

Call to Order

The meeting of the Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine Veterinarian Shortage Study Workgroup's Financial Resource subgroup was called to order at 1:05 p.m. on September 4, 2024, at the Virginia Farm Bureau Auditorium, 12580 West Creek Parkway, Richmond, VA 23238.

Chair

Kelli G. Moss, Executive Director, Board of Veterinary Medicine

Workgroup Participants Present

Charles Broaddus, DVM, PhD, Dip. ACT, VA Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Melinda McCall, DVM, Virginia Academy of Food Animal Practitioners

Stephen Versen, Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission

Jake Tabor, Virginia Farm Bureau

Cliff Williamson, Virginia Agribusiness Council (attended electronically)

Daniel Givens, DVM, PhD, Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine (VT) (attended electronically)

Workgroup Participants - Not Present

Susan Seward, Virginia Veterinary Medical Association (VVMA)

Nicole Riley, Virginia Economic Development Partnership

Staff

Laura D. Paasch, Senior Licensing & Operations Specialist

Taryn Singleton, LVT, Discipline Case Specialist (attended electronically)

Erin Barrett, Director of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs (attended electronically)

Public Present

Elizabeth Hooper, Associate Vice President of Government & Community Relations, VT

Wynne DiGrassie, DVM (attended electronically)

Call to Order

The participants were welcomed, and introductions were made.

Ordering of Agenda

Ms. Kelli Moss opened the floor to any edits or corrections regarding the agenda. Hearing none, the agenda was accepted as presented.

Public Comment

No public comment was provided.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Moss opened the floor to any additions or corrections regarding the draft minutes from the July 8, 2024, Financial Resources Subgroup Meeting. Hearing no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

Discussion

Ms. Moss reviewed the three action items for data collection, identified by the subgroup at the July 8, 2024 meeting as:

- shortage areas in Virginia,
- additional information from the Kansas and Iowa financial incentive programs, and
- grant program options and features.

Shortage areas: Dr. Charles Broaddus reviewed the shortage area data collected and provided by VDACS to USDA for its loan repayment grant. Data are collected from local Farm Bureau offices, extension agents, and other government agencies. Up to five areas may be nominated where a need is identified and a veterinarian would likely be interested in practicing. USDA focuses on the number of agricultural animals versus veterinarians in an area. They can identify a veterinarian to match with an area of need using the Virginia Academy of Food Animal Practitioners and other large animal groups. They are not able to use all available federal funds each year. Sometimes they do not receive the nominations and other times nominees may not meet criteria. Virginia has done as well as other jurisdictions with utilizing this program.

The subgroup discussed ideas to match the maximum number to available awards, including:

- maintaining a list of awardees to help them with grant writing and possibly designating the Virginia Academy of Food Animal Practitioners as the “keeper” of the list,
- creating a grant-writing ombudsman position to provide needed data and connect grantees with resources, potentially including past grant recipients and
- mentoring and encouraging nominees to narrow their focus to “must-serve” rather than “may-serve” counties.

Dr. Melinda McCall stated during the next VT mentor day she could ask past recipients to identify themselves and consider mentoring someone else.

Financial incentive programs: Dean Daniel Givens reviewed the information he provided in the agenda package regarding Kansas’ and Iowa’s financial incentive programs. The subgroup discussed each program’s qualifications, structure, awards, terms, compliance, administration and program costs. The subgroup discussed considerations for creating a similar incentive program in Virginia, after which the recipients remain engaged through mentorship, networking

and support to strengthen the framework for continued growth and opportunities for large animal veterinarians.

Dean Givens provided financial data for an enrollment scenario that would increase the number of veterinary school seats available to Virginia residents to receive support by 10. Additional state funding would be required. There would be a phase-in cost because of the 2nd and 3rd year students already enrolled and associated ongoing costs.

Dean Givens stated that both potential actions of developing an in-state financial incentive program and increasing the number of Virginia resident seats can be used to increase the number of large animal veterinarians practicing in areas of need.

The subgroup discussed considerations to limit the number of recipients of a financial incentive program, timelines for implementation, and ways to create incentives in rural communities such as economic demand, sustainability, and a cultural component for community-mindedness. A market study would be a major component of any request for funding. Assistance from VDACS and state economic development partners would be needed to supply general knowledge of state and federal programs. The subgroup also discussed considerations for creating a cooperative or shared-use facility to pool resources and identify ways to make large animal practice more sustainable. Each solution discussed has a varied system of programs that would need to be implemented. All of them would need a project manager or ombudsman to oversee and coordinate projects.

Grant programs options and features: Mr. Stephen Versen reviewed the information he provided in the agenda package regarding the options and features of financial assistance available, to be considered alongside other potential solutions to the large animal veterinarian shortage. These financial resources include federal, regional, state, non-profit and for-profit lenders, and each are broken down by type of assistance, services available and eligibility requirements. These programs may be used to spread available funds as broadly as possible as part of a multi-faceted approach to creating and sustaining large animal practices in Virginia.

New Business

There was no new business to report.

Next Meeting

The next full Workgroup meeting will be scheduled between October 8 and 10. A poll will be sent to all workgroup members to determine the date most or all are available.



Adjournment

With no objection, Ms. Moss adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

Kelli G. Moss, Executive Director
Chair

DRAFT