

SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS
Board Meeting Minutes

December 7-8, 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 MEMBER PRESENT:

Christine White, DVM, Chair
George Bryant, DVM, Vice Chair Todd Brown, DVM
Elizabeth Fuller, DVM
Tracie Quick, DVM
Karl Wessinger, DVM
Marshall Liger, LVT

SCLLR STAFF PRESENT:

Hardwick Stuart, Esq., Office of Advice Counsel
Robert Elam, Esq., Office of Disciplinary Counsel
Maggie Murdock, Program Director
Amy Holleman, Board Executive
Tracy Adams, Board Executive
Norma McAllister, Program Coordinator
Saralyn Printz, Paralegal, Office of Disciplinary Counsel
Ashley East, Office of Investigations and Enforcement
April Howe, Office of Investigations and Enforcement
Renee Dash, Office of Investigations and Enforcement
NaTasha Mitchell, Office of Investigations and Enforcement
Kasey Williams, Office of Investigations and Enforcement
Josh Shannon, IT Services Specialist, DOTS

PRESENT:

Andie Taylor, Court Reporter
J. Taylor Bell, Esquire, The Jeffcoat Firm
S. Ross Shealy, Esquire, Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, P.A.
Dannette Schweers, DVM
Jennifer Bevilacqua, VMD
Lisa Keechner-Strickland, DVM
Ian Trestman, DVM
John M. Patterson, DVM
Elizabeth Patterson
Julie A. Hartman, DVM
James Allman, III
Tracy L. Williams, DVM
Joyce Brown

Kristen Saucey
Beth Valds
Patricia Hill, DVM, South Carolina Association of Veterinarians

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. White, Chair, called the meetings to order on December 7, 2023, at 9:04 a.m. and at 9:02 a.m. on December 8, 2023.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion: To approve the December 7-8, 2023 agenda
Fuller/Quick/Approved

BOARD MISSION AND MEMBER STATISTICS:

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

INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS AND OTHERS:

The Board members introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF EXCUSED ABSENCES:

Motion: To excuse LaDon Wallis, DVM
Fuller/Quick/Approved

Motion: To excuse Ms. Deloris Mungo, Public Member
Brown/Liger/Approved

Motion: To accept Mitch Lowery's absence as unexcused.
Brown/Liger/Approved

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Motion: To approve September 7, 2023 Board Meeting minutes.
Brown/Quick/Approved

BOARD EXECUTIVE REPORT

Ms. Holleman reported as of date there are 2,555 active veterinarians, three (3) temporary licensed veterinarians, 859 licensed veterinary technicians, 144 mobile clinics, and 829 facility registrations. The Board's current cash balance as of October 31, 2023 is \$153,356.64.

Dr. White, Tracy Adams, and Amy Holleman held a meeting with Dr. Steven Marks, Associate Dean and Director of Veterinary Medical Services at North Carolina State University who is the selected founding dean for the College of Veterinary Medicine at Clemson University. Dr. Marks has begun to assemble his team/staff, initially with an administrative assistant and a marketing director. The attendees viewed the current drawings of the facility showing that the new veterinary facility will be conveniently located near the various animal agriculture barns. The campus is planning its first attending class for 2026.

Other discussions included collaboration with the South Carolina Veterinary Medical Examiners' Board in exploring various educational opportunities and licensing information for the students.

STAFF REPORTS:

Office of Investigations and Enforcement (OIE) Statistical Report:

Ms. Ashley East reported for the period from January 1, 2023 to November 20, 2023, there have been 26 active investigations, 79 closed cases, and 106 complaints received.

Office of Investigations and Enforcement (OIE) IRC Report:

Dr. Bryant recused himself. Ms. Ashley East reported the IRC met and recommended 18 cases for dismissals, eight formal complaints, and six letters of caution.

Motion: To accept the 18 cases for dismissals.
Brown/Liger/Approved

Motion: To accept eight (8) cases for formal complaints.
Liger/Fuller/Approved

Motion: To accept six (6) cases for letter of caution.
Brown/Liger/Approved

Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) Report:

Mr. Elam, Esq. reported as of November 27, 2023, there were 38 open cases of which 12 are pending hearings and agreements, zero pending closure, zero appeals, four closed since last report on June 1, 2023 and 18 closed since January 1, 2023.

