

**SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

December 2, 2021
110 Centerview, Kingstree Building Room 105
Columbia, South Carolina

Public Notice of this meeting was properly posted at the Veterinary Board Office, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, and provided to all requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with the South Carolina Freedom Act, Section 30-4-80. Members of the public who wish to attend may do so by live stream. Contact the Board office at contact.vetboard@llr.sc.gov for live stream access information.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Karl Wessinger, DVM – Chair
Elizabeth Fuller, DVM – Vice Chair
Tracie Quick, DVM
LaDon Wallis, DVM
George Bryant, DVM
Christine White, DVM
Mitch Lowrey, DVM
Bethany Tapp, DVM
Marshall Liger, LVT
Deloris Mungo

SCLLR STAFF PRESENT:

Hardwick Stuart, Esq., Office Advice Counsel
Meredith Buttler, Administrator
Jacquelyn White, Program Coordinator
Ervin Bonds, Office of Investigations and Enforcement
Robert Elam, Esq., Office of Disciplinary Counsel
Erin Baldwin, Esq., Office of Disciplinary Counsel

PRESENT:

Robin Reibold, Court Reporter	Paula Watkins
Elizabeth Wilson, DVM	William Brock Saul, DVM
Britt Wilson	Alex S. Imgrund, Esq.
Carolyn Wilson	Jessica Lindler, RPP
Carolyn Miles	Tia Cooper, RPP
Darrin Hill	Robyn Madden, RPP
David Morrison	Gerald Matthews, DVM
Rebecca K. Laster, DVM	Michael Neault, DVM
Josh Golson, Esq.	Pat Hill, DVM
Jenny E Clark, Esq., DVM	

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 9:03 am by Karl Wessinger, Chairman

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion: To approve the agenda.
Liger/Fuller/Approved.

INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS AND OTHERS

The Board and LLR staff members introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF EXCUSED ABSENCES:

No board absences

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion: To approve the minutes from September 2, 2021 Board Meeting.
Bryant/Quick/Approved.

STAFF REPORTS:

Office of Investigations and Enforcement Statistical Report

On behalf of Mark Sanders, Ervin Bonds presented the Statistical Report for period of January 1, 2021 to October 31, 2021. The Board has received 97 complaints. Currently there are 37 active cases and 15 have been closed.

Investigative Review Committee Report

On behalf of Mark Sanders, Ervin Bonds presented the IRC Report which met on November 3, 2021. The Committee recommended 10 cases for Dismissal, 2 cases for Dismissal with a Cease and Desist, 4 cases for Formal Complaint, and 5 cases for Letter of Caution., It was reported that 3 cases were closed due to relinquishment of license.

Motion: To approve the 10 cases for Dismissal.
Liger/Wallis/Approved.

Motion: To approve the 2 cases for Dismissal with a Cease and Desist,
Liger/Fuller/Approved.

Motion: To approve the 4 cases for Formal Complaints.
Bryant/White/Approved.

Motion: To approve the 5 cases for Letter of Caution.
White/Bryant/Approved.

ODC Report

Mr. Elam reported that there are currently 25 open cases of which 9 are pending action. Since August 18, 2021, 11 cases have been closed since for a total of 23 cases closed since January 1, 2021.

DISCIPLINARY HEARING

a. 2017-37 and 2018-2

Disciplinary case 2017-37 & 2018-2 respondent appeared before the Board for a closed disciplinary hearing and was represented by counsel, Alex Imgrund, Esq. All persons testifying were sworn in by the court reporter.

Motion: To enter into executive session for legal advice.
Quick/Lowrey/Approved.

Motion: To return to closed session.
Tapp/Quick/Lowrey/Approved.

Dr. Wessinger noted for the record that no votes or actions were taken while in executive session.

Motion: To accept the MOA for 2017-37. The Board will impose the following sanctions: respondent shall be issued a public reprimand, a fine of \$1,000 plus the cost of investigations of \$841.63 to be paid within six (6) months of the Board Order, and fifteen (15) hours of continuing education on respiratory disease to be complete within two (2) years in addition to the CE for SC Licensure.

To accept the MOA for 2018-2 with terms and conditions known to the Board and the respondent.
White/Wallis/Approved.

Motion: To return to public session.
Wallis/White/Approved.

b. 2018-41

Disciplinary case 2018-41 respondent appeared before the Board for a disciplinary hearing and was represented by counsel, Josh Golson, Esq. 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.
White/Lowrey/Approved.

Motion: To return to public session.
Bryant/Tapp/Approved.

Dr. Wessinger noted for the record that no votes or actions were taken while in executive session.

Motion: To Dismiss.
Liger/Bryant/Approved.

c. 2018-68

The respondent did not appear before the Board for a Consent Agreement hearing held in closed session.

Motion: To Approve Consent Agreement.
White/Lowrey/Approved.

Motion: To return to open session.
Bryant/Wallis/Approved.

APPLICATION HEARINGS

a. Donna Anderson-Cole

Dr. Anderson-Cole did not appear before the Board for an Application Hearing.

Motion: To decline application.
White/Liger
Tapp opposed
Approved.

b. Gerald Matthews

Dr. Matthews 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/Lowrey/Approved.

