



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
*Olympia, Washington 98504*

**Washington State  
Veterinary Board of Governors  
December 14, 2020 Business Meeting Minutes**

Kirk Breuninger, VMD, MPH, DACVPM, Chair, called the meeting of the Washington State Veterinary Board of Governors to order at 9:03 a.m. on Monday, December 14, 2020. The meeting was held via teleconference with all participants attending remotely.

**Board Members**

Present: Kirk Breuninger, VMD, MPH, DACVPM, Chair  
Aja Senestraro, DVM, Vice Chair  
Sue Moriyasu, DVM  
Elizabeth Davies, DVM  
Kim Morgan, LVT  
Dordor Vang, DVM, MPH

**Department of Health (DOH)**

Staff Present: Brad Burnham, Executive Director  
Lisa Kelley, Assistant Attorney General (AAG)  
Loralei Walker, Program Manager  
Michelle Hartman, Program Support  
Jeff Wise, Policy Analyst  
Sara Kirschenman, Staff Attorney

Guests Present: Candace Joy, Washington State Veterinary Medical Association (WSVMA)  
Ashley Bryne, Washington State Association of Veterinary Technicians (WSAVT)  
Teresa Stefan, Washington State Association of Veterinary Technicians  
Dr. Jess Reed, Seattle Humane Society  
Dr. Kendal Harr  
Susan Adams, SkillSource  
Dr. Ty Johnson, Cascade Veterinary Clinic  
Kristin Bates, Cascade Veterinary Clinic  
Dennis Conger, North Central Educational Service District  
Bob Nicoloff, Chiropractic Quality Assurance Commission  
Brian Miller, Health Care Authority  
Jane Jenkins, Washington State University

9:00 a.m. **Open Session**

**Call to Order and Introductions**

Kirk Breuninger, Chair, convened the meeting and took roll call at 9:03 a.m.

1. **Approval of Agenda**

Brad Burnham requested to amend the agenda, to add discussion on Signature Delegation and Decision Delegation Forms and Request for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Continuing Education (CE) Requirement. Dr. Vang, made a motion to approve the December 14, 2020 agenda as amended. Kim Morgan, LVT, seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2. **Approval of meeting minutes – September 14, 2020**

Dr. Vang made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the September 14, 2020 board meeting. Dr. Senestraro seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Reports**

3. **Kirk Breuninger, VMD MPH DACVPM**

Dr. Breuninger and the board extended their appreciation to Dr. Liz Davies for her contributions, mentoring, and for all she has done for the board over the last 5 years.

There were no subcommittee updates except for those included as agenda items.

4. **Brad Burnham, Executive Director and Lorelei Walker, Program Manager; Office of Health Professions**

Lorelei Walker – Gave the following update to the board:

To be more efficient with program reports, Lorelei included in the meeting packet a summary for each report item, with a request for questions from the board that aren't addressed in the summary. She would like feedback from the board as to whether this new approach is helpful and should be used going forward.

Brad Burnham – Gave the following updates not included in the packet:

The Oregon Veterinary Medical Board reached out and is interested in setting up a meeting with board members to discuss COVID-19 challenges and steps the board has taken in response. Dr. Senestraro will follow up and provide an update at the next board meeting in March.

The potential legislation that would change board composition for this and other boards. Brad will work with Dr. Breuninger and Dr. Senestraro on the proposed changes and will provide an update at the March meeting.

To keep the board apprised of legislative bills that could affect multiple professions, Dr. Breuninger asked for a representative to participate in the weekly legislative conference calls. Dr. Vang & Kim Morgan, LVT agreed to represent the board.

5. **Lisa Kelley, Assistant Attorney General**

Nothing new to report.

**Board Business**

6. **Open Forum**

The board accepted comments from the audience on issues of significance to the profession. There were no comments.

**7. Rulemaking for Substitute Senate Bill (SSB) 5004**

The rulemaking subcommittee for SSB 5004 presented the most recent subcommittee rule draft for the board's consideration and direction. SSB 5004 expands veterinary services that humane societies can provide to income-qualified families.

Dr. Breuninger opened it up for comments from those in attendance.

Dr. Reed from Seattle Humane asked the board to consider allowing a signed affidavit to suffice and documentation the household is low-income. They believe it would help reduce stigma and discomfort in sharing low-income documentation and eliminate barriers for those facing homelessness.

Dr. Senestraro discussed draft language from the subcommittee that they believe finds a middle ground between verified documentation, while enabling service for those who do not have documentation due to their living situation. These clients can sign an attestation of low-income status. Others would need to supply documentation from at least one of the sources listed in the rule draft.

Dr. Senestraro discussed auditing to verify the entities are providing services in compliance with rules. The board finalized language that provides flexibility in how and when the board performs audits. Separate from rulemaking, the board will determine how it will conduct auditing.

**MOTION:** Kim Morgan, LVT motioned to accept the language as submitted and moving bill to CR-102. Dr. Vang second the motion. The motion carried.

**8. Rulemaking and Training Program for Engrossed Substitute House Bill (ESHB) 2411 – Suicide Prevention Training and ESHB 1551 – HIV Education and training**

The board reviewed the draft rule language to add a requirement for veterinarians and veterinary technicians to take a 3-hour suicide prevention training course and to remove the requirement for all credentialed veterinary professionals to take HIV education and training. The board also discussed the suicide prevention training program development to date.

Dr. Breuninger opened it up for comments from those in attendance.

Candace Joy from WSVMA encouraged the board to investigate the option of hiring a professional trained in veterinary suicide prevention to lead development of the training program.

Brad Burnham indicated that he and Jeff Wise are in the process of investigating this option. Currently, the board does not have a designated fiscal analyst. Until the fiscal analyst is hired, Linda Ridgway will fill in. She and Jeff Wise have reviewed details of the bill and budget and believe funds may be available. More information will be forthcoming.

Dr. Breuninger reviewed suggested language drafted by Lorelei Walker. The board decided not to include language that would specify dates training needed to occur. The board will continue drafting language at the March meeting.

**9. Veterinary Technician Apprenticeship Programs**

The board discussed its work with apprenticeship program staff to date. Board members discussed new stakeholder feedback, veterinary technician education standards, and other resources as it considers approval of an apprenticeship program developed by Cascade Veterinary Clinic and SkillSource/North Central Workforce Development Board.

Dr. Breuninger reviewed stakeholder comments regarding the apprenticeship program. He then opened it up for comments from those in attendance.

Susan Adams assured everyone the apprenticeship program team wants work with stakeholders who have concern. She reminded all that the apprenticeship program is still in development and agreed to share the updated documents with the program directors of college programs, WSVMA, and WSAVT.

The board discussed stakeholder concerns and agreed to follow-up at the March meeting to discuss ongoing discussions between Ms. Adams and concerned stakeholders. The board will also review a letter drafted by Ms. Kelley, AAG, for the board to send to the L&I apprenticeship council in support of this proposed apprenticeship program. Ms. Walker and Ms. Kelly will work together to review WAC 246-935-060 to see if this rule already allows an apprenticeship pathway for eligibility to take the national exam. The board agreed to have further discussion before proposing rulemaking.

**10. American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) Presentation**

Mr. Jim Penrod, CAE, AAVSP Executive Director and Dr. DeVento, Board of Directors, provided a presentation about AAVSB and the services it offers to board members. The board and AAVSB discussed highlights from the recent virtual AAVSB annual meeting. The board reviewed the AAVSB call for comments on proposed changes to by-laws.

Dr. Senestraro applied to attend the next Board Basics & Beyond Training, April 23-24, 2021.

**11. Animal Manipulation Task Force**

The board subcommittee members of the Chiropractic Quality Assurance Commission/Veterinary Board of Governors Task Force provided an overview of the first meeting of the task force and asked the board for input.

Dr. Breuninger opened it up for comments from those in attendance:

Robert Nicoloff, Executive Director of the Chiropractic Quality Assurance Commission (CQAC), thanked the members who participated in the first task force meeting. The next meeting will be held in the next couple of months.

The subcommittee gave updates on the first task force meeting. Dr. Moriyasu shared that it was a very informative meeting and she learned a lot. Chiropractors are very passionate about animals and believe they should be allowed to work on animals when properly trained to do so. There was extensive discussion about the term 'Chiropractor' and who can use this term in their professional title. A CQAC policy exists that states Chiropractors may work on animals as long

as they are paid for services. The goals of the Commission are to change law to allow payment for chiropractic services provided to animals.

Mr. Burnham talked about the draft charter developed by the board and CQAC. This charter will be presented to the task force at its next meeting. He reminded the board that Dr. Davies is leaving the board and asked if there would be a replacement for the subcommittee. Dr. Breuninger asked if there was anyone available to take Dr. Davies position on the subcommittee. Dr. Breuninger was nominated and accepted the position.

Ms. Kelley is reviewing regulations on how the term Chiropractor can be used. The CQAC policy needs to be revisited. The task force needs specific advice on what can be done in rules and what require legislative change. She needs to get clarification on some statutorily defined terms that the task force may not be able to modify. Ms. Kelley would like task force members to send her questions that have not yet been evaluated.

## **12. Rabies Administration Guidelines and Supervision Requirements**

The board reviewed the draft rabies guidelines to answer questions frequently asked by veterinarians. Rabies administration previously required indirect supervision, but the board's rules were updated to align with the Washington State Department of Agriculture's rule, which requires direct supervision.

Dr. Breuninger opened it up for comments from those in attendance:

Ms. Kelley investigated whether rabies vaccines can be administered under the indirect supervision (remotely). She stated the answer is 'No'. The board's definition of "indirect supervision" includes the requirement that the supervising veterinarian is on the premises. The board would need to amend the rule to allow remote supervision for the administration of the rabies vaccine. The board may need to revisit the Department of Agriculture's rule and whether it in fact requires the board to adopt the same standard.

Dr. Breuninger asked the board if they want to amend this part of the rule. The board decided to keep the rule as is, as this seems to be an isolated incident, pandemic related, and public is not being hindered.

Loralei Walker, Program Manager and Dr. Senestraro created a FAQ guideline for veterinarian. Loralei Walker will place the information on the Veterinary website as well as send it out via the interested parties e-mail list.

## **13. Five-year Formal Review of Rules as required by SSB 5679 (2013)**

The board reviewed suggestions for future changes to 246-933 and determined plans for review of 246-934, 246-935, and 246-937.

Kim Morgan, LVT, recommended the following:

WAC 246-935-010:

I would not recommend adding - "indirect supervision" include a line stating that supervising veterinarian is available for consultation if needed. This would this be too restrictive. A definition of supervisor is needed, as this term is used throughout this section.

WAC 246-935-050:

This entire section needs to be reworked so it is clear and easily interpreted. Believe that is what the technician subcommittee is going to do on animal health care acts.

WAC 246-935-410:

Number these as mentioned

Dr. Breuninger suggested these be added to the 2021 Strategic Planning for further discussion.

**14. New Member Onboarding Guidelines and Recruitment Challenges**

The board discussed a revised version of onboarding guidelines from Dr. Senestraro and Dr. Vang. The board also strategized on recruitment efforts for a large animal practitioner.

To do additional outreach in recruiting a large animal practitioner, Dr. Senestraro and Dr. Vang will write a brief description about what it takes and means to be a board member. They will work with Candace Joy, (WSVMA), and Ms. Walker to get the announcement put into the newsletter with WSVMA. Ms. Walker will also reach out to WSU Veterinarian School to see if they can send out recruitment notices for the position.

**15. Issues Related to COVID-19 Outbreak**

The board discussed its work on COVID-19 and discussed the option of extending the policy that allows unlimited online continuing education through the end of the calendar year.

**MOTION:** Dr. Moriyasu made a motion to extend the CE requirements during the COVID-19 response to December 31, 2021. Kim Morgan, LVT seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**16. Signature Delegation and Decision Delegation Forms**

Brad Burnham, Executive Director, shared the revised forms and asked for the boards input.

**MOTION:** Dr. Moriyasu motioned to approve the delegation of signature authority. Kim Morgan, LVT seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**MOTION:** Dr. Moriyasu motioned to approve the delegation of decision making. Kim Morgan, LVT, seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**17. Request for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Continuing Education (CE) Requirement**

The board reviewed a request that state licensing boards to include a minimum requirement of one hour of CE per year on DEI related topics for the licensing and renewal licensing of all veterinarians and veterinary technicians.

Board suggested moving this topic to March Strategic meeting for further discussion.

**18. Strategic Planning**

The board reviewed its plan from the March 3, 2020 strategic planning meeting, discussed further development of 2021 goals, and discussed next steps for action items:

- ❖ CE research
- ❖ CE Audits
- ❖ Vet Tech apprenticeship
- ❖ Telemedicine
- ❖ Priority Rule Making
- ❖ Request for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Continuing Education (CE) Requirement
- ❖ Five-year Formal Review of Rules as required by SSB 5679 (2013)

**19. Elections for Chair and Vice-chair for 2021**

The board elected a new Chair and Vice-chair for 2021 business meetings.

**MOTION:** Dr. Breuninger made a motion to nominate Dr. Senestraro as board chair for 2021. Dr. Vang seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**MOTION:** Dr. Moriyasu made a motion to nominate Kim Morgan, LVT as Vice Chair for 2021. Dr. Senestraro seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**20. Agenda Development**

The board identified agenda items for the March 8, 2021 business meeting.

- Revisit SSB 5004 on shelter services and the CR-102 rule package. Subcommittee asked that comments be forwarded to them prior to the meeting.
- Revisit vet tech apprenticeship - review draft CR-101 and learn what VTNE response to apprenticeship program for Washington state. Subcommittee will confirm later if this will be included on agenda.
- Suicide prevention and HIV training removal rule making, discussion of moving to CR-102.
- Animal manipulation task force. Subcommittee will confirm later if this will be included on agenda.
- 5-year review discussion on Veterinary Medication Clerk.
- COVID-19 Updates.
- Presentation from the Department of Health on roles and responsibilities of panel members; discussion of the hearing process, recruiting panels members, and communication about hearing cancellations.

**Adjournment of Open Session**

Dr. Davies made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Moriyasu, seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Next board meeting is March 8, 2021