



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Olympia, Washington 98504

Veterinary Board of Governors

October 15, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes – Veterinary Technician Apprenticeship Proposal

Aja Senestraro, DVM, Chair, called the meeting of the Washington State Veterinary Board of Governors to order at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, October 15, 2021. The meeting was held via teleconference with all participants attending remotely.

Board Members Present:

Aja Senestraro, DVM, Chair
Kim Morgan, LVT, Vice Chair
Kirk Breuninger, VMD, MPH, DACVPM
Sue Moriyasu, DVM
Becky Knoke, Public Member

Board Members Absent:

Dordor Vang, DVM, MPH

Department of Health (DOH) Staff Present:

Brad Burnham, Executive Director, Health Professions
Lisa Kelley, Assistant Attorney General (AAG)

Department of Health (DOH) Staff Absent:

Loralei Walker, Program Manager

Guests:

Deanna Rocamora, LVT
Linda Merrill, LVT, VTS (SAIM), (C&F CP), WSAVT, NAVTA, CVTS
Gail Golab, PhD, DVM, MANZCVS, DACAW (AVMA)
Stephanie Hughes LVT at mid Columbia pet emergency service in Pasco wa
Teresa Stefan, LVT- WSAVT
Edward Haigh, DVM with WSVMA Board of Directors
Bo Compton, Hospital Administrator, Animal Emergency Care, Bellingham WA
Ryan Frazier, LVT with WSAVT and NAVTA
Ashley Byrne, LVT - President of the WSAVT & NAVTA District 11 Representative

Guests:

Janet Donlin AVMA
Zack Hambleton, DVM
Katie Rawlings Cara Veterinary
Julie Horvath, AVMA CVTEA Accreditation Manager
Betsy Bamberger, DVM, Douglas County Public Utility District
Adrian Hochstadt, AVMA
Dr. Rick DeBowes, President WSVMA
Colin Bonnett, DVM
Adrienne Kruzer, BS, RVT, LVT - South Carolina Association of Veterinary Technicians District Representative
Julie Helligso, Hospital Admin, CVC
Tricia Gorham CVT FVTA, District 4 rep
NAVTA, AVMA CVTEA committee member
Joseph Hauth, NCWDC/SkillSource
Karen Martens Brandt AVMA
Guyanne Harris, LVT Board member of Alabama State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
Laura Lien, CVT, AVMA
Susan Adams, NCDWDC/SkillSource
Melissa P Entrekin, LVT VTS (ECC)
Dr. Cathleen Forester, Director Veterinary Technology Program Coastal Alabama Community College
Kathy Koar, MEd, CVT
Peter Brown DVM, President Cara Veterinary.
Jennifer Asher, DVM, Assistant Professor, Yale University

Guests (cont'd)

Rory Turner Wenatchee Business Owner

Rachel Valentine, RVT, Assistant Director of Education, AVMA

Melissa Entrekin, LVT, VTS (ECC) Veterinary Instructor, Piedmont Technical College

Markiva Contris, LVT, CCRP; Professor Pierce College Veterinary Technology Program;

Candace Joy, CEO WSVMA

Dr. Robert Knapp, AVMA

Gordon Roble, DVM, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Ed Carlson, CVT, VTS (Nutrition), NAVTA 2021 President

Rachel Cole, AVMA

Luminita Sarbu, DVM DACVIM (Oncology) - Veterinary Oncology Center, Renton WA

Lora Lee Williams-Lutskas, LVT, CCRP (Lori)

Jade Velasquez, LVT

Jessica Reed (DVM & Chief of Vet Med at Seattle Humane.)

