

SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS
Board Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2024 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 E. White, DVM, Chairperson
George S. Bryant, DVM, Vice Chairperson
Todd C. Brown, DVM
James T. Coker, DVM
Elizabeth M. Fuller, DVM
William Marshall Liger, III, LVT
Mark T. Moore, DVM
Tracie Quick, DVM
Ladon S. Wallis, DVM

SCLR STAFF PRESENT:

Hardwick Stuart, Esq., Office of Advice Counsel
Erin Baldwin, Esq., Office of Disciplinary Counsel
Robert Elam, Esq., Office of Disciplinary Counsel
Erica Williams, Esq., Office of Disciplinary Counsel
Shannon Davis, Esq., Office of Disciplinary Counsel
Virginia Wetzel, Office of Communications and Governmental Affairs
Amy Holleman, Board Executive
Tracy Adams, Board Executive
April Howe, Lead Investigator, Office of Investigations and Enforcement
Norma McAllister, Program Coordinator
Saralyn Printz, Paralegal, Office of Disciplinary Counsel
Renee Dash, Investigator, Office of Investigations and Enforcement
Jefferson Long, Investigator, Office of Investigations and Enforcement
NaTasha Mitchell, Investigator, Office of Investigations and Enforcement
Jon Rayle, Investigator, Office of Investigations and Enforcement
Stephen Hoage, Office of Investigations and Enforcement
Billy Chambers, IT Services Specialist, DOTS

PRESENT:

Steven T. Moon, Esquire, Rogers Townsend Law Firm	Perry Jamison, DVM
Harvey M. Watson, III, Esquire, Ballard & Watson	Marie B. Queen
Sharon E. Clare, DVM	Lindsay Smith
Megan Hendrick	Patricia Hill, DVM
Frank A. Hooper, IV, DVM	Robin K. Reibold, Court Reporter
Ginger Macaulay, DVM	Valeria J. Patton, DVM
	Brian Roberts, DVM

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. White, Chairperson called the December 12, 2024 meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion: To approve the December 12, 2024 agenda
Bryant/Brown/Approved

BOARD MISSION AND MEMBER STATISTICS:

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

INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS:

The Board members introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF EXCUSED ABSENCES:

All Board members were in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Motion: To approve September 5, 2024 Board Meeting minutes.
Brown/Moore/Approved

STAFF REPORTS:

Office of Investigations and Enforcement (OIE) Statistical Report:

Ms. Bianca Smith reported for the period from January 1, 2024 to December 2, 2024, 102 complaints were received and 105 closed. Currently there are 29 active investigations.

Dr. Brown recused himself.

Office of Investigations and Enforcement (OIE) IRC Report:

Ms. April Howe reported the IRC met and recommended eleven (11) cases for dismissals, two (2) cases for a formal complaint and five (5) letters of caution.

Motion: To accept the eleven (11) cases for dismissals.
Bryant/Marshall/Approved

Motion: To issue two (2) formal complaints
Bryant/Marshall/Approved

Motion: To accept five (5) cases for letter of caution.
Bryant/Moore/Approved

Dr. Brown returned to the meeting.

Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) Report:

Mr. Elam, reported that as of September 5, 2024, there are twenty-eight (28) open cases; four (4) pending hearings and agreements, zero (0) pending closure, and twenty-five (25) closed since January 1, 2024. Between September 5, 2024 and December 6, 2024, six (6) cases were closed.

Board Executive Report

Ms. Holleman reported as of date there are 2,898 active veterinarians and 974 licensed veterinary technicians. Ms. Holleman provided a staff update. The Board's cash balance as of October 31, 2024 was -\$339,910.75.

Dr. Fuller joined the meeting at 9:12 a.m.

The Chair stated that due to confidential health information this hearing will be closed in compliance with Federal and State laws.

APPLICATION HEARINGS

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

A. Veterinarian

Valerie Jones Patton, DVM – (CLOSED HEARING)

Dr. Patton, 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.
Bryant/Brown/Approved

Return to Public Session

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

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

Motion: To approve
Bryant/Moore/Approved

The Chair returned the meeting to open session, after opening, 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.

Dr. Fuller and Dr. Wallis recused themselves.

