

**South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
Board Meeting Minutes
December 3, 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. The telephone number and access code are provided on the posted agenda.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Karl Wessinger, DVM - Chair
Elizabeth Fuller, DVM
W. Marshall Liger, LVT
Bethany Tapp, DVM
George S. Bryant, DVM
Christine White, DVM
Tracie Quick, DVM
LaDon Wallis, DVM
Deloris Mungo

SCLLR STAFF PRESENT:

Hardwick Stuart, Office of Advice Counsel
Meredith Buttler, Administrator
Jacquelyn White, Program Coordinator

PRESENT:

Tina Behles, Court Reporter	Marie Queen, SCAV
Melissa Entrekin, LVT	Donald Wood
Joe Elmore	Richard Davis
Denise Wilkinson, PawMetto LifeLine	Adrian Crusier, SCAVT
Heather Williamson	Pat Hill, DVM
Jeff Thordal, Esq.	Zohra Bedat, LVT

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Wessinger called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

The Board and LLR staff members introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF ABSENT BOARD MEMBER

Motion: To approve the absence of Dr. Lowrey.
Liger/Tapp/Approved.

State Register Document No. 5091

Review of need and reasonableness regarding proposed amendments to Regulations 120-1, 120-3, and 120-9 related to the supervision levels for licensed veterinary technicians and unlicensed veterinary aides.

Dr. Wessinger stated following the publication of the proposed amendments to SC Regulation 120-1, 120-3 and 120-9, the Board office received four letters of concern for members of the industry. Dr. Wessinger invited members from the South Carolina Association of Veterinarians (SCAV) to speak to the Board regarding their concerns and submitted letter to the Board. Ms. Queen, SCAV Executive Director, spoke on behalf of the organization. The SCAV expressed concern that the process for promulgating the regulation was not conducted thoroughly enough and did not provide the licensed veterinarians in the state time to review and comment. Ms. Queen stated that while concern has been raised as to a shortage of veterinarians in the state, the data did not support these concerns. Following SCAV's comments, Ms. Mungo voiced concern regarding the lack of accessible veterinary care that she and members of her family have encountered. Ms. Melissa Entrekin from the South Carolina Association of Veterinary Technicians was invited to address the Board regarding the association concerns. Ms. Entrekin stated that the proposed amendments did not offer title protection for licensed veterinary technicians and called for a greater representation of veterinary technicians to be on the committee. Mr. Joe Elmore from the Charleston Animal Society next addressed the Board and advocated action to be taken by the Board due to an access to care crisis within the State. Mr. Elmore supported the Board's amended regulations and encouraged further assistance to address the problem by considering the allowance of telehealth establishment of VCPR. CEO of Pawmetto Lifeline, Denise Wilkinson advocated for amendments to the regulations which would allow shelters to leverage licensed veterinary technicians skills and education to assist with providing increased access to care.

Following Ms. Wilkinson's comments, Board member and a member of the committee responsible for the promulgation of the amended regulations, Dr. Quick addressed the Board and concerned members. Dr. Quick stated while there may be information stating there is not a veterinary shortage in the state, she confirmed that on a national level there is a shortage of emergency veterinarians. At present there are four licensed veterinarians for every one licensed veterinary technicians and it should be the other way around. Dr. Quick stated that while the regulations were not perfect and satisfactory to all parties, it provided a step in the direction to encourage more licensed veterinary technicians and expanding their duties to which they qualified. Dr. Hill with SCAV reiterated the organizations desire for the Board to reconsider the regulations and allow them to be reviewed by more members of the industry prior to submission to the legislature.

Motion: To go into executive session for legal advice.
White/Fuller/Approved.

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

Motion: To withdrawal the proposed amended regulations.
Liger/Tapp
Mungo opposed
Approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn
Mungo/Fuller/Approved.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.