

**South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation  
Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners  
Teleconference Board Meeting Minutes  
February 25, 2021**

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  
W. Marshall Liger, LVT  
Rebecca Shealy

**SCLLR STAFF PRESENT:**

Hardwick Stuart, Office of Advice Counsel  
Meredith Buttler, Administrator  
Wendy Taylor, Program Coordinator  
Robert Elam, Office of Disciplinary Counsel  
Rowland Alston, Office of Disciplinary Counsel  
Sonya Morse, Office of Disciplinary Counsel  
Tracey Solet, Office of Disciplinary Counsel  
Jessie Rish, Office of Investigations  
Pleas Fagile, Office of Investigations  
Courtney Clark, Office of Disciplinary Counsel  
Donnell Jennings, Office of Disciplinary Counsel  
Adam Russel, Office of Advice Counsel

**PRESENT:**

Tina Behles, Court Reporter  
Kirk Dixon, DVM  
Margo Maloney, DVM  
Eddie Molesworth, DVM  
Brent Goodson, DVM  
Warren Timmerman  
Kenneth Fox, DVM  
Gillian Dwyer  
Shayla Hayes

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Tapp called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion:** To approve the agenda.  
Fuller/Shealy/approved

## **INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS**

The Board and LLR staff members introduced themselves.

## **APPROVAL OF ABSENT BOARD MEMBER**

**Motion:** To excuse Mitch Lowery and Gretchen Love-Bolin.  
George/MacCaulay/approved

## **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

**Motion:** To approve the minutes from the November 5, 2020 Board Meeting with the inclusion of Ms. Rebecca Shealy as an attending Board member.  
Liger/George/approved.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### OIE Statistical Report

On behalf of Mark Sanders, Pleas Fagile presented the Statistical Report for the fourth quarter of 2020. During the fourth quarter, the Board has received 27 cases and closed 24 case. For 2020, a total of 100 cases have been received and 77 have been closed for the year.

### IRC Report

On behalf of Mark Sanders, Pleas Fagile presented the IRC Report. The Committee recommended 12 cases for Dismissal, 1 case for Dismissal with a Cease and Desist, 3 cases for Formal Complaint, and 7 cases for Letter of Caution.

**Motion:** To approve the cases for Dismissal.  
Macaulay/Fuller/approved.

**Motion:** To approve the case for Dismissal with Cease and Desist.  
George/Fuller/approved.

**Motion:** To approve the cases for Formal Complaint.  
Fuller/Macaulay/approved.

**Motion:** To approve the cases for Letter of Caution.  
Liger/Macaulay/approved.

### ODC Report

Mr. Elam reported that there are currently 28 open cases of which 16 are pending action, 10 are pending CA/MOAs, 1 is pending hearing and 1 is pending Board action. To date, 0 case has been closed.

## **DISCIPLINARY HEARING**

### a. 2019-9

Disciplinary case 2019-9 respondent appeared before the Board for a disciplinary hearing. All persons testifying were sworn in by the court reporter. All hearings are recorded by a certified court reporter in the event a verbatim transcript is necessary.

**Motion:** To enter into executive session for legal advice.  
Liger/Macaulay/approved.

**Motion:** To return to public session.  
Macaulay/Liger/approved.

Dr. Tapp stated no votes were taken during executive session.

**Motion:** By testimony of the expert witness and the Board members industry expertise, the respondent has been found in violation of not having met the standard of care. Standard of care was not met by allowing two pets to share a table during procedures allowing risk of disease transfer, inadequate monitoring of both patients and lack of intubation during dental procedure which increases the anesthetic risk of aspiration of fluid. The Board dismisses the violation of radiographs not being done in conjunction with a dental procedure. The Board recommends a public reprimand to include a \$500 per violation, total of \$1,000 due within six (6) months of the Board order, and eight (8) hours of continuing education on dentistry due within six (6) month of the Board order.  
George/Fuller/approved

#### **APPLICANT APPEARANCE**

a. Eddie Molesworth, DVM

Dr. Molesworth appeared before the Board for an Application Hearing. He 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 enter into executive session for legal advice.  
Liger/Fuller/approved.

**Motion:** To return to public session.  
Fuller/George/approved.

Dr. Tapp stated no votes were taken during executive session.

