

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

July 19, 2022 at 9:00 am
110 Centerview Drive, Kingstree Building, Room 108
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 of Information Act, Section 30-4-80.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Christine White, DVM, Chairman
George Bryant, DVM, Vice Chairman
Elizabeth Fuller, DVM
Marshall Liger, LVT
Karl Wessinger, DVM
Mitch Lowery, DVM
Bethany Tapp, DVM
Deloris Mungo
Tracie Quick, DVM

SCLLR STAFF PRESENT

Hardwick Stuart, Office of Advice Counsel
Meredith Buttler, Administrator
Jacquelyn White, Program Coordinator
Sonya Morse, Office of Disciplinary Counsel
Kimberly Williams, Office of Disciplinary Counsel

PRESENT

Robin Reibold, Court Reporter
Jeff Thordahl, Esq.
Melissa Entrekin, LVT
Dawn L. Wilkinson, PawMetto Lifeline
Marie Queen, SCAV
Mike Ferguson, DVM
Pat Hill, DVM

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Bryant, Vice Chairperson called the meeting to order at 9:04 am.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS AND ORDERS

Each board member introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF EXCUSED ABSENCES:

Motion: To excuse Dr. LaDon Wallis due to work conflict.

Tapp/Liger/Approved.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Regulation Amendments: 10-42

Motion: To approve the proposed amendment as presented.

Liger/Wessinger/Approved.

- b. Regulation Amendments: 120-1, 120-3, 120-8, and 120-9

Dr. Bryant recognized Mr. Liger, committee chair to present the committees proposal for amendments. Mr. Liger requested Mr. Stuart to provide an overview of the regulation amendment process to assist all in understanding the intent of the meeting and identify the future opportunities the public will have to address the regulation amendment proposal. Mr. Liger stated the committee comprised of nine (9) licensed veterinarians, six (6) licensed veterinary technicians, and an animal shelter representative, met four times in 2022 via WebEx, the last meeting occurring on June 3, 2022. The proposed regulations were addressed and voted upon by section.

The committee proposed the addition of two definitions to Regulations 120-1. The definitions include “emergency animal patient” which is used in statute and regulations but previously undefined. A definition for imaging is proposed to assist in clarity for scope of practice.

Motion: To approve the proposed amendment for 120-1 as presented.

Quick/Fuller/Approved.

Ms. Buttler presented amendments to Regulation 120-3 which was previously approved but withdrawn in December 2021. No additional changes have been made to the original amendments.

Motion: To approve proposed regulation amendments to 120-3 as presented.

Bryant/Fuller/Approved.

Mr. Liger stated that due to the Board not licensing unlicensed aides, Regulations 120-9(B) had been struck as the Board not having legal jurisdiction to define their scope of practice. As it is a matter of supervision by the licensed veterinarian, the committee proposed creation of 120-8(D) to address unlicensed aides working under a licensed veterinarian. In accordance with SC Code of Law 40-69-270(C), a licensed veterinarian may delegate tasks to qualified individuals following verification of training and competency. As such, the proposed regulations require licensed veterinarians to document and maintain records of training and competency for all unlicensed veterinary aides prior to any delegation of duties. In accordance with statutes and

regulations, delegation of duties may not be made until the licensed veterinarian has established a VCPR and the veterinarian remains responsible for the general care of the patient. Concerns were raised regarding parameters for unlicensed aides' scope of practice. Mr. Stuart and Ms. Buttler reminded the Board that due to lack of jurisdiction over unlicensed aides, the Board could not create a scope of practice. Ms. Buttler presented a guideline document that the Board could consider developing should the amendments pass. The guideline document would list delegated duties and indicate under what level of supervision the Board felt was appropriate. As it is not a legislative document, the Board could amend in accordance with practice changes and emerging technologies.

Motion: To amend proposed regulations 120-8(D)(3)(d) to include prohibition of Identification as a veterinary nurse.
Fuller/Quick/Approved.

Motion: To approve proposed regulation amendments to 120-8(D) with the prior Motion amendment included.
Tapp/Quick/Approved.

Mr. Liger presented the committee's recommendations for amendments to the licensed Veterinary technicians scope of practice. Mr. Liger stated the proposal expanded the scope in reflection of the education advances and strengthened title protection for LVTs. The Board reviewed public concerns submitted to the office in regards to two duties being returned to direct supervision. The committee proposed moving "induction, maintenance and recovery of anesthesia" and "perform dental procedures including, but not limited to, prophylaxis and procedures not altering the shape, structure, or positional location of teeth in the dental arch" from direct to indirect supervision. The committee members present explained this was done in recognition to the licensed veterinary technicians education and could not be performed until a VCPR was established and the licensed veterinarian ordered the procedure done. Further discussion on the topics were provided to ensure representation from rural and equine veterinarians were incorporated into the Boards' decision.

Motion: To move the proposed regulation amendment 120-9(A)(3)(K) from indirect to direct supervision and amending the wording to read "Induction, maintenance, and immediate recovery of anesthesia."
Liger/Fuller/Approved.

Motion: To move the proposed regulation amendment 120-9(A)(3)(I) from indirect supervision to direct supervision.
Liger/Fuller/Approved.

Motion: To amend proposed regulation 120-9(A)(6)(d) to include prohibition of identification as a veterinary nurse.
Liger/Fuller/Approved.

Motion: To approve the proposed regulation amendments to 120-9, with prior motion amendments included, pending feedback from the public.
Bryant/Fuller/Approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Entrekin thanked the Board for the thoughtful discussion regarding the scope of practice for licensed veterinary technicians. Understanding there is a shortage of licensed veterinarian technicians, she requested that the Board prohibit unlicensed veterinary aides from performing from arterial catheterizations and central venous catheterizations. Due to advanced education, Ms. Entrekin believes that these duties should be reserved only for licensed veterinary technicians. Ms. Entrekin also requested for any future committees that only licensees be allowed to participate and the committee not include lay persons in the industry.

Dr. Ferguson, President of SCAV expressed concerns over the proposed regulations as research does not indicate there is a shortage in veterinarians. Dr. Ferguson highlighted several duties under indirect supervision for licensed veterinary technicians that the Association was concerned with. The Board reminded Dr. Ferguson that a licensed veterinary technician is not allowed to perform any of the duties listed until the licensed veterinarian has established a VCPR and provides directives for performance of the duty. Absent of an established VCPR and order by the licensed veterinarian, should the licensed veterinary technician engage in the procedures and duties, they would be in violation of the regulations and subject to Board discipline.

Dr. Hill thanked the committee and Board for the work they had done. She stated the proposed regulation were a positive step towards protecting the public.

Motion: To amend the agenda to go back to proposed regulations.
Liger/Tapp/Approved.

The Board considered the inclusion of “direct” supervision being added to proposed regulation 120-8(D)(1). As it would be in competition with SC Code of Law 40-69-270 (C). The Board considered inclusion of “under the appropriate degree” of supervision.

Motion: To amend proposed regulation 120-8(D)(1) to read “Any unlicensed veterinary aide must at all times be under the appropriate degree of supervision of a South Carolina licensed veterinarian whenever providing patient care in this state.”
Liger/Fuller/Approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To adjourn.
Liger/Wessinger/Approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am.