

Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
February 28, 2019
Maryland Department of Agriculture – 50 Harry S Truman Parkway, Annapolis

Public Minutes of the Team B Meeting

Team Members Present: Dr. Heather Hendler, Dr. Elizabeth Callahan, and Ms. Victoria Wright-Conner. Staff Present: Executive Director Vanessa Orlando, Assistant Attorney General Cynthia Spirt, Assistant Director Susan Husk, Inspectors Peggy Morgan and Ellen James, and Administrative Specialist Britney Branch.

Dr. Hendler called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Approval of the Minutes. In a motion by Dr. Callahan, seconded by Ms. Wright-Conner, the team unanimously approved the minutes from the January 24, 2019 meeting of Team B.

In a motion by Ms. Wright-Conner, seconded by Dr. Callahan, the team voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting to move into closed session to perform administrative functions, pursuant to § 3-103 of the General Provisions Article. The meeting was closed at 9:06 a.m.

During the closed session, administrative functions were performed, including discussions of complaints and disciplinary matters before the Board assigned to Team B.

The meeting adjourned 9:42 a.m.

Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
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Maryland Department of Agriculture
50 Harry S Truman Parkway, Annapolis

Minutes of the Joint Open Meeting

Board Members Present: Dr. David Handel, President; Dr. Heather Hendler, Vice President; Dr. Elizabeth Callahan, Ms. Lynne Chaput, Dr. Karena Joung, Dr. Peter Radue, and Ms. Victoria Wright-Conner. Staff Present: Executive Director Vanessa Orlando, Assistant Attorney General Cynthia Spirt, Assistant Director Susan Husk, Inspectors Peggy Morgan and Ellen James, and Administrative Specialist Britney Branch.

Dr. Handel called meeting to order at 10:23 a.m.

Approval of Minutes. In a motion by Ms. Chaput, with a second by Dr. Joung, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2019 joint meeting, with the correction of a typographical error on page three.

Veterinary License Approvals

In a motion by Dr. Joung, seconded by Dr. Callahan, the Board voted unanimously to approve license applications for Dr. Bounds, Dr. Carney, Dr. Trejo-Garcia, and Dr. Witsil.

Sanitation Reports

Inspectors Pegeen Morgan and Ellen James reported on the hospital inspections they have conducted since the January 2019 Board meeting. In a motion by Dr. Callahan, seconded by Dr. Radue, the Board voted to accept the reports as presented.

Proposed clarifications of regulations

Staff proposed drafting new language for some current regulations to make them clearer and more precise so they can be more easily followed and enforced. These proposed changes do not alter the Board's current

interpretations, but would clarify the existing regulations. The staff will propose preliminary wording at the March meeting.

Open Meetings Training

Board members were asked to take the online training of the Open Meetings Act, as offered online by the Attorney General's Office and the University of Maryland Institute for Governmental Service and Research, so that at least one member per team would have had the training. Ms. Chaput, Dr. Radue and Dr. Callahan reported that they completed the training.

Discussion: CBD Oil Information Statement

A new draft of a statement, informing veterinarians of the current state of the law, was presented for discussion. The draft had been approved for accuracy by the Maryland Department of Health Office of Controlled Substances Administration. Board members discussed the statement and made some edits.

In a motion by Dr. Handel, seconded by Dr. Joung, the Board voted to send the statement as edited to licensees.

Criteria for Required CEs for CDS permits

A veterinarian requested that two of six CEs earned in a pain management seminar be approved as meeting the requirements for obtaining two CEs in prescribing or dispensing opioids in order to obtain or renew a CDS permit. In a motion by Dr. Callahan, seconded by Dr. Hendler, the Board voted to approve the course as meeting the CE requirement for obtaining or renewing a CDS permit. Dr. Handel opposed the motion.

Board members discussed whether or not to approve the PVMA Conference offerings for CE credit because, although the courses were helpful, they were not directly related to scientific or clinical topics. Regulations allow only 6 of the required 18 annual CEs to be earned with non clinical topics. In a motion by Dr. Callahan, seconded by Dr. Hendler, the Board voted to approve the courses for non-clinical CE hours.

Discussion of Proposed Regulations for Licensing

The Board expressed a desire to give those veterinarians who have been out of the work force for an extended period a pathway for obtaining a license and re-entering the field without compromising patient safety and without having to re-take the licensing examination. The discussion provided staff initial guidance on what it wanted to see in draft regulations. After considerable discussion, the Board directed the staff to draft preliminary regulations for consideration. The Board also discussed the benefit for those candidates of re-taking the NAVLE. Ms. Orlando noted that Board members can take the NAVLE for free as an assessment. Dr. Callahan and Dr. Hendler expressed interest in taking it.

Animal Holding Facility licenses

Dr. Handel requested information be provided on whether counties have laws or regulations governing commercial boarding and grooming facilities. That information was provided.

Confidentiality of Hospital Inspections.

There had been a brief conversation at an earlier meeting to review the regulations to determine if hospital inspections were confidential information. Ms. Spirt noted that the Board's historical practice has been that these records are confidential. Because violations go against a licensed veterinarian, the information would be considered a licensing record of an individual in an occupation or profession and would not be a public document unless a formal disciplinary action was taken and a final order issued, a per the PIA, General Provisions Article § 4-333.

Nomination of Dr. Runde to President-Elect of AAVSB

Dr. Chris Runde, former Board chair, has asked the Board to nominate him as President Elect of AAVSB. A draft letter was presented to the Board for consideration.

In a motion by Dr. Handel, seconded by Dr. Callahan, the Board voted unanimously to authorize Ms. Orlando to sign the letter nominating Dr. Runde for President- Elect of AAVSB.

The Board broke for lunch at 12:33 p.m. and reconvened at 1:01 p.m.

Outreach with Virginia–Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Handel, Ms. Chaput and Ms. Orlando will be visiting Virginia Tech in late April to meet with veterinary students to discuss the role of licensing boards and to offer some tips for how to stay out of trouble. Board members were asked to provide examples that illustrate specific points.

Database update

Ms. Orlando provided a memo to the Board, explaining that the online services and database launch scheduled for Feb. 19 is on indefinite hold due to a contract dispute between the Department of Information Technology and the Board of Public Works which is preventing the services from going live.

In a motion by Dr. Handel, seconded by Dr. Callahan, the Board voted unanimously at 1:14 p.m. to adjourn the meeting to move into an administrative closed session pursuant to perform administrative functions, pursuant to § 3-103 of the General Provisions Article.

During the closed session, the full Board, staff, and counsel performed administrative functions, including discussing complaints, sanitation concerns, and disciplinary matters before the Board.

Dr. Handel adjourned the meeting at 2:36 p.m.

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Minutes of the Meeting of Team A

Team Members: Dr. David Handel, Ms. Lynne Chaput, Dr. Karena Joung, and Dr. Peter Radue. **Staff Present:** Executive Director Vanessa Orlando, Assistant Attorney General Cynthia Spirt, Assistant Director Susan Husk, Inspectors Peggy Morgan and Ellen James, and Administrative Specialist Britney Branch.

Dr. Handel called the meeting to order at 2:37 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes. In a motion by Dr. Handel, seconded by Dr. Joung, the team voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2018 meeting of Team A.

In a motion by Dr. Handel, seconded by Dr. Joung, the team voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting to move into an administrative closed session pursuant to perform administrative functions, pursuant to § 3-103 of the General Provisions Article.

During the closed session, administrative functions were performed, including discussion of complaints and disciplinary matters before the Board assigned to Team A.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:17 p.m.