Motion: To return to public session.
Bryant/White/Approved.

Dr. Wessinger noted for the record that no votes or actions were taken while in executive session.

Motion: To accept application.
White/Fuller/Approved.

Dr. Fuller was excused from the meeting at 3:13 pm.

c. Elizabeth Wilson

Dr. Wilson appeared before the Board for a closed Application Hearing. She was not represented by counsel and was sworn in by the court reporter.

Motion: To enter into executive session for legal advice.

White/Liger/Approved.

Motion: To return to closed session.
White/Lowrey/Approved.

Dr. Wessinger noted for the record that no votes or actions were taken while in executive session.

Motion: To approve the application with terms and conditions known to the Board and applicant.
Quick/Tapp/Approved.

Motion: To return to open session.
White/Lowrey/ Approved.

REPORTS

a. 2021 AAVSB Annual Meeting Report

Dr. Quick provided a report on the 2021 AAVSB Annual Meeting that she and Ms. Buttler attended on September 30, 2021 to October 2, 2021 in Denver, Colorado. Educational session topics included presentations on making virtual meetings effective, veterinary pharmacy law review of compounding and controlled substances, telehealth progression during COVID-19, complaint processes and impacts on member boards, reevaluating reinstatement requirements and CBD us on companion animals.

b. Administrator's Report

Ms. Buttler reported there are currently 2,308 licensed veterinarians, 701 licensed veterinary technicians, 107 licensed mobile clinic and 603 facility registrations. The Board's current account balance as of October 31, 2021 is \$246,198.45.

The notice of election was sent September 21, 2021 and again on October 13, 2021 for the Congressional District 6 Board seat set to expire on April 6, 2022. The Board office received one nomination, Dr. Coker and it is has been forwarded to the Governor's office for consideration.

The proposed Regulations for 120-1, 120-3 and 120-9 were published in the State register on October 22, 2021. The Board office received letters in response to the publishing. The Board will be meeting tomorrow at 1pm via WebEx to review and discuss. Mr. Stuart will provide the Board with further council of the process during tomorrow's meeting. As published in the state register, should a hearing be requested pursuant to Section 1-23-110(A)(3) of the 1976 Code, as amended, such a hearing will be conducted at the Administrative Law Court at 10:00 a.m., on December 21, 2021.

Ms. Buttler introduced the Board's new Program Coordinator, Ms. Jacquelyn White. Ms. White began with the Board office mid-September. She will be assisting with board

meetings, board member communications, and elections. Ms. White previously served as a Program Coordinator for the SC Department of Social Services in the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. SC State Veterinarians Office
Dr. Michael Neault, DVM from SC State Veterinarians presented the Board with an overview of the State Veterinarians Office responsibilities to the State. The Office of State Veterinarian is housed within the Livestock Poultry Health Division which also include the Clemson Veterinary Diagnostic Center, South Carolina Meat-Poultry Department and Animal Health Programs. Dr. Neault was selected as the State Veterinarian in 2021 following the retirement of Dr. Boyd Parr, DVM.

- d. Approval of RPP Understanding
Motion: To approve RPP Agreement as presented.
White/Liger/Approved.

- b. K9 Prehospital Medicine Update
Due to scheduling conflicts, the presentation has been rescheduled for the March 24, 2022 Board meeting.

- c. Amendment to SC Regulations 120-1
In response to PawMetto Lifeline's request for consideration at the September 2, 2021 Board meeting, Mr. Stuart presented the Board with research regarding the Board's possible ability to allow for VCPR establishment via telehealth. Dr. White raised concerns regarding VCPR establishment via telehealth and shared documentation from other licensing boards regarding the issue. The Board clarified the current statutes and regulations regarding establishment of VCPR does not allow for it to take place via telehealth. No further Board action was taken.

- e. Amendment of SC Regulations 10-42
In response to the removal of the new graduate temporary licensure and the upcoming change to the renewal cycle timeframe, Ms. Buttler requested the Board to approve a Notice of Drafting for SC Regulation 10-42.

Motion: To approve a Notice of Drafting.
Quick/White/Approved.

- f. Travel Approval for AAVSB Board Basics & Beyond, April 1-2, 2022, Kansas City, MO.
Motion: To approve travel request four members and staff. Exception being requested due to high number of new members confirmed in 2021 and diminishing number of seasoned members.
Bryant/White/ Approved.

- g. Travel Approval for Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards, January 27-29, 2022, Fort Worth, TX.

Motion: To approval travel request for Ms. Buttler to attend.
Quick/White/ Approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dr. Pat Hill, Legislative Chair for South Carolina Association of Veterinarians thanked Dr. White for presenting the research to the Board regarding VCPR establishment via telehealth. Dr. Hill reiterated that the FDA stipulated to the American Veterinary Medical Association that VCPR can only be established in person. A position the SCAV also supports and is monitoring very carefully in all licensing states. Ms. Hill advocated that change must only come following thorough research and full understanding of the consequences.

NEXT MEETING

Next Board Meeting will be March 24, 2022 at 9:00 am.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To Adjourn.
Lowrey/Wallis/Approved.

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 4:41 pm.