal.

The Board has also revised the rules to allow up to 5 hours of surgical or clinical observation per license renewal. Clinical observation will only be allowed at approved clinics and licensees will not be granted credit for clinical observation at their employer or a related site. If you know of a site that would like to be approved for surgical or clinical observation, please route them to the education page of the Board's website. The "How to Apply" page gives them instructions on how to submit courses for Board review via our online portal.

The Board also drafted revised prescription release rules that are posted on the Board's website and are open for public comment.

Proposed 2021-23 OBO Budget

The Board is preparing the 2021-23 biennial budget. The budget will be prepared and open for public comment. As a semi-independent board, OBO goes through the rule-making process to create and approve the agency's budget. All licensees will have the opportunity to review and comment on the agency's budget. You'll receive an email with the budget information prior to February 1st and will have a chance to provide input to the Board. Please pay attention to the response deadlines in the email.

Hiring a new OD?

Don't forget to verify licensure and status. Most state optometry licensing boards offer online license verification. For those that don't, you can always call or email to verify licensure. Double check that your new hire has an active license and check their discipline history. Discipline can sometimes prevent OD's from being credentialed.

Make sure you know who you are hiring and that you know their background so that they can adequately perform the work you need.

"As COVID-19 ravages our country and our beloved state of Oregon, please use the OHA resources to safely operate your practices."

- Shelley Sneed, E.D.

In This Issue

- CE rule changes
- Check licensure before hiring
- REALD requirements
- Laurie Goolsby, new public board member
- Apply to be on the OBO Board

Health care provider requirements for collecting and reporting REALD data

This information is provided by the Oregon Health Authority. If you have questions, please reach out to OHA for more information. Please click Ctrl and hit your mouse to open the hyperlinks in the story.

COVID-19 has hit people of color, tribes and people with disabilities hard, but without good data the state cannot fully understand the extent to which these communities are being impacted and cannot adjust the state's response to better protect them. In order to address this data gap, during the 2020 first special session, the Legislature passed [House Bill 4212](#) (See sections 40-43) that requires certain health care providers, including optometrists, to collect race, ethnicity, language, and disability (REALD) data from patients during a COVID-19 encounter and report this data to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) in accordance with Oregon's disease reporting rules, if reporting is required. A COVID-19 encounter is defined as "an interaction between a patient, or the patient's legal representative, and a health care provider, whether that interaction is in person or through telemedicine, for the purpose of providing health care services related to COVID-19, including but not limited to ordering or performing a COVID-19 test." HB 4212, Sec. 40. Health care providers are required to report to OHA, generally within one day, the following:

- COVID-19 cases
- COVID-19 hospitalizations
- COVID-19 deaths
- Negative COVID-19 tests
- MIS-C (multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children)

The specific requirements for disease reporting and the timelines can be found at OAR 333, Division 18, specifically OAR 333-018-0011 and 333-018-0016.

The collection and reporting of REALD information by providers is being divided into phases:

Starting October 1, 2020:

- Hospitals (except for psychiatric hospitals)
- Health care providers within a health system (an organization that delivers health care through at least one hospital in Oregon and through other facilities, clinics, medical groups, and other entities, all under common control or ownership.)
- Health care providers working in a federally qualified health center)

Starting March 1, 2021:

- Health care facilities.
- Health care providers working in or with individuals in a congregate setting.

Starting October 1, 2021:

- All health care providers.

The standards for collecting REALD information can be found at OAR 943, Division 70.

Enforcement of the collection and reporting REALD requirements can begin January 1, 2021. OHA will report non-compliant providers to the Board and while the Board will work to bring health care providers into compliance, the collection and reporting of REALD information is a priority for the state and will be taken seriously.

The following resources may be helpful to you:

[Read OHA's fact sheet](#) about the data collection and reporting requirements, and phased implementation timeline.

Laurie Goolsby

The Board has added a new public member from Klamath Falls. Laurie Goolsby was appointed by the Governor's office and has former Board experience serving on the Oregon Mortuary and Cemetery Board for six years.

