

Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
Minutes for March 28th, 2024

Meet by Google Meets at 10:30 AM

Joint Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Board Members: Dr. Elizabeth Callahan, President; Dr. Christine Calvert, Vice President; Dr. Heidi Schmechel; Ms. Lynne Chaput; Ms. Patricia Quimby; Dr. Peter Radue and Dr. James Reed.

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

Guests: Chrissy Bagby, KC McGuire & Erin Griffiths, AAVSB VIVA Exchange Program; Beth Venit, AAVSB; Dr. Gerald Tishman; Secretary Kevin Atticks; Deputy Secretary Steve Connolly

Open Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: Dr. Callahan called the meeting to order at 10:43 a.m..

Secretary Atticks joined the beginning of the meeting because Dr. Odeon has departed MDA and we are seeking a new State Veterinarian.

Approval of the Minutes of the February 22nd, 2024 Board Meeting.

- In a motion by Ms. Quimby, and seconded by Dr. Reed, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the February 22nd, 2024 Board Meeting.

Presentation from VIVA Data Exchange Program; Chrissy Bagby, KC McGuire & Erin Griffiths

- Members of the AAVSB presented on services available and the VIVA Data Exchange Program to gauge interest in joining the program.
- Program is designed to share licensing and public disciplinary actions automatically to a national database through AAVSB for faster licensing and disclosures through a direct connection with our database.
- The Board is interested in moving forward with the AAVSB VIVA Data Exchange

License Applications Approvals:

In a motion by Dr. Schmechel, and seconded by Dr. Radue, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following application:

- Veterinarians For Board Review:
 - Victoria Law
 - Disciplinary action as “VIC” (“RV”) in VA.

In a motion by Dr. Callahan, and Seconded by Dr. Radue, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following applications.

- Veterinarians approved by designated authority(14):
 - J. Seda
 - B. Smith
 - B. Snively
 - A. Paneitz
 - A. Persaud
 - J. Prieto
 - A. Picyk
 - R. Carlson
 - M. Vigerl
 - J. Bimonte
 - J. Ramirez
 - B. MacNamara
 - L. Tonin
 - A. Tepley
 - A. Verghis

- Veterinary Technicians approved by Designated authority (5):
 - R. Otighigbo-Bey
 - T. Baque
 - C. Gordon
 - D. Beamer
 - M. Trail

- Meeting with Dr. Gerald Tishman
 - Dr. Tishman did not show up to the meeting.

Sanitation Reports:

- Pegeen Morgan provided her hospital sanitation report summary. Nathaniel Boan presented on behalf of Ellen James.
- In a motion by Dr. Calvert, and seconded by Dr. Reed, the Board voted unanimously to accept the sanitation reports.

CE Approval Requests: In a motion by Dr. Callahan, and seconded by Dr. Radue, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following Continuing Education programs.

Organization	Title/Topic	Vet/ Techs	Date of CE	Credits	Type	Recurring	CDS
FDA	Biocompatibility Testing - Challenges of Soluble Devices	Vet	2.21.2024	1	Clinical/ Scientific	No	No
National Primate Research Centers (NPRC) Consortium	Environmental Enrichment Exchange Webinar: Evidence-based evaluation of marmoset enrichment strategies at the Wisconsin National Primate Research Center and Evaluating Structural Elements in Large Field Enclosures at Tulane National Primate Research Center	Both	2.21.2024	1	Clinical/ Scientific	No	No
NIH Deputy Director for Management (DDM)	Intentional Workplace Culture	Both	1.11.2024	1.5	NonClinical/ NonScientific	No	No

Seminar Series							
Montgomery County Animal Services	Rabies Vaccine Administration	RVTs	2.28.2024	1	Clinical/Scientific	No	No
Chesapeake Veterinary Referral Center	Spring Conference 2024	Both	3.10.2024	6	Clinical/Scientific	No	No
American Association of Swine Veterinarians	55th Annual Meeting	Vet	2.24.2024-2.27.2024	20	Clinical/Scientific	No	No
Veterinary Neurology and Imaging of the Chesapeake	Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy	Both	3/20/2024	1	Clinical/Scientific	No	No

A CE was sent to us by the Chair of the Spay and Neuter Advisory Board, Caroline Griffin, founder of Show Your Soft Side. It is a RACE approved CE that she is not personally affiliated with but wanted to know if we could send it to Veterinarians for consideration.

