

Call to Order

The October 21, 2024, Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine (Board) meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. at the Department of Health Professions (DHP), Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, 2nd Floor, Board Room 4, Henrico, Virginia 23233.

Presiding Officer

Thomas B. Massie, Jr., DVM, President

Members Present

Richard G. Bailey, DVM

Jeffery B. Newman, DVM, Vice-President

Steve Linas, OD, Secretary

Patricia Seeger, LVT, BBA

Margaret J. Rucker, DVM

Member Attending Electronically

Bruce M. Bowman, DVM, who was recently appointed to the Board, was approved by the President of the Board to participate electronically due to a scheduling conflict that prevented travel to the Richmond office for the meeting.

Staff Present

Kelli Moss, Executive Director

Erin Barrett, Director of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs

Claire Foley, Deputy Executive Director

Brent Saunders, Assistant Attorney General, Acting Board Counsel

Laura Jackson, Board Administrator

Laura D. Paasch, Senior Licensing & Operations Specialist

Taryn Singleton, LVT, Discipline Case Specialist

Public Present

Jake Tabor, Legislative Specialist at Virginia Farm Bureau Federation

Aaron R. López, JD, Political Capital

Establishment of Quorum

With seven board members in attendance, including one member participating via electronic communication, a quorum was established.

Introductions

Dr. Massie noted that, since the Board's last meeting, new board members have been appointed and there have been changes to staff and board counsel. Dr. Massie introduced new board members Dr. Margaret Rucker and Dr. Bruce Bowman and welcomed them to the Board.

Dr. Massie welcomed Claire Foley, who succeeded Ms. Moss as the Board's deputy executive director in September.

Dr. Massie noted that the Board's former counsel, Laura Booberg, has accepted a position at DHP in the administrative proceedings division. He introduced Assistant Attorney General Brent Saunders, who was present as board counsel for the meeting.

Ordering of Agenda

Dr. Massie opened the floor to any edits or corrections regarding the agenda. Hearing none, the agenda was accepted as presented.

Public Comment

The Board received public comment from Mr. Aaron R López who stated he is seeking guidance on the Board's position regarding FIP (feline infection peritonitis) treatment. He reported the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) stated on May 10, 2024, that in the absence of an FDA-approved drug to treat FIP veterinarians can prescribe GS-441524 from a licensed compounding pharmacy. This would hopefully deter pet owners from sourcing products from the black market, which may put their license in jeopardy. He opined that the black-market websites are practicing medicine without a license and without oversight will do major harm, as has been observed in similar past circumstances. Dr. Massie thanked Mr. López for his comments.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Massie opened the floor to any additions or corrections regarding the draft minutes from the following meetings:

- June 3, 2024, Full Board meeting
- July 3, 2024, Conference call

Hearing no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

Legislative/Regulatory Report

Ms. Barrett provided the report on legislative and regulatory activity.

Ms. Barrett stated the Legislative/Regulatory Committee and Inspections Committee had each recommended extensive regulatory reductions and revisions after a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) was adopted by the Board at its October 13, 2022, meeting to implement a periodic review. In the interim the Board has taken other regulatory action as required and this, along with subsequent legislative acts, impact the 2022 recommended

revisions. Ms. Barrett recommended reconvening a Regulatory Committee to conduct an in-depth review of the periodic changes and present a more current regulatory action to the board at its next meeting.

Dr. Newman moved to convene a Regulatory Committee comprised of members to be appointed by the Board's president, to comprehensively review the 18VAC150-20 2022 NOIRA and prepare recommendations for the Board's consideration at its next meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Bailey and carried unanimously.

Ms. Barrett presented proposed regulatory action to reduce licensure requirements by endorsement for the Board's consideration.

Dr. Rucker moved to adopt proposed regulations reducing requirements for licensure by endorsement for veterinarians as discussed by the Board. The motion was seconded by Dr. Linas and carried unanimously.

Ms. Barrett presented proposed revisions to clarify Guidance Document 150-3 Preceptorships and Externships for Veterinary Technician Students.

Dr. Newman moved to accept revisions to Guidance Document 150-3 as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Rucker and carried unanimously.

Ms. Barrett presented proposed revisions to Guidance Document 150-4 Guidance Regarding "Chip" Clinics Outside of Approved Facilities, to comply with legislation effective July 1, 2024.

Dr. Newman moved to accept the revisions to Guidance Document 150-4 as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Bailey and carried unanimously.

