



ISSUE MEMORANDUM

DATE	February 16, 2024
TO	Members, California State Board of Optometry (CSBO)
FROM	Lillian Wang, O.D., President
SUBJECT	Agenda Item #5 – Presentation (including Discussion and Possible Action) from Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry: Council on Endorsed Licensure Mobility for Optometrists

The Board will receive a presentation from Lisa Fennell, Executive Director, Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry, regarding the ARBO Council on Endorsed Licensure Mobility for Optometrists program.

On behalf of the Board, we thank former CSBO Board Member Glenn Kawaguchi, O.D. for coordinating today's presentation.

Attachment: ARBO CELMO presentation slides



Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry, Inc.

CELMO®

For License Mobility



Council on Endorsed Licensure
Mobility for Optometrists

What is ARBO?



Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry

- ▶ ARBO is a nonprofit organization committed to developing and implementing programs that make YOUR WORK EASIER.
- ▶ ARBO's Mission Statement
 - To represent and assist member licensing agencies in regulating the practice of optometry for the public welfare.

Who is ARBO?

- ▶ YOU ARE ARBO!
 - ARBO is comprised of member Boards of Optometry representing Jurisdictions, Territories and States from the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand
 - ▶ We are led by Board of Directors that have served or are serving on Optometry Boards.
 - ▶ Our staff is dedicated to supporting ARBO's mission.
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Summary of ARBO's Programs

▶ ***OE TRACKER***

- Helping Optometrists and Boards track and audit continuing education credits

▶ **COPE**

- A nationally recognized accreditation program for continuing education

▶ **Regulatory Education**

- Education offered via in person and web-based discussions

▶ **CELMO**

- Assisting with licensure mobility

What is CELMO?



What is the CELMO acronym?

- ▶ **C** = Council
on
- ▶ **E** = Endorsed
- ▶ **L** = Licensure
- ▶ **M** = Mobility
for
- ▶ **O** = Optometrists

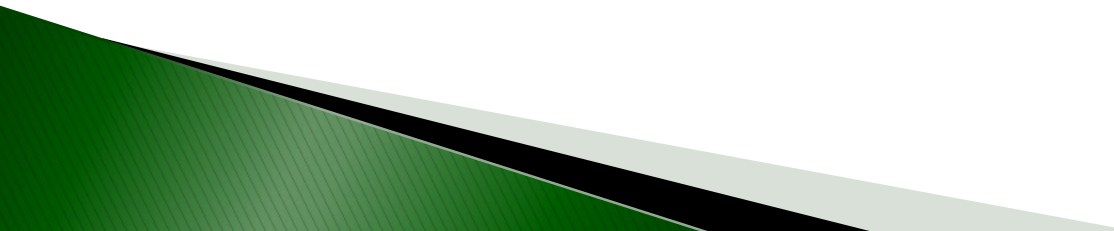
Why is License Mobility an Issue?

- ▶ Access to care while maintaining consumer protection.
- ▶ Telehealth is expanding where healthcare providers can practice.
- ▶ Efforts to reduce barriers to licensure and issue licenses faster and more efficiently.

What's in it For You?

- ▶ CELMO assists ARBO Member Boards in the licensure mobility process.
- ▶ CELMO *gathers, authenticates, and stores* documentation required for licensure from an optometrist licensed in another jurisdiction.
- ▶ Licensure decisions remain with the Member Board. CELMO simply increases efficiencies by gathering and verifying authenticity of common documents related to licensure eligibility

What about “scope” variability?

- ▶ CELMO is not meant deal with the intricacies and variabilities jurisdiction to jurisdiction.
 - ▶ CELMO is designed to lessen the burden on license candidates and Member Jurisdictions/State Boards on gathering, authenticating and storing documentation that is common.
 - ▶ License candidates will still be responsible for providing unique Jurisdiction/State requirements.
- 

Question

Are you able to issue a license as fast as the recipient wants it?

Why should you care?

Efficient license processing:

- ▶ CELMO can help create a more streamlined application process.
- ▶ Reduces Jurisdiction/State Board staff administrative time spent gathering and authenticating required documents.
- ▶ Timely processing may become a regulated necessity.

More reasons to care

Staff and licensee enhanced satisfaction

- ▶ Reduced burden/faster processing for License Candidates
- ▶ Reduces Jurisdiction/State Board staff administrative burden and stress
- ▶ CELMO ensures that the verification process is handled by professionals with expertise

Benefits to consumers

Access to quality eye care

- ▶ Allows ARBO Member Boards to be better prepared for anticipated increase in licensee mobility.
- ▶ By utilizing CELMO, the reduced time spent will free up internal resources to focus on core activities and objectives.

