

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE  
FORMAL HEARING MINUTES  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS  
BOARD ROOM 4  
HENRICO, VA  
October 21, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting of the Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine (Board) was called to order at 1:35 p.m. on October 21, 2024, at the Department of Health Professions (DHP), Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Board Room 4, Henrico, Virginia.

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Thomas Massie, D.V.M., President

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Richard Bailey, D.V.M.  
Jeffery Newman, D.V.M.  
Margaret Rucker, D.V.M.  
Patricia Seeger, L.V.T.

**QUORUM:** With five members of the Board present, a quorum was established.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Claire Foley, Deputy Executive Director  
Heather Pote, Senior Discipline Case Specialist

**BOARD COUNSEL:** Brent Saunders, Assistant Attorney General

**COURT REPORTER:** Juan Ortega, Ortega International Reporting

**PARTIES ON BEHALF OF THE COMMONWEALTH:** Mandy Wilson, Assistant Attorney General II

**COMMONWEALTH WITNESSES:** Gabriella Haggard  
Scott Dillon, Sr. Investigator

**RESPONDENT WITNESSES:** Mitchell Rode, DVM  
Michaela Rupp  
Claire Summers, DVM.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kimberly Adkins  
Stew Nuckols

**MATTER SCHEDULED:**

**Claire Summers, Veterinarian**

Dr. Summers appeared before the Board in accordance with a Notice of Formal Hearing dated January 29, 2024. She was represented by Michael Thorsen, Esq. The Board received evidence from the Commonwealth and from Dr. Summers and her counsel regarding the allegations in the Notice.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

Dr. Bailey moved that the Board convene a closed meeting pursuant to § 2.2-3711(A)(27) of the Code of Virginia (“Code”) for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter of **Claire Summers, Veterinarian**. Additionally, he moved that Mr. Saunders and Ms. Foley attend the closed meeting because their presence in the closed meeting was deemed necessary and would aid the Board in its deliberations. The motion was seconded by Dr. Rucker and carried unanimously.

**RECONVENE:**

Dr. Bailey moved that the Board certify that it heard, discussed or considered only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened. The motion was seconded by Dr. Rucker and carried unanimously.

The Board reconvened in open session pursuant to § 2.2-3712(D) of the Code.

**DECISION:**

Dr. Bailey moved to issue a reprimand to Dr. Summers and to require 6 hours of continuing education in the subject of equine anesthesia, and that the basis for this decision will be set forth in a final Board Order that will be sent to Dr. Summers at her address of record. The motion was seconded by Dr. Newman and carried unanimously.

This decision shall be effective upon the entry by the Board of a written Order stating the findings, conclusions and decision of this quorum of the Board.

**RECESS:**

The Board recessed at 7:35 p.m.

**RECONVENTION:**

The Board reconvened at 8:06 p.m.

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Thomas Massie, D.V.M., President

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Richard Bailey, D.V.M.  
Jeffery Newman, D.V.M.  
Patricia Seeger, L.V.T.

**QUORUM:** With four members of the Board present, a quorum was established.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Kelli G. Moss, Executive Director  
Claire Foley, Deputy Executive Director  
Heather Pote, Sr. Discipline Case Specialist

**BOARD COUNSEL:** Brent Saunders, Assistant Attorney General

**COURT REPORTER:** Juan Ortega, Ortega International Reporting

**PARTIES ON BEHALF OF THE COMMONWEALTH:** Emily Tatum, Sr. Adjudication Specialist,  
Administrative Proceedings Division

**COMMONWEALTH WITNESSES:** Martha Miller, Regional Manager, Enforcement Division  
Jessica Streeter

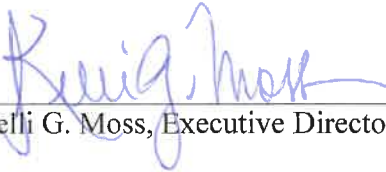
**RESPONDENT WITNESS:** Melissa Gomes, Ph.D.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Nikki Crayton

**MATTER SCHEDULED:** **Chelsey LaMendola, Veterinary Technician**

Ms. LaMendola appeared before the Board in accordance with a Notice of Formal Hearing dated July 3, 2024. She was represented by Nora Ciancio, Esq. The Board received evidence from the Commonwealth and from Ms. LaMendola and her counsel regarding the allegations in the Notice.

**RECESS:** The Board recessed at 11:46 p.m. and will reconvene at the earliest opportunity to proceed with the formal hearing.



---

Kelli G. Moss, Executive Director