



**Veterinary Board of Governors  
Regular Meeting Minutes**

**February 24, 2025**

**Location: Department of Health, TC2, Room 167 & 166  
111 Isreal Road SE, Tumwater, WA 98501 and Microsoft Teams**

---

**Board Members Present:**

Andrea Sanchez-Chambers, DVM, Chair  
Debra Clabough Sellon, DVM, Vice-Chair  
Aja Senestraro, DVM  
Dai-E Dordor Vang, DVM, MPH  
Kathryn Haigh, DVM  
Katherine Bibi, DVM  
Maci Paden, DVM  
Kim Morgan, LVT  
Rebecca Knoke, General Member

**Board Members Absent:**

None

**Staff Members Present:**

Amber Freeberg, Executive Director  
Poppy Budrow, Program Manager  
Katie Graue, Administrative Assistant  
Tara Mackemull, Program Support  
Megan Maxey, Policy Analyst  
Prina Patel, AAG  
Lydia Koroma, Staff Attorney  
Kelsey Cato, Regulatory Analyst  
Zachary Patnode, Quality Assurance

**Other Attendees Present:**

Ken Gordon, WSVMA  
Beth Venit  
Ryan Frazier, WSAVT  
Scott Young  
Tammy White Renteria  
Amy Rossi  
Benita Altier

Notice of this meeting was published on the [Veterinarian | Washington State Department of Health](#) profession website and was sent out through the GovDelivery listserv.

**Opening of Public Meeting, Call to Order, Mission, and Board Roll Call – Andrea Sanchez-Chambers, Chair**

Call to Order at 9:03 am

**1. Consent Agenda – Andrea Sanchez-Chambers, Chair**

- 1.1. Approval of February 24, 2025, draft meeting agenda, motion made to approve draft agenda, seconded and approved unanimously.
- 1.2. Approval of December 9, 2024, draft business meeting minutes, motion made to approve draft business meeting minutes, seconded and approved unanimously.
- 1.3. Approval of December 31, 2024, draft special meeting minutes, motion made to approve draft special meeting minutes, seconded and approved unanimously.

**2. Open Forum - Andrea Sanchez-Chambers, Chair**

- 2.1. Mr. Gordon, WSVMA. Shared that the WSVMA board is becoming more diverse, including women, LGBTQ, and lowering the average of board members to match that of Washington State Veterinarians. He also shared that federal laws regarding corporate veterinary practice ownership may be changing.

**3. Reports**

- 3.1. Andrea Sanchez-Chambers, DVM, Chair – Dr. Sanchez-Chambers introduced the newest board member, Dr. Maci Paden. Dr. Paden gave a brief introduction of herself. Welcome to the board Dr. Paden!
- 3.2. Amber Freeberg, Executive Director – Ms. Freeberg relayed a HELMS update about the delay in implementation. She also gave an update on the statewide budget freeze.
- 3.3. Poppy Budrow, Program Manager – Ms. Budrow went over budget updates. The board requested a discipline report. The board was referred to the 2021-23 UDA report, published on the Department of Health Website.
- 3.4. Prina Patel, AAG – Ms. Patel reviewed the “Conducting meetings and Ethics” PowerPoint.
- 3.5. Zachary Patnode, Quality Assurance – Mr. Patnode reviewed credentialing statistics and staffing updates and changes.

**4. Rulemaking – Megan Maxey, Policy Analyst**

- 4.1. Ms. Maxey gave a presentation on and reviewed the “Rules Process” PowerPoint and took questions and heard comments from the board.

**5. Regulatory Enforcement Overview – Lydia Koroma, Supervising Staff Attorney, OILS**

- 5.1. Ms. Koroma gave a presentation on and reviewed the “Regulatory Enforcement Overview” PowerPoint.

**6. Rulemaking Veterinary Telemedicine (VCPR)**

- 6.1. Dr. Sanchez-Chambers opened the floor for public comment. Mr. Gordon, WSVMA, relayed their support for the rulemaking for veterinary telemedicine. He shared they get regular inquiries from the public that a shared VCPR would remedy. Dr. Sanchez-Chamber closed the floor for public comment.
- 6.2. The board discussed options regarding this rulemaking and asked DOH staff questions regarding this rulemaking. Dr. Sanchez-Chambers read a prepared statement.<sup>1</sup>  
Options discussed: Stop rule making, continue rulemaking, approve this rulemaking, or reopen this rule at a later date. After much discussion regarding the VCPR rule and rulemaking process the board took a poll to see if they were comfortable maintaining current language, against current language or abstain from voting.  
The board polled as follows: Yes - 7 / No – 1 / Abstained - 1

<sup>1</sup> Comments for VCPR Subcommittee 2.24.25 attached at end of document.\*

There was a motion to file a 30-day continuance, the motion was seconded and approved as follows 8 in favor and 1 opposed.

