



Veterinarian Board of Governors Regular Meeting Minutes

March 4, 2024

Location: Department of Health, TC2 Rm. 153 111 Israel Rd. SE, Tumwater, WA and via Microsoft Teams

Board members present in person:

Andrea Sanchez-Chambers, DVM, Chair
Debra Clabough Sellon, DVM
Aja Senestraro, DVM
Dai-E Dordor Vang, DVM, MPH,
Kathryn Haigh, DVM
Kim Morgan, LVT
Katherine Bibi, DVM
Rebecca Knoke, General Member

Staff members present:

Amber Freeberg, Executive Director
Poppy Budrow, Program Manager
Lisa Kelley Christensen, Assistant Attorney General
Shelly Buchanan, Supervising Staff Attorney
Catharine Roner-Reiter, Staff Attorney
Tonya Mills, Credentialing
Shelbee Scrimo, Administrative Assistant

Others present:

Ken Gordon, WSVMA
Ashley Byrne, President of WSAVT
Zack Hambleton, Cascade
Brittany Benesi
Karly Murray, Cascade
Blue Pearl
Melisa Muriekas
Katie Koch, AAVSB
Elliott Yoakum, AAVSB
Jacob Estes, AAVSB
Ashley Anderson-Mutch
Drew Jaeger
Laura Krogman

Katherine Haman, DFW
Caleb Graham, DFW
Margaret Wixson
Tom Bertagnolli
Chick Newman, DVM
Lori Lutskas
Dru Mellon, LVT
Joseph Hauth
Stephanie Strothers
Ryan, WSAVT
Robert Nicoloff
Megan Cook
Brittany Goyette

Notice of this meeting was published on the Veterinarian Board of Governors profession website and was sent out through the GovDelivery listserver.

Open Session:

Call to Order, Mission, and Board Roll Call – Andrea Sanchez-Chambers, DVM, Chair

Dr. Sanchez called the meeting to order at 9:10am

1. Consent Agenda – Andrea Sanchez-Chambers, DVM, Chair

- **Approval of March 4, 2024, agenda**
 - Amendments of moving item 6 to after item 4 and add NAVLE update to program report. Motioned made to approve agenda with amendments, seconded and approved.
- **Approval of December 4, 2023, business meeting minutes**
 - Motioned, seconded, and approved.

2. Open Forum (limited to 10 minutes)

The board accepted comments from the audience on issues of significance to the profession.

- **Ken Gordon, CEO of WSVMA:** They would much prefer to be talking to the board to find solutions to the LVT shortage. Other options include better utilization, better retention, and increased college place based for LVT, and they are working on all of those initiatives. They do not support the new pathway that is proposed and accordingly they are asking the board to please not pass the apprenticeship CR 102 language. They do support the revised rules for VCPR in Washington state and urge that it be passed. Lastly, they remain committed to working with the board to improve the schedule of healthcare tasks.
- **Ashley Byrne, President of WSVT:** The apprenticeship program being created by Cascade Veterinary Clinics, the Washington State Training and Apprenticeship Council, and the Department of Labor and Industries does not meet the standards of education for veterinary technicians because it fails to recognize the importance of being accredited by the AVMA. The Washington State Nursing Board are working on apprenticeship programs for LPN's. LPNs are not comparable to LVT and LVT's are much closer to RNs, The Washington Nursing Board heard me out and were frankly shocked to hear what is happening on the veterinary side, but they did let me know that the LPN apprenticeship program does not compromise any educational accreditation standards or licensure requirements. The Department of Labor and Industries and Washington State apprenticeship and Training Council are leaning on VBOG for their expert advice. The apprenticeship is a step backwards for veterinary technicians and Washington state and could have a ripple effect across the country. recommends the Veterinary Board of Governors require any route of licensure, including the potential apprenticeship, uphold current educational standards, which include a graduation from an AVMA accredited program, and looking again at the Nursing Board, it appears that it can be done and should be done in that manner.
- **Zack Hambleton, DVM CVC:** CVC disagrees with the argument from the opposition that because of program is not AVMA accredited, it consequently must be of lower

quality. There are many eager, intelligent, and teachable people who can be amazing professionals but do not have access to an AVMA accredited programs. Regarding the LPN apprenticeship program, an LPN is not the equivalent to LVTs. Washington has a problem recruiting licensed veterinary technicians to the to the profession.

3. Reports

▪ **Andrea Sanchez-Chambers, DVM, Chair**

- Dr. Sanchez-Chambers introduced the new Executive Director Amber Freeberg

▪ **Amber Freeberg, Executive Director – Department of Health**

- Ms. Freeberg gave an update on the credentialing team moving over to the Office of Health Professions.

▪ **Poppy Budrow, Program Manager – Department of Health**

- Dr. Senestraro gave a brief explanation of the PAVE committee and asked if anyone on the board would like to be an SME for the committee.
- Ms. Budrow informed the Board that Dr. Reed has resigned, and the board is now recruiting a new member. Ms. Budrow reviewed the new agreement that NAVLE sent, the board discussed, moved, seconded, and approved the new agreement. Dr. Sanchez-Chambers will sign the new agreement.

