

Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
Minutes for December 5th, 2024

Meet by Google Meets at 10:30 AM

Joint Meeting Minutes

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

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, Inspector; Sarah Hultz, Investigator.

Guests: Dr. Benjamin Donati, Dr. Dominick Valenzano, and Stacey Evans ElleVet Sciences

Open Meeting Minutes

Call Meeting to Order: Dr. Calvert called the meeting to order at 10:49AM.

Approval of the Minutes:

In a motion by Dr. Radue, and seconded by Dr. Calvert, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 24th, 2024 meeting.

Benjamin Donati, VMD and Dominick Valenzano, DVM -

The Board reviewed a request for advice on how to have a specialist International Specialist performing heart surgeries to train their hospital staff.

- No PAVE or ECFVG certificate to be able to get a license.
- Has reached out to the local colleges and didn't feel that it would work there.
- Possible contact at Hopkins.
- The Board obtained legal advice from counsel in closed session pursuant to Section 3-305(7) regarding the request for a visiting veterinarian to perform surgical training.

Stacey Evans - VP General Counsel and Corporate Secretary ElleVet Sciences, Inc.

- Stacey Evans provided information for the Board to review regarding the status of CBD/hemp products.
 - Ms. Evans provided information regarding the FDA differences between CBD oil in supplements and drugs.
 - Ms. Evans provided studies on the effects of CBD products on animals.

Veterinary License Applications Approvals:

In a motion by Dr. Schmechel, and seconded by Ms. Quimby, the Board motioned to approve the following applications:

- Veterinary Applications approved by designated authority:
 - A. Miller
 - J. Cianci
 - J. Sousa
 - A. Raeburn
 - D. Leach
 - M. Harfoush

- E. Brown
 - K. Butcher
 - S. Holy
 - J. Phillips
 - K. Wagner
 - J. Kelleher
 - M. de Shaetzen
 - S. Hargrove
- Veterinary Technician Applications approved by designated authority:
 - T. Moore
 - A. Cochran
 - J. Dorsey
 - K. Alexander
 - H. Carter

Sanitation Reports:

Inspectors Pegeen Morgan and Ellen James reported on the hospital inspection reports. Pegeen includes inspections from the October meeting report as well as the December report. In a motion by Dr. Schmechel, and seconded by Dr. Radue, the Board voted unanimously to accept the hospital inspection reports.

CE Approval Requests:

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

Organization	Title/Topic	Vet/ Techs	Date of CE	Credits	Type	Recurring	CDS
Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine	Equine CE Lecture Series	Both	1/10/2025	6	Clinical / Scientific	No	No

Final Orders since October 24th, 2024 meeting.

- Docket No. 22-59: Sandy Ondrejcek / Dr. Elton Vyfhuis, Waldorf Emergency Care
 - 15.14.01.07A Professional Judgment and Practice
- Docket No. 23-105A: Denise Reddix / Dr. Robert Brenner, Brenner Animal Hospital
 - 15.14.01.10A Record Keeping
- Docket No. 24-69: Stacy Sheffield / Dr. Kenya Barton, Waldorf Animal Hospital (Atty: Joseph Damiano)
 - 15.14.01.10A Record Keeping

Miscellaneous:

- **Colorado's Midlevel Practitioner**
 - The Board briefly discussed Colorado's Mid-level practitioners.
 - Unclear as to how it will be implemented with no formal education/training established or testing for the credentialing process.

- Will they be required to practice under a Veterinarian and how will that be impactful with widespread disapproval for the position by veterinarians.

- **Information Regarding GS-441524**
 - The Board reviewed and approved a draft informing veterinarians about the FDA statement regarding GS-441524.

- **Vet Tech committee**
 - Secretary Atticks signed the memo confirming the new members to the committee.
 - The full committee is working towards scheduled virtual meetings instead of asynchronous reviews of applications. Expected to start in February.

- **Annual Disciplinary Action Report**
 - The Board reviewed and approved the Disciplinary Action Report. This will be submitted to Rachel following the meeting to finalize.

- **CE Audit**
 - Notices to those randomly selected for Audit were sent out and they have until December 18th, 2024 to provide their CE certificates.
 - Will send a reminder to those we have not received a response from on Wednesday December 11th, 2024.

- **Board Member Names**
 - Dr. Reed's first term is up and he has confirmed that he will not be seeking reappointment.
 - The Board approved the following 3 names to be submitted for recommendation for appointment.
 - Dr. Monica Maa, VCA Coolridge (Recommended by Nathaniel Boan)
 - Dr. Rebecca Krimins (Recommended as a radiologist by Dr. Calvert and Ellen James)
 - Dr. Traia Roper (Recommended by Dr. Karena Joung and supported by Nathaniel Boan and Ellen James)

- **March meeting conflicts with the AAVSB ED Summit and RPC Committee meeting.**
 - Shift February 27th, from virtual to in person.
 - Shift March 27th from in person to virtual and Nathan will run the virtual meeting from Kansas City.

In a motion by Ms. Quimby, and seconded by Dr. Radue, 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.*

In a motion by Dr. Schmechel, and seconded by Ms. Quimby, the Board motioned to reopen the meeting following the discussion with legal counsel related to the request by Drs. Donati and Valenzano.

- In a motion by Dr. Reed, and seconded by Dr. Schmechel, the team voted to make the following determination regarding the request from Dr. Donati and Dr. Valenzano.
 - In regards to the foreign heart surgeon specialist, the Board generally supports the request to train staff to do the procedure, however, consulting is generally a third party giving advice that would not include performing surgery. They could be there in a third party role to give feedback, but not directly perform surgery. Couldn't actually be involved in the surgery. Statute doesn't allow for this and would need to be licensed in Maryland.

Dr. Calvert adjourned the meeting at 1:25 PM.