Miri Ruthford, LVT. Washington state

Stacey Dow, LVT member of WSAVT

Sandy Willis DVM DACVIM, District Director, AVMA Board and past WSVMA president

Jennifer Bennett, DVM, here from WSVMA (board director and secretary)

Kenichiro Yagi, MS, RVT, VTS (ECC), (SAIM) NAVTA Immediate Past President

Erin Spencer, CVT, VTS(ECC) from New Hampshire (past president of NAVTA)

Nora Hickey, DVM licensed and actively practicing in WA State

Lisa Dzyban, DVM, DACVIM

Michelle Campbell, LVT, Instructor Jefferson State Community College Veterinary Technology Program

Greg Hanon WSVMA Legislative advocate

Ty Johnson, DVM

Gwen Anderson, LVT - Washington State University - Office of the Campus Veterinarian

Salvador Hurtado, DVM

Mark Lutschaunig Director of Government Relations AVMA

Dr. Bonnie Synder

Guyanne Harris, LVT Alabama Veterinary Technician Association, ASBVME

Sue Kane, NCESED/Apple STEM Network/Career Connect Washington

Mike Kiefer DVM - WSVMA Treasurer

Lisa Dzyban DVM , DACVIM; Bellingham Tech College Director

Anthony Fernandez (HR @ Seattle Humane)

Ariah Ells, Veterinary Assistant affiliated with the Cascade Veterinary Team

Lisa Estes LVT, RLATG Washington State University - Pullman

Mandy Fults, MS, LVT, VTS- Clinical Practice from Texas

Salvador Hurtado, DVM Pierce College Veterinary Technology Program

Connie Fraser, LVT Washington State University, Veterinary Teaching Hospital

Tracy Blais, CVT, MEd University of Massachusetts Amherst, Chair CVTEA

Elleanor Taylor, LVT (WA)

Call to Order and Introductions – Aja Senestraro, DVM, Chair

Approval of Agenda

Candace Joy requested a change to the order of the agenda during the second half hour. She asked that the proponents speak before his stakeholders in order for the audience to hear updates and responses to the recent feedback submitted in the most recent call for comments.

Aja Senestraro explained that staff and the board leadership thought about and designed the agenda with the intent of having the most productive meeting for the board to gather information it needs to assess the program proposal. The approach to allow the stakeholders to submit all remaining questions and input first and allow the program proponents to respond will avoid back and forth comments that have been unproductive in past meetings. The board had no additional input.

MOTION: Kim Morgan moved to approve the agenda as it stands; Kirk Breuninger, second; motion carries 5:0.

1. Veterinary Technician Apprenticeship Programs

Aja Senestraro opened the meeting by reiterating information shared at the September 13th meeting, which included background on the proposal and why the board has taken its current position of endorsing further development of the program so that it meets national educational standards. She recapped major areas of concern that the board has heard previously, and the board's response and thoughts on those concerns that has led them to supporting continued development.

Dr. Senestraro opened the floor to stakeholders for comments. Several stakeholders spoke about issues with the program proposal related to appropriate oversight and accountability, teachers who are veterinarians and not also credentialed educators, and variety of other concerns that a program of this nature is not able to demonstrate it meets national standards. The outstanding concern is that without going through the AVMA's CVTEA accreditation, the program cannot show that it has all the program components in place to ensure the program produces competent and successful LVTs.

A couple of attendees spoke in support of apprenticeship programs and provided information about oversight, other health professions going this route, and that this is a proven methodology for producing competent workers in some demanding and challenging professions with robust and difficult curriculum. Supporters spoke of increased opportunities in rural areas and for students who could not otherwise afford the education.

Dr. Senestraro turned it over to the program proponents for their responses. They summarized their efforts over the past several years to develop an apprenticeship program for the Cascade Veterinary Clinics. They believe apprenticeships are a proven training and educational model that can be highly successful in the veterinary setting. As a private clinic group, they are not eligible to apply for AVMA accreditation, and don't believe that accreditation is necessary for them to develop a successful program. They feel they have developed a very robust and thorough program that represents an innovative solution to the critical shortage of LVTs in the state. They are open to a cost-effect approach to partner with an accredited institution to make the program work.

The board asked the proponents some clarifying questions and there was discussion about how the LVT apprenticeship program works in Colorado. The program partners with the community college and has AVMA accreditation. The program is still about 6 months out from its revised program documents, so the board is going to put a hold on this agenda item until there is more information for the board to review, discuss and understand. The subcommittee will meet as needed, and once the subcommittee has updates, it will bring this topic to the next available public board meeting.

MOTION – Kirk Breuninger motioned to adjourn the meeting; Kim Morgan, second; motion carries, 5:0.

Meeting adjourned 2:02 p.m.