- Dr. Callahan and Dr. Reed expressed interest in sharing this with licensees as an “FYI”.

In a motion by Dr. Calahan, and seconded by Dr. Schmechel, the Board voted unanimously to approve the recurring conferences listed below to be used for CEs. Conferences CE credits may vary from year to year and the number of clinical vs. non/clinical credits may vary. They should be accurately noted when submitting for use.

- American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS) - Virtual National Meeting
- American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) - Various Topics
- Maryland Veterinary Medical Association (MDVMA) - Various Topics
- European College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ECVIM) - Annual Congress
- Rabies in the Americas (RITA) - Annual Meetings
- American Association of Equine Practitioners
- American Association of Swine Veterinarians
- American College of Veterinary Surgeons
- American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine
- American College of Veterinary Pathologists

Miscellaneous:

- **Veterinary Technician Documentation Requirements**

- Current Veterinary Technician documentation policy is to require proof of 10,000 hours of experience through submission of pay stubs.
 - Regulation states “Proof of completion of 10,000 hours of work experience as a technician, with a signed affidavit from a supervising veterinarian specifying the number of hours worked and the dates worked.”
 - Dr. Handel is in favor of just needing the affidavit but suggests a follow up call with the Supervising Veterinarian to verify authenticity.
 - Staff have concerns that this may further hold up applications.
 - Notarized signature
 - Create a form affidavit to be filled out and notarized.
 - In a motion by Dr. Callahan, and seconded by Dr. Reed, the Board voted unanimously to accept notarized affidavits in lieu of pay stubs.
- **Veterinary Technicians/Assistants** - how should they be referred to in reports - question from Susie and Cindy about the best language to use in reports.
 - The Board will start moving towards using the newly defined terms in HB1097 to refer to unlicensed individuals as assistants and RVTs as technicians.
 - **Public Information Act Policy**
 - The Board reviewed a proposed written policy reflecting existing policies for categories of public documents that may be immediately disclosed (without legal or other review).
 - In a motion by Dr. Callahan, and seconded by Dr. Calvert, the Board voted unanimously to approve the written Public Information Act Policy.
 - **Open Meetings Act Training:**
 - All members are encouraged to complete this training (periodically) and to supply evidence of completion for SBVME records.
 - **New Portal And Fees set to go into effect in April.**
 - **Dr. John B Kable - Hospital License Question.**
 - Dr. John A Kable is selling his $\frac{1}{3}$ of the AirPark Hospital to a non-veterinarian who will act as Business Manager. Other two $\frac{1}{3}$ shares of ownership will remain the same. Do they need to apply for a new license? They just got a new license in August when they sold $\frac{1}{3}$ of the business to Dr. Laura Owens.
 - The Board requires there be a new license whenever there is a change of ownership.
 - **RVMA Submitted a Letter**
 - The Board reviewed a letter submitted by the Relief Veterinary Medical Association (RVMA).
 - We are working on expedited processes between some neighboring states. Not considering temporary licenses at this time. Our process has expedited all licensing processes for full licensing.

- **Dr. Goessling - Questions for April Meeting**
 - The Board reviewed the questions provided by Dr. Goessling for in person discussion regarding emergency services to be held in April.

- **New CE Website Updated**
 - Still in the process of adding all CEs approved that are eligible for FY25 renewals. All CEs from July 2022 - present that have gotten Board approval are on the table.
 - CEs now have expiration dates for ones that are single time approvals.
 - Can also be marked as Recurring if always available so we don't need to review repeat requests.

Disciplinary Action Finalized since February 22nd, 2024

- Docket No. 23-128: Jabari Allen / Dr. Ernest Fioramonti, Towson Veterinary Hospital
 - Professional Judgment
 - Record Keeping
- Docket No. 23-79B: SBVME / Dr. John Trujillo, Pickles Animal Hospital DBA Light Street Animal Hospital
 - Record Keeping
- Docket No. 24-63: SBVME / Dr. Jonathan Fear (RV) / VetEvolve MD, LLC (DBA: Buckeystown Veterinary Hospital)
 - Expired Medications
- Docket No. 24-70: SBVME / Dr. Refat Saad, Forest Hill Veterinary Clinic
 - Expired Medications

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