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Veterinary Board of Governors Regular Meeting Minutes December 5, 2022

Board members present: Kim Morgan, Veterinary Technician, Chair
Dordor Vang, Veterinarian, Vice-chair
Kathryn Haigh, Veterinarian
Aja Senestraro, Veterinarian
Debra Sellon, Veterinarian
Andrea Sanchez-Chambers, Veterinarian
Rebecca Knoke, General Public

Staff members present: Jennifer Santiago, Executive Director
Lisa Kelley Christensen, Assistant Attorney General
Madi Schatz, Administrative Assistant

OPEN SESSION:

9:00 a.m. Open Session

Call to Order, Mission, and Introductions – Kim Morgan, Veterinary Technician, Chair

Dr. Vang called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

1. Approval of Agenda

Dr. Sellon moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and adopted.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2022, business meeting- Dr. Senestraro moved to approve the meeting minutes from September 12th. The motion was seconded and adopted.

October 24, 2022, special meeting- Dr. Sellon moved to approve the meeting minutes for the special meeting on October 24th. The motion was seconded and adopted.

3. Open Forum

Micaela Young, DVM, CPDT-KA, urged the board to consider an exception for establishing a Veterinary-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR) in cases of aggression. Aggression should not have to be proven upon arrival of the veterinarian. Prescribing and dispensing medication prior to the visit would be beneficial.

Dr. Sanchez suggested that the board review the section of [chapter 18.92 Revised Code of Washington](#) (RCW) that is relevant to prescribing medications without a VCPR on an emergency basis.

Zack Hambleton, DVM, owner, Cascade Veterinary Clinics, thanked the board for endorsing the Licensed Veterinary Technician (LVT) Apprenticeship Program. On October 20, 2022, the Washington State Apprenticeship & Training Council (WSATC) formally endorsed the program. Dr. Hambleton looks forward to rule change, allowing registered apprenticeship as a viable pathway for sitting for the Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE).

Candance Joy, chief executive officer, Washington State Veterinary Medical Association (WSVMA), shared that the WSVMA submitted a letter last week regarding animal manipulation, requesting more information from Ms. Kelly Christensen and the board.

Ms. Santiago shared that the board has not reviewed the letter. The board will review the letter during the March 2023 meeting.

Ashley Byrne, LVT, past president, Washington State Association of Veterinary Technicians (WSAVT), shared that the WSAVT is continuing their work on opposing the LVT Apprenticeship Program. The board should consider changing the LVT education to requiring an American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) accredited graduation from an AVMA accreditation program.

4. Affiliated Monitors, Inc. Presentation

Vincent L. DiCianni, Esq. president and founder, Affiliated Monitors, Inc. (AMI), and Denise L. Moran, J.D., director of health monitoring services, AMI, presented information regarding AMI's services. The company provides independent integrity monitoring for healthcare practitioners, related entities, and government contracts.

Dr. Sellon moved that the board approve this an option for consideration. The motion was seconded and adopted.

Reports

5. Kim Morgan, LVT, Chair

Nothing to report.

6. Jennifer Santiago, Executive Director; Lorelei Walker, Program Manager – Department of Health

Credentialing- Ms. Santiago shared the following credentialing statistics.

Active Status Counts:

Veterinary license- 4,229

Veterinary medication clerk registration- 2,101

Veterinary technician license- 2,561

Pending Status Counts:

Veterinary license- 127

Veterinary medication clerk registration- 212

Veterinary technician license- 117

Applications received:

May- 107

June- 181

July- 120

August- 136

September- 104

October- 102

Credentials Expiring by Month:

May- 89
June- 94
July- 93
August- 129
September- 121
October- 104

Overall Application Processing Time Pending Days:

May- 145
June- 82
July- 84
August- 125
September- 116
October- 95

Budget- Ms. Santiago shared the 2021-23 Biennium Budget Status Report for the Period of July 01, 2021, through September 30, 2022.

The expenses are slightly outpacing the revenue received; however, there is a downward trend. The majority of expenses are discipline related.

2023 Legislation- The Office of Health Professions holds an information call on Wednesday mornings to discuss cross profession legislation. Dr. Haigh and Dr. Sanchez volunteered to participate.

Rules Updates:

Authorizing Animal Care and Control Agencies and Nonprofit Humane Societies to Provide Veterinary Services- The department is currently reviewing a CR-102 package and is expected to be filed by mid-January. A hearing is expected to take place during the March 2023 meeting. The auditing process will begin in 2024.

Animal Manipulation/Delegation to Unregistered Assistants- A CR-101 has not been filed but is expected to be filed by March 2023. The board decided to withhold the filing of the CR-101 until the board has reviewed the WSVMA's letter and Ms. Kelly Christensen's recommendations.

Health Equity Continuing Education- The CR-101 is in review at the Secretary's Office and should be filed shortly. Draft rule language will be discussed at the March 2023 meeting.

Terminology for Monitoring Programs- The CR-101 is in review at the Secretary's Office and should be filed shortly. Draft rule language will be discussed at the March 2023 meeting.

Recruitment- Ms. Morgan worked with staff to conduct board interviews. A package with candidates was submitted to the Governor's Office on November 14, 2022.

