BOARD OF OPTOMETRY
CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE
APRIL 26, 2006

TIME AND PLACE: The meeting was called to order at 9:14 a.m. on Wednesday, April 26, 2006 at the Department of Health Professions, Conference Room 4, 6603 W. Broad St., Richmond, VA.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Gregory P. Jellenek, O.D.

MEMBERS PRESENT: W. Ernest Schlabach, Jr., O.D.
William T. Tillar, O.D.

STAFF PRESENT: Emily Wingfield, Assistant Attorney General, Board Counsel
Elizabeth A. Carter, Ph.D., Executive Director for the Board
Elaine Yeatts, Senior Regulatory Analyst
Carol Stamey, Administrative Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT: Bruce Keeney, VOA

QUORUM: With all members of the Committee present, a quorum was established.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment was presented.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

CE Audit Results
Dr. Carter reported that a total of sixty-three (63) licensees had been audited. There were eight (8) licensees (12.5%) who appeared to be non-compliant with the optometry regulations. The results of the 2005 audit revealed a higher rate of compliance compared to previous years. The Committee recommended that the Board continue tracking CE compliance through random audit.

It was noted that the Board's contract with Roxann Robinson, O.D. to review the CE random audit would lapse prior to the next scheduled audit.

On properly seconded motion by Dr. Tillar, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the full Board that Dr. Robinson's contract be renewed for continued licensee CE review.

OETracker Overview – Dr. Schlabach
Dr. Schlabach presented an overview of the OETracker Program noting specific issues of concern. The OETracker Database can potentially track the continuing education of all

optometrists across the country. Approximately five states now mandate that their licensees utilize the OETracker Program. The Committee was not in favor of Virginia compelling all its licensees to participate in the OETracker Program due to concerns over costs to licensees, non-COPE sponsors of CE, confidentiality and the commercial funding of the program. Dr. Carter stated that the commercial funding and Bylaws issues would be discussed at ARBO's June meeting.

Dr. Schlabach and Dr. Tillar will be attending ARBO's National Continuing Education Conference in mid May and will present an update at the Board's August meeting.

Potential Amendment to the CE Regulations
The Committee discussed proposed revisions to 18 VAC 105-20-70 of the Optometry Regulations and recommended that the Board consider a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA). The proposed regulatory revisions discussed were:
18 VAC 105-20-70.A – clarify that licensees shall attest to obtaining sixteen (16) hours of CE and falsification or failure to obtain the required CE could result in sanction;
18 VAC 105-20-70.A.3 – add language that clarifies that CE courses for which the principal purpose is to promote, sell, or offer goods, products or services will be excluded from approval;
18 VAC 105-20-70.G – add language that clarifies which organizations sponsor or approve continuing education;
18 VAC 105-20-70.B – add language that states that extensions must be submitted to the Board office prior to December 31st of each year.

Ms. Yeatts will draft a NOIRA for presentation and adoption at the Board's May meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Gregory P. Jellenek, O.D.
Chair

Elizabeth A. Carter, Ph.D.
Executive Director