

Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
Minutes for July 25th, 2024

Meet In Person at Maryland Department of Agriculture at 10:30 AM

Joint Meeting Minutes

Board Members: Dr. Christine Calvert, President; Ms. Patty Quimby, Vice President; Dr. Heidi Schmechel, Ms. Lynne Chaput, Dr. Justin Sobota, Dr. Peter Radue and Dr. James Reed.

Staff: Nathaniel Boan, Executive Director; Susan Husk, Assistant Director; Cindy Spirt, Assistant Attorney General; Tonya Kendrick-Green, Licensing Administrator; Britney Branch, Office Administrator; Ellen James & Pegeen Morgan, Inspectors; Sarah Hultz, Investigator.

Open Meeting Minutes

Dr. Calvert called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m.

Approval of the Minutes of the May 23rd, 2024 Board Meeting.

In a motion by Ms. Chaput, and seconded by Dr. Schmechel, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the May 23rd, 2024 Board Meeting.

Approval of the Minutes of the June 20th, 2024 Board Meeting

In a motion by Ms. Quimby, and seconded by Dr. Schmechel, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the June 20th, 2024 Board Meeting.

Veterinary License Applications Approvals:

In a motion by Dr. Sobota, and seconded by Dr. Schmechel, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following applications for veterinary and veterinary technician licenses:

Veterinary License Applications approved by Designated Authority:

- K. Lamken
- E. Crumpler
- A. Denikos
- A. Soussan
- C. Reinhardt
- H. Thomas
- A. Lehman
- J. Sebert
- E. Galemore
- L. Holland
- M. Jung
- G. Lewis
- S. Lohmann
- T. Spriggs
- M. Elcombe
- M. Kane
- K. Rickerl
- V. Haderlie
- J. Pisarski
- C. Myers
- A. Cherukuri
- B. Radtke
- A. Sorum
- K. Blatman
- K. Kryda
- A. Cowie
- K. Isbell
- K. Ashland
- M. Maggio
- M. Calderon
- C. Elliott
- H. Reidy
- Z. Sandoval
- S. Ellis
- J. Butala
- L. Chadsey
- H. Newberne
- R. McAtee
- S. Radhakrishnan

- K. Rowan

- M. Nethibottu

Veterinary Technician Applications approved by Designated Authority:

- K. Burns
- M. Doore
- E. Hoeffel
- I. Feinour
- A. Folkman

Sanitation Reports:

Inspectors Pegeen Morgan and Ellen James presented the hospital inspection reports. In a motion by Dr. Schmechel, and seconded by Dr. Sobota, the Board voted unanimously to accept the sanitation reports.

CE Approval Requests:

- In a motion by Dr. Schmechel, and seconded by Ms. Quimby, the Board voted unanimously to approve the below CEs presented by Allentown, LLC and Chesapeake Veterinary Referral Center but deny the Native American Veterinary Services request.
 - Volunteer work is not an approved CE type in regulation. Does not include any formal lecture or training.

Organization	Title/Topic	Vet/Techs	Date of CE	Credits	Type	Recurring	CDS
Native American Veterinary Services	Providing Veterinary Care to Underserved Dogs and Cats on the Hopi Reservation, AZ	Both	April 18, 2024	2	Clinical	No	No
Allentown, LLC	How do I retain my best talent? Lessons in Organizational Retention Through Belonging Strategies	Both	June 28th, 2024	1	Non-Clinical	No	No
Chesapeake Veterinary Referral Center (Hunt Valley)	Fall 2024 CVRC Conference for Veterinarians	Vet	October 6th, 2024	7	Clinical	No	No

Final Orders since May 25th, 2024 meeting:

- Docket No. 23-124: Jennifer Schady-Brozene / Dr. Scott Gounaris, Pleasantville Animal Hospital
- Record-keeping violation (\$600 civil penalty)

Miscellaneous:

- **AAVSB Annual Meeting**

- Will be held in San Diego. Board members should contact Nathan if they are interested in attending.

- **Dr. Jonica Thompson Veterinary Application**
 - The Board has determined that Dr. Thompson may apply with the updated regulations that are set to go into effect, extending the NAVLE expiration date.

- **Letter from Public Health Vet (Dr. Crum) to Veterinarians**
 - The Board reviewed a message from the Public Health Vet (Dr. Crum) for distribution.
 - The intent of the message is to alleviate confusion for when reporting is necessary. The Board would like to see specific wording about wounds of unknown origin which is what is often a metric used for suspected case reporting.

- **Prescribing Medicine in Animal Shelters and to Animals adopted from shelters.**
 - The Board reviewed an inquiry about shelter veterinarians and prescriptions and VCPRs.
 - Shelters can have SOPs to start patients with common illnesses on medications until they can be seen by a veterinarian (usually within 1 week, to evaluate progress and adjust medications).
 - Exams of shelter animals can be done virtually when appropriate under the VCPR being established with the shelter by regular visits to the shelter.
 - Once an animal has been adopted a veterinarian would need to establish a new VCPR with the new owners before being able to prescribe medications. This would require an in-person exam.

- **Prescriptions for non-veterinary supplements**
 - The Board reviewed an inquiry from a veterinarian regarding prescribing supplements as requested by a client. Some supplements may not have a veterinary formula.
 - The Board has no problem with this as long as the veterinarian is comfortable providing them and discusses and documents any risks and off label uses.

- **DMV Reciprocity**
 - The Board reviewed the draft DMV “Reciprocity Agreement” aiming to streamline licensing within the region.
 - The Board had some concerns about requirements to disclose confidential information.
 - The Board had some concerns regarding what this look likes and how it will impact licensees that have held long term licenses in VA but also hold licenses in other jurisdictions where verifications have not occurred.
 - The Board had some concerns regarding the differences in NAVLE score acceptance. (MD Recently changed to 7 years, DC is 7 years, but VA has no limits.)
 - Agreement also talks about Physicians still and not Veterinarians in parts.

- **Team Assignments**

- Dr. Schmechel will be moving to Team B to help Balance the teams.
- **CH0487(HB1097)**
 - **The Board reviewed concerns from various practices about the implementation of HB1097:**
 - Short timeline to get Assistants Licensed
 - Veterinary Assistants feel slighted that they are being demoted from Veterinary Technician (unregistered).
 - Hospitals are using assistants beyond what is listed here and for some tasks that are assigned to Veterinary Technicians? Will this prevent that? This would disrupt practices.
 - Only approx 800 RVTs in the state and 600 hospitals which does not leave enough to address the need.
 - The Boards Guidance Should include:
 - Clarity on the use of terms when referring to RVT.
 - The intention was to elevate RVTs while improving the access to care.
 - The Board is considering at what level a supervising Veterinarian has discretion when making decisions regarding tasks that are appropriate for their staff.
 - The Board acknowledges some of the difficulties that may arise due to the implementation of HB1097.
 - A table of tasks and levels of supervision required under different levels of credentialing.
- **Any Departmental Legislation?**
 - None at this time for the FY25 session.
 - As we expand the role of Veterinary Technicians the Board may consider adding a Veterinary Technician to the Boards roster in the future.
- **Technician Committee Interviews**
 - Dr. Callahan is no longer on Board. Was going to join for the interviews. Can someone else from the Board be a part?
 - Dr. Reed and Dr. Calvert will attempt to be available for the meetings.

In a motion by Dr. Calvert, and seconded by Dr. Schmechel, 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.