

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE  
SPECIAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MINUTES  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS  
BOARD ROOM 1  
HENRICO, VA  
March 12, 2025**

- CALL TO ORDER:** A meeting of a Special Conference Committee (“Committee”) of the Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine (“Board”) was convened on March 12, 2025, at 10:05 a.m., at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Center, Board Room 1, 9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, Virginia 23233.
- FIRST CONFERENCE:** 10:05 a.m.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Patricia Seeger, LVT, Chairperson  
Bruce Bowman, DVM, Committee Member
- STAFF PRESENT:** Claire Foley, Deputy Executive Director  
Heather Pote, Sr. Discipline Case Specialist  
Emily Tatum, Sr. Adjudication Specialist, Administrative Proceedings Division
- OTHERS PRESENT:** Chip Atkins, Board Staff
- MATTER SCHEDULED:** **Kristen Mitchell, Veterinary Technician  
Case 217830**
- DISCUSSION:** Ms. Mitchell did not appear before the Committee in person in accordance with a Notice of Informal Conference dated May 24, 2024, and continuance letters dated December 17, 2024, and February 13, 2025, to inquire into allegations that she may have violated certain laws and regulations governing veterinary practice in Virginia. Ms. Seeger ruled that adequate notice had been provided to Ms. Mitchell and that the informal conference will proceed.
- CLOSED SESSION:** Dr. Bowman moved that the Committee 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 regarding Kristen Mitchell, Veterinary Technician. Additionally, Dr. Bowman moved that Ms. Foley attend the closed meeting because her presence in the closed meeting was deemed necessary

and would aid the Committee in its deliberations. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**RECONVENE:**

Dr. Bowman moved that the Committee 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 and carried unanimously.

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

**DECISION:**

**Case No. 217830**

Dr. Bowman moved that the Committee refer the matter to the full Board at a Formal Administrative Hearing. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The hearing concluded at 10:21 a.m.

**SECOND CONFERENCE:**

11:04 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Patricia Seeger, LVT, Chairperson  
Bruce Bowman, DVM, Committee Member

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Claire Foley, Deputy Executive Director  
Heather Pote, Sr. Discipline Case Specialist  
Emily Tatum, Sr. Adjudication Specialist, Administrative Proceedings Division

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Chip Atkins, Board staff

**MATTER SCHEDULED:**

**Dawn Barton, Veterinary Technician  
Case No. 242358**

**DISCUSSION:**

Ms. Barton did not appear before the Committee in person in accordance with a Notice of Informal Conference dated December 20, 2024, and continuance letter dated February 13, 2025, to inquire into allegations that she may have violated certain laws and regulations governing veterinary practice in Virginia. Ms. Seeger ruled that adequate notice had been provided to Ms. Barton and that the informal conference will proceed.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

Dr. Bowman moved that the Committee convene a closed meeting pursuant to § 2.2-3711(A)(27) of the Code for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter regarding Dawn Barton, Veterinary Technician. Additionally, Dr. Bowman moved that Ms. Foley attend the closed meeting because her presence in the closed meeting was deemed necessary and would aid the Committee in its deliberations. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**RECONVENE:**

Dr. Bowman moved that the Committee 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 and carried unanimously.

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

**DECISION:**

**Case No. 242358**

Dr. Bowman moved that the Committee refer the matter to the full Board at a Formal Administrative Hearing. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The hearing concluded at 11:40 a.m.

**THIRD CONFERENCE:**

1:03 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Patricia Seeger, LVT, Chairperson  
Bruce Bowman, DVM, Committee Member

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Claire Foley, Deputy Executive Director  
Heather Pote, Sr. Discipline Case Specialist  
Christine Corey, Sr. Adjudication Specialist,  
Administrative Proceedings Division

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Christina Bruton  
Lionell Bruton  
Brian Finnerty, Jr.

**MATTER SCHEDULED:**

**Kristin Hakala, Veterinary Technician Reinstatement Applicant  
Case No. 239821**

**DISCUSSION:**

Ms. Hakala appeared before the Committee in person in accordance with a Notice of Informal Conference dated December 17, 2024, and continuance letter dated February 13, 2024, to consider her application for reinstatement of her license to practice as a veterinary technician in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and to determine whether grounds exist to refuse to reinstate Ms. Hakala's license. Ms. Hakala was present and not represented by counsel.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

Dr. Bowman moved that the Board convene a closed meeting pursuant to § 2.2-3711(A)(16) of the Code for the purpose of consideration and discussion of medical records of Kristin Hakala that are excluded from the Freedom of Information Act by the Code of Virginia, § 2.2-3705.5. Additionally, Dr. Bowman moved that Claire Foley and Christine Corey attend the meeting because their presence in the closed meeting is deemed necessary and/or will aid the Board in its discussion. The motion was seconded by Ms. Seeger and carried unanimously.

**RECONVENE:**

Dr. Bowman 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 business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened. The motion was seconded by Ms. Seeger and carried unanimously.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

Dr. Bowman moved that the Committee convene a closed meeting pursuant to § 2.2-3711(A)(27) of the Code for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter regarding Kristin Hakala, Veterinary Technician. Additionally, Dr. Bowman moved that Ms. Foley attend the closed meeting because her presence in the closed meeting was deemed necessary and would aid the Committee in its deliberations. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**RECONVENE:**

Dr. Bowman moved that the Committee certify that it heard, discussed, or considered only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting

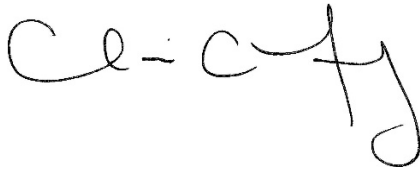
requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened. The motion was seconded by Ms. Seeger and carried unanimously.

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

**DECISION:**  
**Case No. 224115**

Dr. Bowman moved that the Committee reinstate Kristin Hakala's license to practice as a veterinary technician in the Commonwealth of Virginia contingent upon Ms. Hakala's entry into and compliance with the Health Practitioners Monitoring Program. Dr. Bowman stated that the basis for this decision will be set forth in a final Board order sent to Ms. Hakala. The motion was seconded by Ms. Seeger and carried unanimously.

The hearing concluded at 2:23 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Foley', written in a cursive style.

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Claire Foley, Deputy Executive Director