

Call to Order

The meeting of the Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine Veterinarian Shortage Study Workgroup was called to order at 1:03 p.m. on September 3, 2025, at the Virginia Farm Bureau Insurance 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, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS)

Thomas B. Massie, Jr., DVM

Melinda McCall, DVM, Virginia Academy of Food Animal Practitioners

Martha Moore, Virginia Farm Bureau Insurance

Julia Murphy, DVM, Virginia Department of Health

Jane Naramore, LVT, Virginia Association of Licensed Veterinary Technicians

Nathaniel Burke, DVM, VVMA

Trey Davis, President and CEO, Virginia Agribusiness Council

Stephen Versen, Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission

Dean Daniel Givens, DVM, PhD, Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine (VMCVM)*

Randall Evans, DVM, CPCC, LMUCVM*

Beth Venit, VMD, American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB)*

Rachel O'Brien, PhD, Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP)*

Jeffrey Walters, attending on behalf of Senator Timmy French, Senate District 1*

Workgroup Participants Not Present

Patricia Seeger, LVT, AAS, BBA, Board of Veterinary Medicine

Susan Seward, Virginia Veterinary Medical Association (VVMA)

Stacy Anderson, DVM, MVSc, PhD, DACVS-LA, Lincoln Memorial University College of Veterinary Medicine (LMUCVM)

Abigail Westcott, VEDP

Department of Health Professions (DHP) Staff Present

Arne W. Owens, Agency Director

Erin Barrett, Director of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs*

Yetty Shobo, PhD, Director of Healthcare Workforce Data Center & Data Analytics Division

Laura Jackson, Board Administrator

Laura D. Paasch, Senior Licensing & Operations Specialist

Additional Participant Present

Jake Tabor, Virginia Farm Bureau Insurance

Public Present

Jay Miles, DVM, LMUCVM*

Emily Edmondson, VFB Board of Directors

Steven Escobar, DVM, VVMA

Jim Riddell, Legislative Specialist, Virginia Cattlemen's Association

Call to Order

The participants were welcomed, and introductions were made.

Introductions

Ms. Moss introduced Dr. Rachel O'Brien, Director of Talent and Workforce Initiatives with VEDP who attended the meeting on behalf of Ms. Abigail Wescott, Managing Director of External Affairs.

Ms. Moss also introduced Mr. Jeffrey Walters, who was attending on behalf of Senator French.

Ms. Moss acknowledged Mr. Arne Owens, DHP Director, and reported that Dr. Yetty Shobo, Director of DHP's Healthcare Workforce Data Center will present data for large animal veterinarians from the 2024 renewal survey, as the workgroup requested at its last meeting.

Public Comment

No public comment was provided.

Discussion

Ms. Moss reported that at its last meeting, Dr. Shobo focused on the Healthcare Data Workforce Center's 2024 survey responses from veterinarians and licensed veterinary technicians self-reporting 25% or more of their practice on large animals. Dr. Shobo presented a more detailed analysis of the data to the workgroup as requested.

Ms. Moss reported that future annual surveys will continue to include the questions developed by this workgroup specific to large animal veterinary medicine to provide ongoing data. The results will be available to the public in annual workforce reports posted on DHP's website.

Dr. Broaddus reported on the Large Animal Grant Program passed by the 2025 General Assembly, stating that VDACS launched the grant program on July 1, 2025, pursuant to legislation passed during the 2025 General Assembly. This initiative is intended to provide incentives through grant awards to large animal veterinarians who will provide veterinary services in areas of the Commonwealth facing critical shortage of large animal veterinary services available.

Dr. Broaddus reported that VDACS has received 44 applications, which will be reviewed by a panel and concluded by the end of October 2025. From this pool of applicants four recipients will be awarded grants up to \$110,000 each in 2025, to be disbursed over a three-year period.

Ms. Moss reported that the Board of Veterinary Medicine will continue to provide consultative services to VDACS in the development of applicant criteria for this grant. Board member and large animal veterinarian Bruce Bowman will serve in this capacity for the first year.

Mr. Stephen Versen provided information regarding Governor Glenn Youngkin's Planning Grant for Large Animal Veterinary Services in Russell County. Governor Youngkin announced on July 14, 2025, that Russell County will receive a Governor's Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development (AFID) Fund Planning Grant, which will be combined with funding from the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission to support the development of a comprehensive incentive program to increase availability to large animal veterinarians to the region. Mr. Versen stated Dr. Broaddus and VDACS is taking the lead and partnering with the TRRC to identify recipients for this grant through the applications received for the VDACS large animal veterinarian grant. Ms. Moore reported that both gubernatorial candidates have pledged to expand the AFID programs.

Ms. Moss reported that the Board of Veterinary Medicine initiated regulatory action at its July 29, 2025, board meeting, to develop a pathway for "haul-in" facilities, large animal veterinary establishments that may be used to reduce travel time or to share resources to better serve rural communities. This aligns with the planning grant and with a recommendation included in this workgroup's 2025 report to the General Assembly. The board's president will appoint a regulatory advisory panel to develop the standards for these "haul-in" veterinary establishments.

Ms. Moss discussed new business that Ms. Moore presented at the workgroup's last meeting regarding a four-year veterinary technology program being developed by West Virginia State University in partnership with West Virginia's Department of Agriculture to increase the number of trained assistants to support large animal veterinarians and to address a gap in education for students interested in veterinary medicine.

Dean Givens reported that VMCVM is supporting efforts to expand large animal veterinary services by creating a Coordinator to Support Virginia's Large Animal Veterinary Workforce, a Virginia Cooperative Extension Position, to support developing, existing and career-entering large animal veterinarians.

Ms. Moss reported that this workgroup recommended funding additional seats for Virginia residents at Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine as one of the ways to support potential

veterinary students in rural communities. As reported at the April meeting, a 2025 budget request for additional seats at VMCVM for Virginia students was not successful.

Dean Givens noted that changes in the federal government's policy on student loans effective July 2026 will cap maximum federal loan amounts and private loans will have higher interest rates, which may affect the ability of veterinary students to complete their degree program. The workgroup will include the recommendation for additional seats in its final report, to fulfill long-term veterinary needs in rural communities.

New Business

There was no new business to report.

Next Meeting

The workgroup agreed that its objectives have been met and that no further meetings are needed. It will formally conclude its activities.

Ms. Moss noted that the workgroup's recommendations will be included in the second and final report that will be presented to the 2026 General Assembly and shared with stakeholders. She invited members to provide any additional insights for inclusion.

Ms. Moss thanked members for their time, expertise, and collaboration, acknowledging their contributions as essential to achieving the workgroup's goals. She also expressed appreciation to Ms. Moore and the Virginia Farm Bureau team for hosting the meetings and supporting remote participation.

Adjournment

With no objection, Ms. Moss closed the meeting by thanking the workgroup participants for their commitment and service and adjourned the meeting at 2:42 p.m.



Kelli Moss
Executive Director
Chair