**Motion:** To approve Dr. Molesworth's application.  
Fuller/George/approved.

b. Margo Maloney, DVM

Dr. Maloney appeared before the Board for a closed 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 enter into executive session for legal advice.  
Fuller/George/approved.

**Motion:** To return to public session.  
George/Liger/approved.

Dr. Tapp stated no votes were taken during executive session.

**Motion:** To approve Dr. Maloney's application.  
Liger/George/approved.

c. Kenneth Fox

Dr. Fox appeared before the Board for an Application Hearing. He 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 enter into executive session for legal advice.  
George/Liger/approved.

**Motion:** To return to public session.  
Liger/George/approved.

Dr. Tapp stated no votes were taken during executive session.

**Motion:** To approve Dr. Fox's application.  
Liger/Fuller/approved.

## **ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

The Board currently has 1,089 active and 1,199 active in renewal Veterinary licenses, 9 active Intern Veterinary licenses, 264 active and 431 active in renewal Veterinary Technician licenses. Ms. Buttler reported the current account balance as of December 31, 2020 is -\$168,408.31.

Ms. Buttler reported renewals opened at the beginning of January 2021. Current licenses expiring 03/31/2021 and late renewal period through 04/30/2021. Office staff is reminding licensees that CE Broker is not required for this renewal cycle but they are encouraged to utilize the system. The main phone call the office is getting is in regards to the primary facility. In the database, licensees records are now connected to facility registration forms. The forms will assist the Board in providing an accurate identification of all veterinary facilities in the state for inspection and reporting purposes.

Notification regarding statement of economic interest reports were sent out earlier this month. If members have not received a copy of their travel report for 2020 or they need another copy, please contact the Board office. The travel reimbursement report for 2020 will be significantly lower than previous years. Reminder emails will be sent with the link to the website. The deadline for filing is Noon on March 30, 2021.

Ms. Buttler stated per the November meeting, there were several FAQs that the Board asked staff to investigate further and report on. Staff is continuing to conduct research and will be presenting the revised FAQs and research for Board review at the June meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

a. AAVSB: Topics to Discuss

Dr. Tapp reviewed the contents of the submitted topics for discussion and reminded the Board of the upcoming annual AAVSB meeting in October. If any member is interested, nominations for AAVSB Board are due in June 2021.

b. Review and Approval: Expert Reviewers

Ms. Buttler presented the nominations submitted by the Board to fill the need for expert reviewers.

Mr. Liger requested additional information regarding the nominees and for a second request for expert reviewers be sent to the Board office. Ms. Buttler stated the Board office will coordinate the request and resubmit for Board approval at the next meeting.

c. Discussion: Continuing Education Allowance for 2021-2023 Renewal Cycle

On behalf of Dr. Macaulay, Ms. Buttler presented to the Board the request to review the allowance for CE courses attained online for the upcoming renewal cycle. Dr. Macaulay cited many organizations, including the state association, are continuing to offer only CEs for 2021. Dr. Fuller requested the ability to review the Board's regulations to determine if additional revisions to the online course limitation should be made.

**Motion:** To extend for the renewal period of April 1, 2021 to May 31, 2023, the allowance of all required CE for licensure renewal to be obtained via RACE approved distance learning courses.

Fuller/Wessinger/approved.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Mr. Stuart thanked Dr. Tapp for her hard work as Board Chair through 2020. Dr. Tapp stated she was honored to have served the Board as Chair and would not be seeking continuation of the position.

Ms. Buttler opened the floor for nominations of Board Chair.

**Motion:** To nominate Dr. Wessinger to Board Chair.

Tapp/Fuller

Ms. Buttler requested any additional nominations. No further nominations were submitted and Dr. Wessinger confirmed his acceptance of the nomination. Following a vote by the board members, Dr. Wessinger was approved as Board Chair for 2021.

Dr. Wessinger opened the floor for nominations of Board Vice-Chair.

**Motion:** To nominate Dr. Lowery to remain Board Vice-Chair.

Liger/Wessinger

Dr. Wessinger requested any additional nominations. No further nominations were submitted. Following a vote by the board members, Dr. Lowery was approved as Board Vice-Chair for 2021. Dr. Lowery was not present to accept the nomination and Board staff will contact to confirm his acceptance of the position.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments

### **Announcements**

The next South Carolina Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners will be held June 3, 2021.

### **Adjournment**

**MOTION:** To adjourn.

Liger/George/approved.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.