There will be a second hearing with the same language, and the board plans on having the hearing at the June 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

#### **7. Rulemaking – Exam and Licensure Requirements and JP Exam Change**

- 7.1. Dr. Sanchez-Chambers opened the floor for public comment. – No public comment was given.
- 7.2. Dr. Senestraro gave the board an update from the subcommittee on rules progress.
- 7.3. The board scheduled a hearing date for the next board meeting on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **8. HB 1724 Section 8 Implementation [1724-S2.PL.pdf \(wa.gov\)](#)**

- 8.1. Dr. Sanchez-Chambers opened the floor for public comment. – Mr. Gordon, WSVMA, shared a concern regarding licensure via on the job training. He opined on the job training is not much different than the currently approved Washington State apprenticeship program.
- 8.2. Document: Excel spreadsheet with recommendations from Exam and Licensure Subcommittee for Veterinary Technicians. – The Board motioned to approve Georgia, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New York and Oklahoma, seconded, and approved unanimously.

#### **9. Rulemaking – Animal Healthcare Tasks**

- 9.1. Dr. Sanchez-Chambers opened the floor for public comment. – No public comment was given.
- 9.2. The Board will review correspondence – there was no new correspondence.
- 9.3. Dr. Bibi and Dr. Sanchez-Chamber gave an update from The Animal Healthcare Tasks Subcommittee.
- 9.4. The Board discussed draft rule language.
- 9.5. The Animal Healthcare Tasks Subcommittee discussed scheduling the next meeting. The next meeting will be at 7 am on April 16, 2025.

#### **10. Animal Manipulation/Chiropractic Task Force Update**

Dr. Sanchez-Chambers opened the floor for public comment. – Mr. Gordon, WSVMA, made the comment that they were opposed to the draft bill that has been circulated. A point of contention is the draft bill does not include veterinary supervision.

- 10.1. Dr. Bibi and Dr. Senestraro gave an update on the animal manipulation/chiropractor subcommittee progress.
- 10.2. The board discussed the task force progress.
- 10.3. Dr. Sanchez-Chambers gave a Legislative Update. No bill on this topic has been introduced into legislature at this time.

#### **11. Fluoroscopic X-ray Rules Advisory Committee**

- 11.1. Dr. Sanchez-Chambers relayed that the current rulemaking will NOT affect Veterinary Medicine per email sent on January 16, 2025.
- 11.2. There was a motion to dissolve the task force, seconded and approved unanimously.

#### **12. New Business to Discuss: Washington State Employee Veterinarians Not Licensed**

- 12.1. Dr. Sellon presented and gave comment regarding RCW 18.92.060(1) Licensing Exemptions, “Commissioned veterinarians ... employed by Washington state...”. The board does have the authority to modify RCW but acknowledges there are practical reasons a Washington State staff veterinary license may have benefits.
- 12.2. The board discussed this topic and will not form a subcommittee or begin rulemaking at this time.

#### **13. Correspondence**

The board received two letters for review. They are below.

- 13.1. Public Records Request – Wellhaven – The Board discussed the Public Records request. There was a motion to deny the public records request from Wellhaven per RCW 42.56.070 section 8, and for DOH



Staff to send a letter explaining why the request was denied. Motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously.

- 13.2. Email from Adam Karp, JD, MS – ‘Is Ear Tipping “Surgery”?’ The Board discussed the ear tipping inquiry. There was a motion to let Mr. Karp know that the board does not have an official stance or opinion at this time and form a subcommittee. Motion seconded and approved unanimously.

The subcommittee will consist of: Ms. Morgan, Dr. Vang, Dr. Paden.

The subcommittee’s first meeting will be at 9:00 am on April 23, 2025.

#### **14. Legislative Update**

Dr. Haigh and Ms. Budrow gave updates on:

- 14.1. 1705 Large Animal Veterinarian Recruitment.
- 14.2. 5236 Greenhouse Gasses
- 14.3. Budget request to increase in-state seats at WSU Veterinary School
- 14.4. 1904 Prohibiting the Declawing of Cats

#### **15. Conferences and Presentations**

The board determined who will attend the following conferences in 2025.

- 15.1. Board Basics & Beyond, Kansas City, MO: March 26/27, 2025.  
Executive directors and registrars summit: March 28/29, 2025.

Attending: Dr. Paden,

There was a motion to send Dr. Paden. Motion seconded and approved unanimously.