▪ **Lisa Kelley Christensen, AAG**

The apprenticeship court case was dismissed by the Thurston County Superior Court and on February 23rd, the same group of plaintiffs filed an appeal to the Thurston County Superior Court. On January 3rd Lisa received a lawsuit from the Pacific Legal Foundation, which was a complaint for declaratory and injunctive relief and violation of the Civil Rights Act. It was brought by two people who claim that requiring a license to engage in teeth floating is a deprivation of their constitutional rights. An appeal has been filed to dismiss this case. The Pacific Legal Foundation will file its response mid-March. That motion will be heard in the Thurston County Superior Court on April 12th.

4. Presentation by WDFW – Dr. Haman and Jen Mannas

- WDFW gave a presentation about Wildlife Rehabilitation in Washington and the Role Veterinarians Play and took questions from the board and public.

5. Presentation by Labor and Industries – Peter Guzman, Apprenticeship Program Manager

- Mr. Guzman explained how apprenticeships are created, approved, and supervised. He reviewed how CVC started the process on the LVT apprenticeship and took questions from the board and public.

6. Presentation by AAVSB – Elliott Yoakum, Amy Farmer, Jacob Estes, Katie Koch

- AAVSB gave a presentation on information about VAULT services and took questions from the board.

7. Presentation by Cascade Veterinary Clinic – Zack Hambleton, DVM

- Dr. Hambleton gave an update on the progress of the apprenticeship program and took questions from the board and public.

8. Presentation by VBOG Staff -- Poppy Budrow, Program Manager

- Ms. Budrow gave a history of Board actions regarding the Vet Tech Apprenticeship.

9. Eligibility for Examination as Veterinary Technician

- The board voted on the adoption of proposed rules filed under WSR 23-23-094 on October 18, 2023. The proposed language clarifies that a registered apprenticeship program is an approved post-secondary educational pathway to qualify for licensure exams as a veterinary technician.
- Motion to approve the proposed language, seconded and passed 5 to 3.

10. Rulemaking – Exam and Licensure Requirements

- Ms. Budrow gave an overview of SSHB 1724 and what it would mean to move the jurisprudence exam to continuing education.
- The Board discussed jurisprudence exam options to comply with SSHB 1724. Dr. Vang motioned to open the CR101 to include moving the jurisprudence exam to continuing education, motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
- Dr. Haigh will replace Dr. Reed on the subcommittee.

11. Rulemaking -- Veterinary Telemedicine (VCPR)

- **Chick Newman, DVM:** Without examining an animal person, many medical issues will be missed. Under the current statutes requiring the DVM to have examined the patient in person, there are safeguards in place that would ensure that these and other medical issues are not missed. Current law requires that veterinarians performing telemedicine must have established an in-person relationship with the client and patient within the year. Telemedicine veterinarians must see the patient in person, at least annually, keeping the current requirements for a valid VCPR would ensure that at least a physical in-person exam is performed annually by a doctor, so that important changes are not missed.
- **Ken Gordon, WSVMA:** WSVMA are strongly supporting this rule. According to the American Society of Pediatricians, pediatricians are not allowed to set up VCPR for patients under the age of two. ASPCA is telling our representatives that if this is passed legislatively, then the legislation will overrule the federal prescribing guidelines. We have had that checked out legally and that's completely wrong.
- The board reviewed written comments from Dr. Sanders.
- The board discussed VCPR and Dr. Sellon gave an update from the VCPR Subcommittee
- VCPR subcommittee scheduled their next meeting for April 17th at 8am

12. Rulemaking – Animal Healthcare Tasks

- **Ken Gordon, WSVMA:** This healthcare task schedule is one of the best ways of improving technician utilization within practices and that would go a long way to taking

off some of the stress that is being seen in practices. WSVMA looks forward to working with the board on this matter.

- **Melisa Muriekes, WSVTA:** Looking forward to working with the board on this matter. Hope that by going through this stuff there can be discussion regarding the Wisconsin loophole and get things sorted out.
- Dr. Bibi gave an update from the subcommittee.
- The Animal Healthcare Tasks Subcommittee next meeting: March 29, 2024.

13. Correspondence

- The board reviewed and discussed the lists and labels request. Made a motion to not approve the request, motion was seconded and pass unanimously.
- The board acknowledged the documents they received from Cascade Veterinary Clinic Letter 12-4-24 and WSVMA Letter 2-15-24.

14. Legislative Update

- Ms. Budrow gave an update on the bills that would affect the Veterinary profession.
- Dr. Haigh discussed the budget proposal that was requested by WSVMA to receive funds to accept more students at the Washington State College of Veterinary Medicine.

15. Meeting Dates for 2024

- The board reviewed the meeting dates for the rest of the year: June 3, September 9, December 9, 2024. Then reviewed who would be attending the 2024 conferences.
- The board then discussed dates to have a strategic planning session in March of 2025.

16. Agenda Development

- The board reviewed and identified agenda items for the June 3, 2024, business meeting.

Adjournment of Open Session

Meeting was adjourned at 1:56pm

Submitted by:

Poppy Budrow, Program Manager
Veterinarian Board of Governors

Approved by:

Andrea Sanchez-Chambers, Chair
Veterinarian Board of Governors

On file

SIGNATURE

DATE

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