American Association of Veterinary Boards (AAVSB) Board Basics & Beyond- Training will be held from April 14-15, 2023. Dr. Sellon offered to tentatively attend. Dr. Sanchez offered to attend.

Uniform Disciplinary Act (UDA)- Ms. Santiago presented the Summary [2019-2021 UDA Report](#).

2023 Meeting Dates- Ms. Santiago presented the 2023 meeting dates.

March 06, 2023

June 12, 2023

September 11, 2023

December 04, 2023

7. Lisa Kelley Christensen, Assistant Attorney General

Nothing to report.

Board Business

8. Suicide Prevention Education Program Development

Ms. Santiago shared that module I was completed. A presentation was also completed for module II but has not been recorded on video. The University of Washington's subject matter experts submitted an outline for module III a.

9. Veterinary Telemedicine Rulemaking Scope

9.2 VCPR Policy

Dr. Haigh shared concerns around the issues brought up by the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) and is not in favor of changing the language at this time.

Dr. Sellon shared that most laws require a physical evaluation to be performed at the same standard of face-to-face evaluation for that problem. In most states, the technology also a must provide the same information as a face-to-face exam. Liability insurance needs to be examined further. Audio visual evaluation is limiting. Dr. Sellon fears that the establishment of large telemedicine services will have an unintended impact on the availability of rural veterinarians.

Dr. Sellon shared that the discussion has primary focused on dogs and cats in urban environments, when veterinary medicine is extremely diverse. It is reasonable to consider the national veterinary organization's concerns. The prescribing of drugs and use of extra label drugs adds another layer of complexity to the issue.

Dr. Sanchez shared that she does not think that the board is ready to rescind the current policy due to capacity issues and inability to serve the public in the post Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) world. Dr. Sanchez suggested changing the current guidelines and boundaries, such as allowing a client-patient-relationship to be established by telemedicine one time per year in advance of a physical exam.

Dr. Senestraro shared that she is in favor of reinstating the VCPR policy with the inclusion of guardrails.

Dr. Vang shared that she is in favor of opening up rulemaking for telehealth and telemedicine, as well as establishing a subcommittee.

Dr. Haigh moved that the board formally rescind the Veterinary-Client-Relationship Requirements During the COVID-19 Response ([Policy Number: VBOG 20-02](#)) that was put in place due to COVID. The motion passed 4:1, one abstention.

9.3 WAC 246-933-010 and 246-933-200 Rules

A CR-101 was filed on August 19, 2022 as [WSR 22-17-101](#). Dr. Sanchez, Dr. Sellon, and Dr. Vang volunteered to participate on a VCPR subcommittee prior to the March 2023 business meeting.

10. Veterinary Technician Apprenticeship

Dr. Vang moved to open a CR-101 for limited rulemaking, adding apprenticeship as an additional pathway for LVT licensure. The motion passed 5:0, one abstention.

Ms. Kelley Christensen explained that apprentices are exempt from licensing requirements while performing duties assigned by an instructor under the current statute.

Dr. Sellon shared concerns regarding unlicensed veterinary technicians performing anesthesia and certain procedures under the direction of a supervising veterinarian because the clinic is short staffed.

Dr. Sanchez suggested that the board include a reviewal of apprenticeship requirements on the agenda annually.

11. Correspondence

The board reviewed a response letter from the board to Sarah Heartsong, director, Heartsong Healing Arts, regarding animal cruelty cases.

12. COVID-19 Emergency Topics

Ms. Santiago shared rescinded all remaining COVID-19 emergency proclamations and state of emergency on October 31, 2022. According to the [statewide Face Covering Order](#), face coverings are still required in health care settings

The Continuing Education Requirements During the COVID-19 Response ([Policy Number: VBOG 20.01.01](#)) will revert back to the current rule in February 2023.

Ms. Santiago shared an updated template for Disciplinary Technical Assistance letters.

13. Public Disclosure – List and Label Request

The board reviewed an Application for Approval to Receive Lists from the Washington Physician Health Program.

Dr. Senestraro moved that the board approve this request. The motion was seconded and adopted.

14. Elections for Chairperson and Vice-chairperson for 2023

Dr. Senestraro moved to nominate Dr. Vang as chairperson for 2023. The motion was seconded and adopted.

Dr. Vang moved to nominate Dr. Sanchez as vice-chairperson for 2023. The motion was seconded and adopted.

15. Agenda Development

Ms. Santiago reviewed agenda items for the March 06, 2023, business meeting.

- Finalize rulemaking and training program for the suicide prevention rule making and program development
- Rules hearing for authorizing animal care and control agencies and nonprofit humane societies to provide veterinary services
- Review letter from the WSVMA regarding animal manipulation/delegation to unregistered assistants
- Draft rule language for health equity continuing education
- Draft rule language for terminology for monitoring programs
- [Open Public Meetings Act](#) (OPMA) training
- Presentation from the AAVSB regarding PAVE for Veterinary Technicians
- Veterinary telemedicine rulemaking
- Veterinary technician apprenticeship

Adjournment of Open Session

Dr. Haigh moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:03 p.m. The motion was seconded and adopted.

Submitted by:

Loralei Walker, Program Manager
Veterinary Board of Governors

Approved by:

Dordor Vang, Veterinarian, Chair
Veterinary Board of Governors

on file

SIGNATURE

DATE

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DATE