Dr. Bryant returned to the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments

NEW BUSINESS

IRC Parameters

Ms. Holleman presented the IRC Parameters. The Board discussed and made a motion to approve the IRC parameters.

Motion: To approve IRC Parameters
Bryant/Brown/Approved

Expert Reviewers

The Board discussed the CV (curriculum vitae) submitted for Ashley Lauren Barton, DVM.

Motion: To approved Ashley Lauren Barton, DVM as an Expert Reviewer
Brown/Quick/Approved

Travel Approval Request – Board Executive to Attend American Association of Veterinary State Board (AAVSB) “Board Basics & Beyond” Training – April 12-13, 2024, Kansas City Missouri

Motion: To approve the Board Executive and two Board members
Bryant/Fuller/Approved

APPLICANT HEARINGS:

Application hearings are recorded by a certified court reporter in the event a verbatim transcript is necessary.

Dannette Schweers, DVM

Dr. Schweers, sworn in by the court reporter, appeared before the Board without legal representation for an application hearing.

Executive Session

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

Return to Public Session

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

Dr. White noted for the record, there were no votes taken during Executive Session and called for a disposition in this matter.

Motion: To approve application.
Liger/Wessinger/Approved

The Board recessed for 10 minutes.

Dr. Keechner-Strickland's and Dr. Bevilacqua, both appeared before the Board virtually.

Jennifer Bevilacqua, VMD - CLOSED HEARING

Dr. Bevilacqua, sworn in by the court reporter, appeared before the Board, without legal counsel, for a waiver for onsite continuing education requirements.

Executive Session

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

Return to Public Session

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

Dr. White noted for the record, there were no votes taken during Executive Session and called for a disposition in this matter.

Dr. White informed the applicant that in regards to continuing education requirements the COVID relief was in effect for the 2023-2025 renewal year. Dr. Bevilacqua's license is currently active.

Motion: To return to open session
Fuller/Brown/Approved

Lisa Keechner-Strickland, DVM

Dr. Keechner-Strickland, sworn in by the court reporter, appeared before the Board without legal counsel for a licensure by endorsement application hearing. Dr. Keechner-Strickland waived her rights to legal counsel.

Executive Session

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

Return to Public Session

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

Dr. White noted for the record, there were no votes taken during Executive Session and called for a disposition in this matter.

Motion: To approve application contingent that the Kentucky disciplinary matters are settled.
Bryant/Wessinger/Approved

The Board recessed for ten (10) minutes.

DISCIPLINARY HEARING:

Disciplinary hearings are recorded by a certified court reporter in the event a verbatim transcript is necessary.

- a. 2021-53 – Memorandum of Agreement and Stipulation of Facts – CLOSED HEARING
Robert Elam, Disciplinary Counsel, representing the State presented the Memorandum of Agreement and Stipulation of Facts. J. Taylor Bell, Esq., respondent's attorney and the respondent appeared before the Board.

The Respondent's attorney and the Respondent addressed the Board. The Board questioned the respondent regarding this matter. The State and the Respondent's attorney gave closing statements.

Dr. White called for a motion to go into executive session in order to seek legal advice in this matter.

Executive Session

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

Return to Public Session

Motion: To return to public session.

Wessinger/Quick/Approved

Dr. White noted for the record, there were no votes taken during Executive Session and called for a disposition in this matter.

Motion: To accept the MOA/Public Reprimand/\$1,000.00 fine for each of the six violations. The penalty is stayed as long as the Respondent remains enrolled in and compliant with RPP and the New York Professional Assistance Program. The penalty will be waived upon the Respondent's completion of the New York program.

Bryant/Brown/Approved

The Board recessed for a brief break.

Motion: To return to open session
Fuller/Bryant/Approved

b. 2021-84 – Stipulation of Facts

Robert Elam, Disciplinary Counsel, representing the State presented the Stipulation of Facts. Christina Soucy, Esq., respondent's attorney and the respondent appeared before the Board.

