

**SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

March 23, 2023 at 9:00 A.M.

110 Centerview Drive, Kingstree Building Room 108

Columbia, SC 29210

Call to Order: 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. Members of the public who wish to attend may do so by video. The video link is posted on the agenda.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Christine White, DVM, Chairperson

George Bryant, DVM, Vice Chairperson

Elizabeth Fuller, DVM

Karl Wessinger, DVM

Tracie Quick, DVM

Bethany Tapp, DVM

Marshall Liger, LVT

Deloris Mungo

**SCLLR STAFF PRESENT:**

Mary League, Esq., Office of Advice Counsel

Robert Elam, Esq., Office of Disciplinary Counsel

Tracy Adams, Administrator

Jacquelyn White, Program Coordinator

Jessica Rish, Office of Investigations and Enforcement

Tracey Solet, Office of Investigations and Enforcement

**PRESENT:**

Robin Reibold, Court Reporter

Michelle Wolf, DVM

Hannah Stetson, Attorney

**CALL TO ORDER:** Dr. White, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion:** To approve the agenda.

Liger/Fuller/Approved.

**BOARD MISSION AND MEMBER STATISTICS:**

Dr. White presented the mission statement for the Board and provided information regarding filled, expired and vacant Board seats. All the board seats are filled, although three of those seats are expired. The veterinary technician, District 7 veterinarian and District 6 veterinarian have expired. Dr. Todd Brown, DVM was confirmed at the Senate on March 23, 2023. Dr. Brown is scheduled to replace Dr. Bethany Tapp from District 6.

**APPROVAL OF EXCUSED ABSENCES**

**Motion:** To excuse LaDon Wallis.  
Bryant/Mungo/Approved.

**Motion:** To not excuse Mitch Lowery.  
Bryant/Fuller/Approved.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

**Motion:** To approve March 23, 2023, Board Meeting minutes.  
Bryant/Liger/Approved.

**STAFF REPORTS**

Office of Investigations and Enforcement (OIE) Statistical Report:

Ms. Rish reported on behalf of Mr. Sanders for the period of November 15, 2022 to March 03, 2023. Active investigations were 31, closed cases were 33, and 20 complaints were received.

Office of Investigations and Enforcement (OIE) IRC Report:

Ms. Rish reported on the IRC report on behalf of Mr. Sanders. The IRC met and recommended 7 cases for dismissals, 8 cases for formal complaints and 3 cases for Letter of Cautions.

**Motion:** To accept the 7 cases for dismissal.  
Bryant/Liger/Approved.

**Motion:** To accept 8 cases for formal complaints.  
Bryant/Quick/Approved.

**Motion:** To accept the 3 cases for Letter of Cautions.  
Bryant/Tapp/Approved.

Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) Report:

Mr. Elam, Esq. reported that as of March 9, 2023, there were 31 open cases, of which 4 are pending hearings and agreements, 0 pending closures and 0 appeals. Since November 17, 2022, 12 cases were closed. Since January 1, 2023, 11 cases were closed. This report was for information only.

**DISCIPLINARY HEARING**

a. 2020-50 – Stipulation of Facts

The Stipulation of Facts were presented to the Board. The respondent was present and was sworn in. The respondent was not represented by counsel. 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/Fuller/Approved.

**Motion:** To return to public session.  
Bryant/Fuller/Approved.

**Motion:** To accept the Stipulation of Facts. Complete 2 hours of continuing education in six months and pay \$200.00 for investigative fees.  
Wessinger/Quick/Approved.

b. 2020-78 – Stipulation of Facts

The Stipulation of Facts were presented to the Board. The respondent was present and represented by counsel. The respondent was sworn in. Ms. Adams was recused from the hearing. 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/Liger/Approved.

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

**Motion:** To dismiss the charges  
Fuller/Bryant/Approved.

c. 2021-39 – Consent Agreement

A Consent Agreement was presented to the Board for consideration. The respondent was not required to appear, was not present and was not represented by counsel. Dr. Fuller requested recusal and was recused from the hearing. 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/Tapp/Approved.

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

**Motion:** To accept the Consent Agreement  
Liger/Bryant/Approved.

## REPORTS

### Administrator's Report:

Ms. Adams reported to date, the Board has 2,584 active veterinary licensees, 3 active veterinary temporary licensees, 847 active veterinary technicians, 133 active licensed mobile clinics and 803 active facility registrations. Since the December 1, 2022 Board meeting, there have been 41 veterinary licenses and 23 veterinary technicians licenses issued, 1 veterinary license and 3 veterinary technicians reinstated.

The Board's current cash balance as of February 28, 2023 is \$242,587.57.

## NEW BUSINESS

a. Hearing Officer/Panel

Mr. Elam, Esq. provided an explanation of responsibilities of a hearing officer or hearing panel and requested approval by the Board, to assist with the disciplinary backlog of cases. The Board felt it was of importance to continue to hear all cases and proposed amending the meeting schedule, by adding an additional day for hearings.

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

**Motion:** To amend the meeting schedule to accommodate hearings as needed.  
Fuller/Bryant/Approved.

**Motion:** To accept the Consent Agreement  
Liger/Bryant/Approved.

b. Telemedicine

Ms. Adams provided the Statute and Regulations for Telemedicine. Notification needs to place on the website, that it is not allowed.

c. Discuss cooperation between State Veterinarian & the Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners

Ms. Adams discussed the meeting with Dr. Neault. They would like to work along with the Board. When the State Veterinary Office has important information to distribute, they would like the assistance of the Board to ensure all veterinarians in SC receive the information. They are offering a tour of their facility and the Emergency facility to the Board.

d. DEA/DHEC License & Continuing Education

Ms. Adams reported if a veterinarian is licensed through DHEC, you are not required to take the 2 continuing education hours for control substance training. You cannot have a DHEC license without a DEA license.

e. Basics & Beyond – AAVSB

Ms. Adams will be attending an Administrators meeting of AAVSB on April 12, 2023. Ms. Adams will then, attend Board, Basics & Beyond on April 13 to April 15, 2023. All accommodations are paid for except \$250.00. There is room for additional 2 people. Ms. Adams will talk with Dr. Todd Brown, if confirmed by the Governor, to see if he would like to go.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

a. Legislative Update

Dr. Quick reported that the regulations were voted on for both the House and Senate. On February 16, 2023, Dr. Quick and Ms. Buttler provided testimony regarding the regulation updates/changes. On March 2, 2023, the regulations were scheduled, but testimony was not required.

## **ELECTIONS**

**Motion:** To nominate Dr. White as Chairperson.  
Bryant/Fuller/Approved.

**Motion:** To nominate Dr. Bryant as Vice Chairperson.  
Liger/Quick/Approved.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments.

## **NEXT MEETING**

August 10, 2023

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:** To adjourn.  
Liger/Fuller/Approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:11 p.m.