A. Stipulations of Facts

Case No.: 2021-80 – Stipulations of Facts Hearing

Mr. Robert Elam, Disciplinary Counsel, representing the State, presented the Stipulations of Facts. Steven T. Moon, Esq., the Respondent's attorney and the respondent appeared before the Board. The Respondent's attorney and the respondent addressed the Board. The State cross-examined the Respondent, and the Board questioned the Respondent

regarding this matter. The State and Respondent's attorney gave closing statements. 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.
Brown/Quick/Approved

Return to Public Session

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

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

Motion: Motion to Dismiss with a letter of caution reminding Respondent to be mindful of the rules and regulations regarding proper verification and documentation of the qualifications of unlicensed veterinary aides.
Quick/Moore/Approved

The Board recessed for 10 minutes.

Dr. Fuller and Dr. Wallis returned to the meeting.

The Chair stated that due to confidential health information this hearing will be closed in compliance with Federal and State laws.

B. Memorandum of Agreement & Stipulation of Facts

Case Nos.: 2022-76, 2022-100, & 2023-31 – (CLOSED HEARING)

Ms. Edwin Baldwin, Disciplinary Counsel, representing the State, presented the Memorandum of Agreement Stipulations of Facts. Harvey M. Watson, III, Esq., the 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 waived closing and the Respondent's attorney gave closing statements. 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.
Brown/Wallis/Approved

Return to Public Session

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

Dr. White, President, 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/SOF that admits the violations, imposed a penalty of a \$250.00 investigative cost and reinstate the license upon payment of the investigative cost.
Bryant/Moore/Approved

The Chair returned the meeting to open session.

C. Consent Agreement

Case No.: 2022-13

Mr. Robert Elam, Disciplinary Counsel, representing the State, presented the Consent Agreement.

Motion: Accept Consent Agreement
Liger/Fuller/Opposed Quick & Bryant/Approved

The Board recessed for ten (10) minutes.

Old Business

Consideration of Expert Reviewer(s)

Motion: To approve Dr. Luis R. Rivas, D.V.M.
Quick/Brown/Approved

SCVMA – Discussion of Document 5356, Proposed Changes to Regulations regarding continuing Education for Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians

Dr. Patricia W. Hill and Ms. Marie B. Queen, of the South Carolina Association of Veterinarians presented before the Board recommending that all animal specialty organizations (including large and food animal organizations) with a seat on the American Veterinary Medical Association House of Delegates be recognized as approved continuing education sources.

In addition, Dr. Hill asked that the regulatory committee reconvene in the future to do a further in-depth review of the current regulations and those proposed.

New Business

Travel Request – AAVSB Executive Directors’ & Registrars’ Summit, March 26-27, 2025, Kansas City, MO

Motion: To approve Executive Director and one Board Member
Fuller/Bryant/Approved

Travel Request – AAVSB Board Basics and Beyond – March 28-29, 2025, Kansas City, MO

Motion: To approve Executive Director and one Board Member
Fuller/Bryant/Approved

VCPR for Apiaries in South Carolina

Dr. Perry Jamison and Dr. Roberts addressed the Board regarding VCPR for apiaries. The question before the Board is its interpretation of “what is the VCPR between the beekeeper (apiarist) and the beehive, and how should records be maintained” in reference to writing prescriptions for beehives according to the current federal directives (FDA Veterinary Food Directory).

The Board stated that the Veterinarian must have a once-a-year onsite visit with the apiaries to establish a VCPR. If consulting as a medical doctor receiving compensation and providing medical advice, the Veterinarian is held liable. There should be no treatment without a VCPR.

Registration and Inspection of Veterinary Facilities – Interpretation of S.C. Code Sections 40-69-300(B), (E) and (G) and Regulation 120-13 – Hardwick Stuart

Mr. Stuart discussed statutes and regulations for shelters, emergency hospitals and clinics with the Board.

The Board suggested that the veterinary facility inspections may need to be reviewed and revised to continue and that facility registration for those not statutorily required to register with the Board may be voluntary; however, the Board did not make a final determination on the matter.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (no votes take)

Dr. Hill addressed the Board.

NEXT MEETING

March 20-21, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To adjourn on December 12, 2024 meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.
Brown/Quick/Approved