Ms. Goolsby is a licensed pharmacist and works in a hospital setting in southern Oregon. Ms. Goolsby is an asset to the Board with her previous state board experience and her health care knowledge .

Welcome Laurie to the Oregon Board of Optometry!



Laurie Goolsby, Public Board Member

[REALD reporting continued...](#)

[View recordings and slides from OHA's REALD learning series.](#) The October 14 and November 10 sessions are specifically to help providers meet reporting requirements by December 31.

You can also find data collection templates, guides to asking questions, the full implementation guide, and other resources on [the REALD website](#).

Board Members

Derek Louie, OD
President, Portland

Lauren Hunt, OD
Vice President, White City

Douglas Walker, OD
Brookings

Ami Halvorson, OD
Portland

Laurie Goolsby
Klamath Falls

Staff Members

Shelley Sneed
Executive Director
shelley.g.sneed@oregon.gov
971-701-1194

Melissa Auman
Administrative
Coordinator
Melissa.auman@oregon.gov
971-701-1603

Agency Contact Information

1500 Liberty St SE, Suite
210, Salem, OR 97302
Fax: 503-914-5142
www.oregon.gov/obo

Board Meeting Information

The Board is meeting online. Email optime-try.board@oregon.gov to sign up for a meeting

The Board office is closed on meeting dates



BOARD MEETING

Board Activities

As of October 20, 2020 the Board had the following licensee counts:

Active Licenses	850	Inactive Licenses	312
2020 new applications	66		
2020 new licenses issued	58		

Discipline Cases for 2020:

New complaints	27	New complaints reviewed	27
Complaints resolved & closed			27
Complaints resolved with no discipline			20

Board Actions:

The Board discussed the following agenda items at their meeting:

- Reviewed the Board's financial statements.
- Reviewed CE courses approved since the last Board meeting.
- Proposed rule changes.
- Took action on the following Executive Session cases:

Proceed with discipline: **C2020-1194 Clunes**

2021 Board Meeting schedule:

- Friday February 12, 2021
- Friday May 7, 2021
- Friday August 27, 2021
- Friday October 29, 2021

For information about future board meetings and access, please see the meeting notice posted on the home page of the Board's website. The notice shows the proposed agenda items and how to sign up to attend a meeting. The notice is posted at least three days prior to the meeting date.

Open Board position

Dr. Douglas Walker is getting ready to complete six years of OBO board service. Each board member is appointed for a three year term and can serve up to two terms. Dr. Walker has graciously served two terms and has been a valuable asset to the Board. Thank you Dr. Walker for your contribution to the Board and to the Oregon optometry profession.

Have you wondered about joining the Oregon Board of Optometry? If so, please go to our website and the [link to Board appointments](#). You'll apply through the Governor's Executive Appointments department. If you have questions about Board service, feel free to call or email Ms. Sneed for more information.



Licensing Optometrists in Oregon since 1905

Contact Us

1500 Liberty St SE,
Suite 210
Salem, OR 97302

503-399-0662
Fax: 503-914-5142

www.oregon.gov/obo

Shelley Sneed
Executive Director
Cell: 971-701-1194
shelley.g.sneed@oregon.gov

Melissa Auman
Administrative Coordinator
Cell: 971-701-1603
Melissa.auman@oregon.gov

Office Hours:

Monday through Friday

7:30 am to 4:30 other than
holidays and Board meetings

Oregon Board of Optometry

1500 Liberty St SE, Suite 210
Salem, OR 97302

**If you're receiving this via USPS, the Board
doesn't have an email address on file for you**



Happy 4 year anniversary Melissa!

Melissa started with the Board on January 1, 2017 and it was a trial by fire. That was the December with the severe snow storm, so Melissa didn't get to train with Debby Hendricks before she left. We were implementing our first online licensing system, Not only did Melissa have to learn our systems and procedures, but she also had to learn the new system as it was being rolled out. Many of you have complimented Melissa on her helpfulness and cheerfulness. We're happy to have Melissa on the OBO staff.