

Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners

January 28, 2021

Held by Teleconference

Joint OPEN Meeting Minutes

Board Members: Dr. Elizabeth Callahan, President; Dr. Karena Joung, Vice President; Dr. Christine Calvert, Ms. Lynne Chaput, Ms. Patricia Quimby, Dr. Peter Radue and Dr. James Reed. **Staff Present:** Executive Director Vanessa Orlando, Assistant Director Susan Husk, Assistant Attorney General Cynthia Spirt, Inspectors Pegeen Morgan, Ellen Jame, Investigator Sarah Hultz and Administrative Specialist Britney Branch.

Veterinary License Applications Approvals. In a motion by Dr. Joung, seconded by Dr. Radue, the Board voted unanimously to approve applications for Drs. Paul Facemire, Joseph Meadows, Kaitlyn Schill, Mark Schrenzel, and Elisa Sumakeris.

Sanitation Reports. Inspectors Morgan and James reported on inspections they have completed since the last meeting. In a motion by Dr. Radue, seconded by Ms. Chaput, the Board voted to accept the Sanitation reports.

CE Approval Requests

Approval request #385 included information about a large conference, but did not indicate the specific courses and hours being requested. Staff will follow up.

In a motion by Dr. Joung, seconded by Dr. Calvert, the Board voted to approve CE Requests #382, #387, #388 and #389.

A list of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) CE Courses Available were shared with Board members. Dr. Joung also emailed a list of DEI courses. The Board will continue to consider requiring, or promoting, DEI CE courses.

COMAR Chapter One Draft (includes Telehealth Regulations) – For Discussion. Board members went through each section of the first COMAR chapter and discussed possible revisions and additions which will be shared in draft/discussion from with MVMA before they are finalized.

Medical Marijuana. A board member shared a question she received from a veterinarian who has been prescribed medical marijuana for rheumatoid arthritis. Although the Board cannot give legal advice to individuals and would not want to stand in the way of a treatment recommended by a human physician, they did note that regulations do not allow a veterinarian to practice while impaired, whether the impairment comes from a legally prescribed drug or otherwise.

Legislation 2021. Ms. Spirt reviewed two bills that have been proposed during the legislative session. One would expand the powers of the ombudsman to mediate and take action in disputes; the other would require live streaming of all open meetings.

Other Business

An Animal Control Shelter manager asked whether or not veterinarians are required to provide emergency care if an animal is brought to them off the street. Board members agreed that veterinarians can and should stabilize and provide pain management for an animal until Animal Control can take possession or give approval for further care; however, the facts of the situation would have to be taken into account before the Board sanctioned a veterinarian for failing to provide care in such a situation.

AAVSB Documents. Information about upcoming online training and leadership opportunities were shared for information.

March Meeting Date: The Board agreed to start the joint open meeting on March 25 at 12:30 p.m., rather than 10:30 a.m., and that Team B would meet in the morning. The change is being done to accommodate a member's work schedule.

In motion by Dr. Callahan, seconded by Ms. Chaput, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting to move into an administrative closed session to perform administrative functions outside the scope of the Open Meetings Act, in accordance with § 3-103(a)(1)(i) of the General Provisions Article. The administrative functions to be performed include discussion of the specific matters identified on the Board Agenda. In the alternative, I move to close the meeting pursuant to the following Section 3-305(b):

(7) To obtain advice of counsel;

(8) To consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation;

(12) To conduct or discuss an investigative proceeding on actual or possible criminal conduct;" and

(13) To comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter.