

ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF DISPENSING OPTICIANS

FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

8/28/2015

Mission:

To protect the visual health of the citizens of Arizona by regulating and maintaining standard of practice in the field of opticianry.

To this end, the Board regulates the opticianry profession through administering examinations, issuing licenses to qualified opticians and optical establishments, proposing legislation, enacting rules and regulations and investigating complaints brought to the Board against licensed opticians and optical establishments

Description:

The Board of Dispensing Opticians examines and licenses professionals to practice in the field of opticianry and licenses optical establishments. This Board is distinguished from the Board of Optometry, which regulates optometrists, whereas dispensing opticians fill orders for and fit persons with corrective eyewear. The Board of Dispensing Opticians accepts complaints against licensees, investigates allegations, and administratively adjudicates complaints.

Goals and Objectives

Goal #1: To ensure high standards of professional and ethical conduct in the field of opticianry through efficient processing of examination, establishment and optician license applications and administration of the State Board Practical Examination.

Objective #1: By December 2015, the Board will review National Organizations' Practical Examinations. The Board will bring any recommendations for a full Board vote.

Objective #2: By December 2016, the Board meet with other states who are utilizing the National Practical Examinations and verify results.

Objective #3: Update database to allow for on-line application and renewal.

The Board has available resources to accomplish objective #1: however, an increase in out-of state travel funds will be necessary to accomplish objective #2. Objective #3 will require an increase to baseline funding of approximately \$25,000 a year. The Board has the available resources in the Dispensing Opticians Fund to accommodate an increase in appropriations.

Goal #2: To investigate and adjudicate consumer and Board initiated complaints in accordance with statutes and rules in order to protect the public from incompetent services and unprofessional and unethical conduct.

Objective #1: By the end of fiscal year 2016, the Executive Director will increase the number of optical establishments visited and inspected.

Objective #2: By the end of fiscal year 2016, the Board will actively recruit more retired licensed opticians to serve as investigators.

The Board will request another increase in travel funds to accommodate the establishment inspections. The Board has the available resources in the Dispensing Opticians Fund to accommodate an increase in appropriations.

Goal #3: To better protect the public through the administration of the continuing education requirement in order to upgrade the profession of opticianry in accordance with the Board's mandate.

Objective #1: The Board will implement a Rule package, when allowed by GRRC, to increase the number of continuing education hours required by rule for opticians to have completed in every three year period.

Existing funds will be used to initiate action to attain goals and accomplish objective.

Goal #4: To maintain consistency in opticianry licensure and regulation with other states through membership in governmental and industry associations (FARB, CLEAR, AADO, OAA, NCSORB and ABO) and to interact with the optical industry on a statewide basis.

Objective #1: At least one Board member or the Executive Director will attend no less than one governmental or industry related seminar each fiscal year.

Objective #2: Development of an annual newsletter and mailing list containing an update on changes in regulation, etc., to be mass mailed to licensees and other members of the ophthalmic industry within Arizona and in other states.

An increase in appropriations will be necessary to implement these goals and accomplish objectives. The Board has the available resources to accommodate an increase in appropriations.