The Respondent's attorney and the Respondent addressed the Board. The State and the Respondent's attorney gave closing statements.

Dr. White called for a motion to go into executive session in order to seek legal advice in this matter.

Executive Session

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

Return to Public Session

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

Dr. White noted for the record, there were no votes taken during Executive Session and called for a disposition in this matter.

Motion: The state has failed to prove violations of 40-69-110(A)(12) and 40-69-110(A)(11); however, the state has proved violation to 40-69-110(A)(1), specifically, regulations 120-10(D)(1). The respondent shall remit the \$100.00 cost of the investigation.
Liger/Wessinger/Approved

The Board recessed for a brief break.

c. 2022-11

Both the State and the Respondent's attorney made opening statements. Mr. Elam, representing the State, then presented the case before the Board. The State presented Tracy Adams, Investigator for the State and Mr. Bart Phillips as witnesses. Ross Shealy, Respondent's attorney, cross-examined both witnesses. The Board questioned the witnesses followed by an additional cross-examining of Ms. Adams by the Respondent's attorney. The State redirected, Ms. Adams.

The Respondent testified on her own behalf. Mr. Elam cross-examined the respondent. The Board questioned the respondent. Both, the respondent's attorney and the State gave closing arguments.

Dr. White called for a motion to go into executive session to seek legal advice.

Executive Session

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

Return to Public Session

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

Dr. White, noted for the record, there were no votes taken during Executive Session and called for a disposition in this matter.

Motion: To dismiss with a Letter of Caution.
Bryant/Brown/Approved with majority. Dr. Fuller opposed

The Board recessed for fifteen (15) minutes.

d. 2021-106

Both the State and the Respondent's attorney made opening statements. Mr. Elam, representing the State, then presented the case before the Board. The State presented Tracy Adams, Investigator for the State and Ms. Joyce Brown as witnesses. Ross Shealy, Respondent's attorney, cross-examined both witnesses. The Respondent testified on her own behalf. Mr. Elam cross-examined the respondent. The Board questioned the witnesses. Both, the respondent's attorney and the State gave closing arguments.

Dr. White called for a motion to go into executive session to seek legal advice.

Mr. Shealy asked that the Board render a discussion on a Directive Verdict and dismiss the case due to lack of due processing. Mr. Elam responded to the Directive Verdict request. Dr. White, called a motion to go into Executive Session to received legal advice.

Executive Session

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

Return to Public Session

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

Dr. White noted for the record, there were no votes taken during Executive Session and called for a disposition in this matter.

Motion: Denied Mr. Shealy's motion and move forward with the hearing.
Liger/Brown/Approved

Dr. White called for a motion that the Board recessed at 6:41 p.m. on December 7, 2023 and will reconvene at 9:00 a.m. on December 8, 2024.

Motion: To recessed and reconvene at 9:00 a.m. on December 8, 2024
Brown/Quick/Approved

The Board reconvened at 9:00 a.m. on December 8, 2023.

Case No: 2021-106

The Respondent testified on her own behalf. Mr. Elam cross-examined the respondent. The Board questioned the witnesses. Both, the respondent's attorney and the State gave closing arguments.

Dr. White called for a motion to go into Executive Session to receive legal advice.

Executive Session

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

Return to Public Session

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

Dr. White noted for the record, there were no votes taken during Executive Session and called for a disposition in this matter.

Motion: To dismiss both allegations 40-69-110(A)(12) and 41-110(1)(F) with a Letter of Caution that the licensee increase their attention to complete medical record-keeping, including surgical notes, discharge instructions and post-operative notes, as well as appropriate and complete client education, as well as modern analgesic and sedation options for pet swine.

Quick/Bryant/Approved

e. **2022-56 Formal Complaint**

Disciplinary Hearing continued until the March 2024 meeting.

NEXT MEETING

March 21-22, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To adjourn on December 7, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.
Quick/Tapp/Approved

Motion: To adjourn on December 8, 2023 at 12:48 p.m.
`Brown/Fuller/Approved