

**South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
Teleconference Board Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2020**

Public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the S.C. Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners office, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, and on the board website and provided to all requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act. In accordance with the Governor's directives regarding social distancing, the meeting will be held via teleconference. Members of the public who wish to attend may do so by telephone. The telephone number and access code are provided on the posted agenda.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bethany Tapp, DVM- Chair
Karl Wessinger, DVM- Vice Chair
Katherine George, DVM
Ginger Macaulay, DVM
Elizabeth Fuller, DVM
Mitch Lowery, DVM
Gretchen Bolin-Love, DVM
W. Marshall Liger, LVT

SCLLR STAFF PRESENT:

Hardwick Stuart, Office of Advice Counsel
Meredith Buttler, Administrator
Kyle Tennis, Office of Disciplinary Counsel
Sonya Turner, Office of Investigations
Wendy Taylor, Program Coordinator

PRESENT:

Tina Behles, Court Reporter
Ashleigh Colon, Veterinarian

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Tapp called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

The Board and LLR staff members introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: To approve the agenda.
Macaulay/Fuller/approved

APPROVAL OF ABSENT BOARD MEMBER

Motion: To excuse Rebecca Shealy due to family obligations.
George/Fuller/approved

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion: To approve the minutes from the February 13, 2020 Board Meeting to include amendments made by the Board.
Macaulay/Fuller/approved.

STAFF REPORTS

OIE Statistical Report

On behalf of Mark Sanders, Ms. Buttler presented the Statistical Report through the first quarter. To date a total of 11 complaints have been received and 20 have been closed.

IRC Report

Ms. Buttler reported the IRC did not meet and there is no IRC report.

ODC Report

Mr. Tennis reported that there are currently 21 open cases of which 9 are pending action, 11 are pending CA/MOAs and 1 is pending hearings. To date, 2 cases have been closed.

APPLICANT APPEARANCE

a) Ashleigh Colon

Dr. Colon appeared before the Board for an Application Hearing. She was not represented by counsel and was sworn in by the court reporter. Application hearings are recorded by a certified court reporter in the event a verbatim transcript is necessary.

Motion: To approve Dr. Colon's application for licensure.
Macaulay/George/approved.

REPORTS

The Board currently has 2,157 active Veterinary licenses, 12 active Intern Veterinary licenses, 624 active Veterinary Technician licenses. Ms. Buttler reported the current account balance as of March 31, 2020 is -\$8,698.78.

Ms. Buttler reported that despite the entire team working from home, we are still moving forward with renovating the board website and applications. Work has been done to reformat the FAQs to provide a friendlier user experience.

The notice of election for District 4 seat, currently held by Dr. George was sent in February 2020. Two nominations were received and per the Board statutes and regulations, both names were submitted to the Governor's office for review and appointment at the beginning of March 2020. The candidates were both notified of their submission to the Governor's office for consideration of the seat.

Due to an unexpected vacancy, the Board office was in the process of sending notice to licensees residing in District 1. Due to interruption of COVID-19 and staffing transfer to working from home, the call for nominations was put on a temporary hold. Efforts to conduct the election will resume in the coming weeks.

OLD BUSINESS

a. AAVSB Topics to Discuss

Prior to the meeting, the Board was supplied with the AAVSB's topics of discussion. Dr. Fuller stated some of the language suggested by the AAVSB concerning opioids overlaps with current state laws. Dr. Macaulay stated it may be of interested to have a committee outside of the Board to be formed to review the current statutes and the recommendations from AAVSB to see if any updates need to be made. As the Board is unable to make these changes, Dr. Macaulay suggested the SCAV be notified and spearhead the effort.

b. Proposed FAQ of Pill Splitting –

Mr. Stuart presented the proposed FAQ from the previous meeting. Mr. Stuart reviewed the FAQ with the administrator for the Pharmacy Board, Traci Collier, and she has stipulated it does not pose any legal prohibitions to splitting prescription medications. Ms. Collier warned that the practice of pill splitting may cause labeling issues and is not encouraged unless the pills are scored.

Motion: To approve the FAQ on Pill Splitting
Macaulay/Liger/approved.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Approval of Telemedicine Allowance during SC State of Emergency

Mr. Stuart presented the Telemedicine Allowance notification for official Board approval.

Motion: To approve the Telemedicine Allowance notice.
Macaulay/George/approved.

b. Review of Regulation 120-6: Continuing Education

Dr. Tapp shared that the Board has been asked to review its continuing education (CE) policy in light of course closures due to COVID-19. Dr. Macaulay advocated for the 100% online CE allowance for this renewal period. The Board discussed the parameter of online CE, determining the CE must still adhere to the CE requirements and be RACE approved. The Board requested links be included on the Board website to assist licensees in being able to identify RACE approved CEs.

Motion: To approve, for this renewal period of April 1, 2019 to May 31, 2021, the enforcement of SC Regulations 120-6 with the exception of 120-6(A)(3)(B), amending it to allow for the remaining thirty (30) hours to be attained through RACE approved distance learning courses.
Liger/Fuller/approved.

Motion: Previous motion amended to apply online CE allowance to both Veterinarian and Veterinarian Tech licensure.
Liger/George/approved.

c. Veterinary Facility Registration Information Sheet

Ms. Buttler presented a revised Veterinary Facility Registration sheet for Board approval. The form will be utilized for all veterinary facilities in the state and assist to provide better reporting and facility inspection record.

Motion: To approve the Veterinary Facility Registration for immediate implementation.

Love/George/approved.

d. Proposed FAQ regarding Cannabis

Ms. Buttler presented for Board review a proposed FAQ regarding cannabis usage in veterinary practice. Ms. Taylor answered questions regarding FDA's regulation of dietary supplements in relation to humans versus animals.

Motion: To approve the FAQ on Cannabis
Macaulay/Fuller/approved.

e. Discussion of SC Association of Veterinary Technicians presentation

A summary of the SCAVT's presentation was discussed by the Board. Many of the issues was found to need statutory changes which lies outside the Board's ability to address. Dr. Fuller suggested bringing in members of SCAVT to the committee reviewing the Board's statutes. Mr. Liger addressed the issue of licensed veterinarian's responsibility to be mindful of the supervision of staffing according to the Board's statutes and regulations. The Board requested an eblast be sent to licensees reminding them of this. Dr. Tapp, Mr. Liger and Mr. Stuart will review the communication drafted by Board staff prior to dissemination.

f. Clarification: Continuing Education and Residency Programs

Ms. Buttler requested clarification from the Board regarding residency to be counted towards continuing education hours. The Board stipulated that the residency is not RACE approved and therefore could not be counted towards a licensee's continuing education requirement.

g. Clarification: Clinical Practice for New Graduate Veterinary License Applications

Ms. Buttler requested clarification from the Board regarding how to count the sixty (60) day requirement and internships as part of the college program. The Board specified the sixty (60) days is days of clinical practice without stipulation on full-time versus part-time employment. During the sixty (60) days, licensees must be under direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian as specified in S.C. Code of Law 40-69-240. Internships must be completed post-graduation to be counted towards licensure. Externships and clinical working within the degree program will not be approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments at this time.

Announcements

The next South Carolina Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners will be held August 13, 2020.

Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn.
Liger/MaCaulay/approved.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.