

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

September 7, 2023 at 9:00 A.M.
110 Centerview Drive, Kingstree Building – Upstate Conference Room
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, Chairperson
George Bryant, DVM, Vice Chairperson
Elizabeth Fuller, DVM
LaDon Wallis, DVM
Tracie Quick, DVM
Todd Brown, DVM
Marshall Liger, LVT
Deloris Mungo

SCDLLR STAFF PRESENT:

Hardwick Stuart, Esq., Office of Advice Counsel
Robert Elam, Esq., Office of Disciplinary Counsel
Maggie Murdock, Program Director
Tracy Adams, Board Executive
Jacquelyn White, Program Coordinator
Jefferson Long, Office of Investigations and Enforcement
April Howe, Office of Investigations and Enforcement
Renee Dash, Office of Investigations and Enforcement
Ashley East, Office of Investigations and Enforcement
NaTasha Mitchell, Office of Investigations and Enforcement

PRESENT

Robin Reibold, Court Reporter
Tom Proctor, DVM
Patricia Castro Sinclair, LVT

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: To approve the agenda.
Bryant/Quick/Approved.

BOARD MISSION AND MEMBERS STATISTICS:

Dr. White presented the mission statement for the Board and provided information regarding filled, expired and vacant Board seats.

A name has been submitted to the Governor's Office for District 6.

INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS AND OTHERS

Each Board member introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF EXCUSED ABSENCES

Motion: To excuse Karl Wessinger, DVM.
Bryant/Quick/Approved.

Motion: To accept Mitch Lowery's absence as unexcused.
Bryant/Fuller/Approved.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion: To approve the June 15, 2023 Board Meeting minutes.
Bryant/Liger/Approved.

OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT CHANGES

Mr. Jennings, Esq. explained the process of accepting a complaint. The Division of Investigations are making sure Board members are receiving as much information as possible.

Office of Investigations and Enforcement has been reorganized. There are 10 lead investigators. Mr. Ervin Bond is the Lead Investigator for this Board. Mr. Jennings and his team are working diligent to improve Office of Investigations and Enforcement.

STAFF REPORTS

Office of Investigations and Enforcement (OIE) Statistical Report:

Ms. Dash reported on behalf of Mr. Bond for the period of June 2, 2023 to August 29, 2023. There are 49 active investigations, 8 closed cases and 31 complaints received.

Office of Investigations and Enforcement (OIE) IRC Report:

Ms. Dash reported the IRC met and recommended 7 cases for dismissal, 2 cases for formal complaints, and 4 cases for Letter of Cautions.

Motion: To accept the 7 cases for dismissals.
Bryant/Fuller/Approved.

Motion: To accept the 2 cases for formal complaints.
Bryant/Quick/Approved.

Motion: To accept the 4 cases for Letter of Caution.
Brown/Liger/Approved.

Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) Report:

Mr. Elam, Esq. reported as of August 30, 2023 there are 37 open cases of which are 9 pending hearings and agreements, 0 pending closure, 0 appeals, 3 closed since last report of June 15, 2023 and 17 closed since January 1, 2023. The report is for information only.

APPLICATION HEARINGS

a. Tom Proctor, DVM

Mr. Proctor appeared before the Board via WebEx for a waiver hearing. He was not represented by counsel and was sworn in. Waiver 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/Quick/Approved.

Motion: To return to public session.
Brown/Fuller/Approved.

Motion: To accept the application for the license to be placed to inactive status for three years.
Fuller/Bryant/Approved.

b. Patricia Castro Sinclair, LVT

Ms. Sinclair 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 with Tracy Adams.
Bryant/Wallis/Approved.

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

Motion: To deny the application on the grounds that the applicant has not proved that she is a graduate from an AVMA accredited school. According to SC Code 40-69-230(D)(2) states an applicant must be a graduate of an American Veterinary Medical Association accredited school of animal technology.
Bryant/Brown/Approved.

DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS

a. 2021-59 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 necessary.

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

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

Motion: To accept the consent agreement as written.
Fuller/Brown/Approved.

REPORTS

Administrator's Report

Ms. Adams reported to date, the Board has 2,511 active veterinary licensees, 822 active veterinary technician licensees, 143 active licensed mobile clinics, and 820 active facility registrations. Since the June 15, 2023 Board meeting, there have been 70 veterinary licenses and 26 veterinary technician licenses issued, 4 veterinary licenses and 4 veterinary technicians reinstated.

The Board's current cash balance as of July 31, 2023 is \$298,801.05.

The CE Broker report has been received and currently there are 2,944 veterinaries registered, this is including veterinary technicians.

The next renewal time will be moved back to the original date of January.

NEW BUSINESS

Good Cause

Mr. Stuart, Esq. reported there has been a major revamp in the Division of Investigations that has affected all the Boards. When a complaint is received, the complainant's name will be provided to the licensee unless there is a good cause to withhold their name.

Each Board is asked to have a designee with an alternate.

Motion: To designate Dr. White as the designee and Dr. Bryant as the alternate.

Liger/Quick/Approved.

2024 Board Meetings

Ms. Adams presented the 2024 Board meeting dates.

Motion: To accept the 2024 Board Meeting dates as presented.

Bryant/Brown/Approved.

Elections

Ms. Adams reported the elected seats are for six years. You have the ability to remain on the Board if you choose to.

Dr. White and Dr. Wessinger seats are up for re-election.

Licensed Veterinary Technicians – CE Requirements.

Ms. Adams requested clarification in how licensed veterinary technicians are to obtain the 10-hours of required CE's. Regulation 120-6(A)(1)(b) states that a licensed veterinary technician must obtain 10-hours of CE's in a renewal cycle, but does not specify the means by which they are to obtain the hours.

Motion: To clarify the Regulation 120-6(A)(1)(b) allowing a licensed veterinary technician to obtain the 10-hours of CE's by either in-person, online interactive or online pre-recorded.

Fuller/Bryant/Approved.

Ms. Adams will send out an E-Blast.

Vet Aides Skills Form – NAVTA Essential Skills Guideline Review

Ms. Adams reported guidelines will be worked on.

Forms and Website – Updating

Ms. Adams reported our team is in the process of working on forms and the website. We will be looking at the FAQ Section.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

NEXT MEETING

December 7 – 8, 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To adjourn.

Fuller/Brown/Approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:21 p.m.