License Mobility terminology

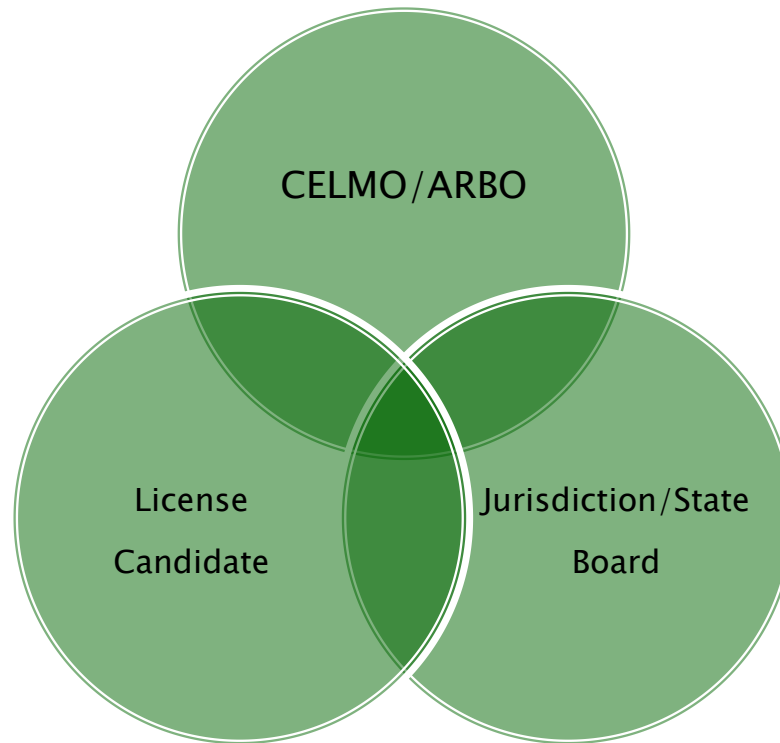
- ▶ Reciprocity
- ▶ Endorsement
- ▶ Licensure Compact
- ▶ Universal Licensure
- ▶ Agreement on internal trade (Canada)
- ▶ Federalism



What do all these terms mean?

- ▶ These regulations can be complex, vary from state to state, and not all states have them.
- ▶ The lack of uniformity makes it difficult for licensees to meet specific requirements for each state.
- ▶ The lack of uniformity makes it difficult for boards to process certain license applications.

CELMO Administration



- ▶ Here is how the program works...

CELMO Requirements

(For OD License Candidate)

Based on Jurisdiction/State licensing requirements:

- ▶ Have an O.D. degree from an accredited school or college of optometry.
- ▶ Engaged in active practice for 3 of the last 4 years.
- ▶ Hold the highest level of prescriptive authority in the state in which they practice.
- ▶ Have 50 hours of COPE–Accredited CE over a 2–year period
- ▶ Be in good standing with every licensing board from which a license is currently held.
- ▶ Report all disciplinary actions taken by any licensing board.

CELMO Sign-up (For O.D. license candidate)

- ▶ Fill out initial application
- ▶ Pay initial fee of \$50
- ▶ Pay primary certificate fee of \$200 once verification by CELMO complete.
- ▶ Pay renewal certificate fee of \$100 after 2 years if looking to be licensed in a new jurisdiction.

Verification (by CELMO)

- ▶ NPDB Self-Query provided by the OD
- ▶ Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank (HIPDB) report
- ▶ Optometry Degree Verification
- ▶ National Board Exam Scores
- ▶ 50 Hours of COPE-Accredited CE over a 2-year period
- ▶ *After verification, a CELMO Certificate is issued.*



CELMO Sign-up

(For Jurisdiction/State Board of Optometry)

- ▶ As a Member Board of ARBO, you can participate if your laws allow.
- ▶ There are currently *no fees* for Member Boards.
- ▶ We ask that you simply inform ARBO of your intent to participate.
- ▶ Develop an action plan to communicate CELMO acceptance with prospective optometry licensees.

Question

Based on current laws/regulations, can your Jurisdiction/State Board accept licensure application documents that have been gathered, authenticated, and stored by ARBO via CELMO?

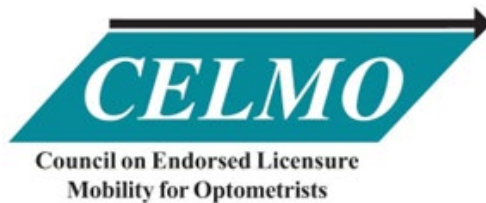
Documentation

(For Licensing Entity i.e., Jurisdiction/State Board of Optometry)

- ▶ Consider the following language in your laws:
 - “The Board shall be authorized to rely upon the expertise of and documentation and verified data gathered and stored by not-for-profit organizations which share in the public protection mission of this Board.”

CELMO is here to support you!

- ▶ ARBO through its Board of Directors and the CELMO committee aims to help Member Boards with license mobility in an efficient, uniform, consistent manner.



QUESTIONS?

Thank You!