- 15.2. PNW Veterinary Conference, Tacoma.  
Disciplinary Presentation.  
Date: September 26, 2025.  
Presenters: Drs. Haigh and Dr. Bibi. Dr. Vang (Tentative).
- 15.3. PNW Veterinary Conference, Tacoma.  
Panel Discussion.  
Date: September 26, 2025  
Panel: Dr. Haigh, Dr. Sanchez, Dr. Bibi. Tentative: Dr. Vang and Ms. Knoke.
- 15.4. AAASB Annual Meeting:  
Dates: September 18-21, 2025, Cincinnati, Ohio.  
Attending: Dr. Paden, Dr. Bibi (Dr. Haigh. Dr. Sellon Tentative)

There was a motion to send Dr. Paden and Dr. Bibi. Motion seconded and approved unanimously.

#### **16. Reminders: Meeting Dates for 2025**

- 16.1. June 2, September 15, December 8, 2025

#### **17. Agenda Development**

The board will review and identify agenda items for the June 2, 2025, business meeting.

- 17.1. Subcommittee: Animal Health care tasks
- 17.2. Hearing: Veterinary Telemedicine (VCPR)
- 17.3. Hearing: Exam and Licensure Requirements and JP Exam Change

#### **Open Session Meeting Adjournment at 2:14 pm.**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded and approved unanimously.



**Executive Session**

The term “executive session” is commonly understood to mean that part of a regular or special meeting of the governing body that is closed to the public. A governing body may hold an executive session only for specified purposes, which are identified in RCW 42.30.110(1)(a-p), and only during a regular or special meeting.

**Submitted by:**  
Poppy Budrow, Program Manager  
Veterinary Board of Governors

**Approved by:**  
Andrea Sanchez-Chambers, Chair  
Veterinary Board of Governors

On file \_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

On file \_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE



I was very surprised and disappointed to hear members of the board saying that proposed language in the CR 102, which had already been filed, would not “do anything to increase access to care” and that some board members did not understand what we are trying to do with the new proposed wording.

To answer those concerns, I ask that, regardless of how we move forward, we please keep certain changes that have already been proposed and, if we decide to allow virtual VCPR, I ask that we add certain safeguards as well. However, above all, I ask that we avoid complexity, bureaucracy and delay. As was said by many, we must not let ideal get in the way of good.

The proposed language which I believe we should keep is the following:

1. A shared VCPR between practitioners at the same premises. Whatever we do, we should keep this change and don't let this change get subverted in any changes moving forward. As a practicing clinician, I can personally attest that thousands of emergency refills of much-needed, life-saving medications could finally be provided this way, especially for clients who are struggling financially, have limited transportation, or whose pets cannot be brought into the hospital.
2. The new definitions which characterize all the modes of technology commonly used in veterinary medicine, as well as the difference between advice, triage, and the actual practice of medicine. There is currently no definition allowing us to distinguish what is and is not acceptable by email, text, phone or video chat, even though we've been using these technologies for decades.

If we allow VCPR to be established by video or telephone, I believe we must add the following:

1. Safeguards which other states, such as California, had in place before establishing VCPR by telemedicine. California, for example, requires re-establishment of VCPR for every new issue or complaint, among other detailed stipulations which the State of Washington does not currently have. One such stipulation, based on a case our board reviewed just a few weeks ago, should state that a veterinarian who does NOT direct a client to the clinic or a hospital when it might be needed is practice below the standard-of-care and may be considered negligence or abuse.
2. Reiteration and express clarification about the very few drugs and drug-formulations that can legally be prescribed via Veterinary Telemedicine, as well as methods of ensuring accountability to those who are using drugs off-label, especially in food-producing species. Unfortunately, this is the issue, in, and of, itself, which greatly restricts the would-be benefits of Telemedicine.

I also want to make clear that many veterinarians, such as I, work for what happens to be the largest corporate practice in the world. And this practice makes no direct revenue from virtual visits. Our practice has approximately 50 locations in the state of WA and every single one of them offers unlimited, no-charge telemedicine visits as part of a generalized package of services, which are utilized by 80% of our clients. Each of these locations has an unlimited number of free payment plans which we can gift at our own discretion to families in need. All this to say, my personal concerns about telemedicine-VCPR have nothing to do with concerns

about revenue, as had been suggested by a Board Member. I personally have at least 2 patients who I can identify off the top of my head whose owners live beneath the poverty level, have extremely limited means of transportation, and whose diabetic pets, after having survived DKA, have begun to thrive almost entirely due to telemedicine. For me as a practitioner, and for hundreds like me, telemedicine has everything to do with ease of providing care, making my job more effective, and, most importantly, preventing animal suffering.

Whatever we do next, please ensure these are the principles we follow. Thank you.