Discussion Items

AAVSB Annual Meeting:

Dr. Massie reported that he, Ms. Seeger, and Ms. Moss represented the Board at the American Association of State Regulatory Boards' (AAVSB's) annual conference in September on Coronado, California. Also in attendance was the Board's former executive director, Leslie Knachel, who was recognized for her contributions to the AAVSB for the past fourteen years. Additionally, he reported board staff Kelly Gottschalk, DVM, and Taryn Singleton, LVT, attended as both serve on committees for the AAVSB.

Information included presentations on the national examinations for veterinarians and veterinary technicians; diversity, equity and inclusion; DEA-controlled drugs; and the VCPR and telehealth.

Dr. Massie reported that the International Council for Veterinary Assessment (ICVA) announced the expansion of its testing windows from two to three times per year, beginning with the 2025-2026 testing cycle for national examinations for veterinarians and veterinary technicians and discussed changes to its retake policy.

Ms. Moss provided additional information regarding the ICVA's updated retake policy.

- Candidates have up to five attempts to pass the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE).
- All attempts since the NAVLE was implemented in 2000 will count toward the five-attempt limit.
- This policy applies to all candidates.
- Candidates who reach the five-attempt limit may file an appeal with the ICVA Board of Directors to request permission to take the NAVLE beyond this limit.

Ms. Moss reported that candidates who have not applied for licensure in Virginia are contacting the Board requesting it file an appeal on their behalf to obtain permission for additional retakes of the NAVLE. The Board discussed its position regarding this matter.

Dr. Bowman moved to adopt a position that the Board does not support any candidate for additional attempts to take the NAVLE beyond the five allowed by the ICVA. The motion was seconded by Dr. Rucker and passed unanimously.

Ms. Moss provided information on the Veterinarian Shortage Study Workgroup's first year activities.

Ms. Moss stated the Board is providing consultation for a medical services advisory board to develop guidelines for the treatment and transport of working canines injured in the line of duty, pursuant to HB 1309 effective July 1, 2024. The first meeting of the advisory board was held on October 17, 2024.

Ms. Moss provided an update on the licensing reciprocity agreement between Washington, DC, Maryland and Virginia, which the DC board considered at its most recent meeting. No action has been taken at this time.

Board Counsel's Report

Mr. Saunders gave a status update on the appeal of a 2022 discipline case, which is scheduled before the Virginia Court of Appeals on November 19, 2024.

President's Report

Dr. Massie stated he had no information to report to the Board.

Board of Health Professions' Report

Ms. Moss reported that to date the Board of Health Professions does not have a meeting scheduled and that no new board members have been appointed by the governor. As there are currently eleven members constituting a quorum of the board, the board members will be polled to determine whether a meeting can be scheduled before the end of the year as required.

Staff Reports

Ms. Moss provided licensing statistics and the following additional information to the Board:

- Impact Makers, a technology consulting firm, is conducting business analysis to update and reengineer licensing application processes.
- A new senior licensing specialist for veterinary medicine has been hired and is scheduled to start on October 25, 2024.
- A new part-time discipline support specialist has been hired to assist with establishment applications and compliance.
- Outreach – Taryn Singleton is creating additional educational information for students in LVT programs and for webinars.
- Kelly Smith, Director of Communications, is working with staff to develop a newsletter to increase board engagement.
- VCU is looking for a DVM to speak to students in pre-healthcare educational tracks to provide information about the field of veterinary medicine.

Ms. Foley provided an update on open and closed discipline cases.

New Business

Elections

Dr. Massie provided information from the bylaws regarding officer elections.

- President
Dr. Bailey moved to nominate Dr. Newman as president which was seconded by Dr. Rucker. No other nominations were received. The motion carried with seven votes in favor for Dr. Newman to serve a one-year term as President, beginning January 1, 2025.

Dr. Massie will complete his current term as president up to December 31, 2024.

- Vice-President
Dr. Linas moved to nominate Dr. Bailey to serve a second term as vice-president. The motion was seconded by Dr. Newman. No other nominations were received. The motion carried with seven votes in favor for Dr. Bailey to serve a second one-year term as vice-president, beginning January 1, 2025.

Dr. Bailey will complete his current term as vice-president up to December 31, 2024.

- **Secretary**

Dr. Newman moved to nominate Dr. Rucker to serve as Secretary. The motion was seconded by Dr. Bailey. No other nominations were received. The motion carried with seven votes in favor for Dr. Rucker to serve a one-year term as Secretary, beginning January 1, 2025.

Dr. Linas will complete his current term as secretary up to December 31, 2024.

Next Meeting

The next full board meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2025.

Adjournment

With no objection, Dr. Massie adjourned the meeting at 12:36 PM.

Kelli Moss
Executive Director