

SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS

Board Meeting Minutes

September 8, 2022 at 9:00 A.M.

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 MEMBER PRESENT:

Christine White, DVM, Chairperson
George Bryant, DVM, Vice Chairperson
Karl Wessinger, DVM
LaDon Wallis, DVM
Tracie Quick, DVM
Bethany Tapp, DVM
Marshall Liger, LVT

SCLLR STAFF PRESENT:

Hardwick Stuart, Esq., Office of Advice Counsel
Robert Elam, Esq., Office of Disciplinary Counsel
Meredith Buttler, Administrator
Jacquelyn White, Program Coordinator
Mark Sanders, Office of Investigations and Enforcement
Tracy Adams, Office of Investigations and Enforcement
Dylan Gaul, Office of Investigations and Enforcement
Jessica Rish, Office of Investigations and Enforcement

PRESENT:

Robin Reibold, Court Reporter
Johnnie Copeland, DVM
Kevin Knight, DVM
Mary Logan, DVM
Meghan Komorek, DVM
Hannah Stetson, Attorney
James Baxter, DVM, Hampton Park Veterinary

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. White, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

To amend the agenda to move 10c before the Administrator’s Report due to Mr. Liger needing to leave early.

Motion: To approve the agenda as amended.
Bryant/Liger/Approved.

BOARD MISSION AND MEMBER STATISTICS:

Dr. White presented the mission of the board and provided information regard filled, expired and vacant Board seats.

INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS AND OTHERS:

Each Board member introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF EXCUSED ABSENCES:

Motion: To excuse Mitch Lowery, DVM, Elizabeth Fuller, DVM and Deloris Mungo, Public member.
Bryant/Wallis/Approved.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Motion: To approve June 16, 2022 Board Meeting minutes.
Wessinger/Quick/Approved.

Motion: To approve July 19, 2022 Special Call Meeting minutes.
Bryant/Wessinger/Approved.

STAFF REPORTS:

Office of Investigations and Enforcement (OIE) Statistical Report:

Mr. Sanders reported for the period from March 5, 2022 to August 26, 2022, there have been 41 active investigations, 42 closed cases and 58 complaints received.

Office of Investigations and Enforcement (OIE) IRC Report:

Mr. Sanders reported the IRC met and recommended 13 cases for dismissals, 2 cases for cease and desist, 6 formal complaints and 8 letters of caution.

Motion: To accept the 13 cases for dismissals.
Bryant/Wessinger/Approved

Motion: To accept 2 cases for cease and desist.
Bryant/Wallis/Approved.

Motion: To accept 6 cases for formal complaints.
Bryant/Wessinger/Approved.

Motion: To accept 8 cases for letter of caution.
Bryant/Liger/Approved.

Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) Report:

Mr. Elam, Esq. reported as of August 29, 2022, there are 30 open cases of which are 9 pending hearings and agreements, 0 pending closure, 0 appeals, 4 closed since last report on June 2, 2022 and 13 closed since January 1, 2022.

APPLICANT HEARINGS:

a. Johnnie Copeland, DVM

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

Motion: To enter an executive session for legal advice. Ms. Buttler was asked to stay.
Wallis/Quick/Approved.

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

Motion: To approve application.
Liger/Wessinger/Approved.

b. Mary Logan, DVM

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

Motion: To enter an executive session for legal advice. Ms. Buttler was asked to stay.
Liger/Wessinger/Approved.

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

Motion: To approve application.
Quick/Wessinger/Approved.

DISCIPLINARY HEARING:

a. 2020-15 Consent Agreement

The consent agreement was presented to the Board and the respondent did not appear before the Board. Disciplinary hearings are recorded by a certified court reporter in the event a verbatim transcript is necessary.

Motion: To enter an executive session for legal advice.
Tapp/Bryant/Approved.

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

Motion: To reject the consent agreement and dismiss the case.
Bryant/Tapp/Approved.

b. 2020-36 Consent Agreement

The consent agreement was presented to the Board and the respondent did not appear before the Board. Disciplinary hearings are recorded by a certified court reporter in the event a verbatim transcript is necessary.

Motion: To enter an executive session for legal advice.
Bryant/Wallis/Approved.

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

Motion: To reject the consent agreement.
Bryant/Quick/Approved.

APPLICANT HEARINGS

b. Kevin Knight, DVM

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

Motion: To enter an executive session for legal advice. Ms. Buttler was asked to stay.
Liger/Bryant/Approved.

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

Motion: To approve application.
Wallis/Bryant/Approved.

DISCIPLINARY HEARING

c. 2019-35 Stipulation of Fact

The stipulation of fact was presented to the Board and the respondent did not appear before the Board. Disciplinary hearings are recorded by a certified court reporter in the event a verbatim transcript is necessary.

Motion: To enter an executive session for legal advice.
Bryant/Wessinger/Approved.

Motion: To return to public session.
Quick/Wessinger/Approved.

Motion: To issue a Letter of Caution due to no violation being found.
Bryant/Quick/Approved.

d. 2021-25 Stipulation of Fact

The stipulation of fact was presented to the Board. The respondent was represented by counsel and was sworn in. Disciplinary hearings are recorded by a certified court reporter in the event a verbatim transcript is necessary.

Motion: To enter an executive session for legal advice.
Bryant/Wallis/Approved.

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

Motion: To issue a Letter of Caution due to no violation being found.
Bryant/Wessinger/Approved.

e. 2019-16, 2019-30, 2019-34, and 2019-40 Formal Complaint
Disciplinary Hearing is continued until December meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Committee Membership

Committee Membership

Mr. Liger shared that as the chair of the regulatory review committee, one of the biggest challenges was maintaining an understanding of who was on the committee and ensuring it was appropriate balanced. As such, he requested that for future committee meeting, there be a structure or guidelines developed to identify and vet committee members.

Motion: For future committees, the Board elect a Board member to serve as the committee chair and have the Board chairperson and vice chairperson delegated the authority to approve committee members and structure.
Tapp/Bryant/Approved.

REPORTS

Administrator's Report

Ms. Buttler report to date, the Board has 2,506 active veterinary licensees, 782 active veterinary technician licensees, 124 mobile clinics, and 755 facility registration. Since the June 16, 2022 Board meeting, there have been 73 veterinary licenses and 27 veterinary technician licenses issued, 2 veterinary licenses and 0 veterinary technicians reinstated.

The Board's current cash balance as of July 31, 2022 is -\$15,118.50. Due to an increase in complaint cases, shared service expenditures have risen. With renewals occurring in 2023, it is expected that the Board's cash balance will return to the positive.

Presently, renewals are set to open January 2023, with license expiration on March 31, 2023 and late renewal period closing April 30, 2023. As discussed at the November 2020 meeting, following this renewal, the cycle will shift to be in compliance with the statutes running January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2025 and late renewal period January 1 – 31, 2026.

NEW BUSINESS

IRC Parameters

The Board requested additional research and to revisit at the December meeting.

Regulatory Review Report

Mr. Stuart, Esq., reported the Board has to complete a Regulatory Review every five (5) years. The Board asked to review the regulations and discuss at the meeting in December.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

NEXT MEETING

December 1, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To adjourn.

Quick/Tapp/Approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:11 p.m.