

Call to Order

The meeting of the Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine Veterinarian Shortage Study Workgroup was called to order at 1:07 p.m. on April 16, 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, Board of Veterinary Medicine

Melinda McCall, DVM, Virginia Academy of Food Animal Practitioners

Martha Moore, Virginia Farm Bureau Insurance

Susan Seward, Virginia Veterinary Medical Association (VVMA)

Julia Murphy, DVM, Virginia Department of Health

Jane Naramore, LVT, Virginia Association of Licensed Veterinary Technicians

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

Heidi Hertz, Virginia Agribusiness Council

Stephen Versen, Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission

Senator Timmy French, Senate District 1*

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

Randall Evans, DVM, CPCC, LMUCVM*

Abigail Westcott, Virginia Economic Development Partnership*

Workgroup Participants Not Present

Nathaniel Burke, DVM, VVMA

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

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

Trey Davis, President and CEO, Virginia Agribusiness Council

Staff

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

Matt Novak, Policy & Economic Analyst DHP

Laura D. Paasch, Senior Licensing & Operations Specialist

Taryn Singleton, LVT, Discipline Case Specialist

Additional Participant Present

Jake Tabor, Virginia Farm Bureau Insurance

Public Present

Tenille Nuckols, Virginia Farm Bureau Insurance

Carol Heizer, LVT*

Michael Migliore, Veterinary Student*

Call to Order

The participants were welcomed, and introductions were made.

Introductions

Ms. Moss announced that two new workgroup members have replaced representatives of their respective organizations since the October 2024 meeting. She welcomed Ms. Abigail Westcott, Managing Director of External Affairs for the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, who replaced Nicole Riley; and announced Mr. Trey Davis, President and CEO of Virginia Agribusiness Council, has replaced Cliff Williamson. Mr. Davis did not attend this meeting due to a scheduling conflict.

Ms. Moss announced that Mr. Matt Novak was attending the meeting on behalf of Ms. Erin Barrett, Director of the Department of Health Professions' Legislative and Regulatory Affairs.

Ms. Moss stated that Dr. Yetty Shobo, Director of the Department of Health Professions' Healthcare Workforce Data Center, and Mr. Jake Tabor, Legislative Specialist, Governmental Relations for Virginia Farm Bureau Insurance Federation, were in attendance to present the results of surveys they had each conducted at this workgroup's request.

Ordering of Agenda

Ms. 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 October 9, 2024, Veterinarian Shortage Study Workgroup meeting. Hearing no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

Discussion

Ms. Moss reported that the workgroup's first-year report was submitted to the General Assembly on January 8, 2025, and a copy is available in the agenda package.

Dr. Shobo presented the results of the Board of Veterinary Medicine's 2024 renewal questions that solicited information about large animal veterinary practice, as developed by the Supporting Data subgroup, and the workgroup discussed the results.

The workgroup discussed focusing on data from survey respondents who reported large animal veterinary medicine comprised 50% or more of their practice and to separate equine practice from bovine to extrapolate more precise geographical and statistical data. Based on Dean Givens's recommendation that expanding this group to 25% or more would provide a more comprehensive geographic map and statistics, the workgroup agreed to request refined data to include veterinarians who reported 25% or more large animal practice. The workgroup also requested an appendix of survey questions be included that may be amended to gather more specific data in future surveys.

Dr. McCall summarized a discussion held with large animal veterinarians at the 2025 Virginia Veterinary Medical Association's (VVMA) annual conference in February, as recommended by the Supporting Data subgroup.

Another Supporting Data subgroup recommendation was to collect data from food producers to determine large animal veterinarian needs. Mr. Tabor presented his findings of the 2025 Farm Bureau's food animal producer survey. The workgroup reviewed the results of this survey, which included results from all producers and broke out separate response categories for beef cattle producers, large producers and small producers.

Ms. Moss reported she received information from DHP's Director of Communications that highlighted the media coverage of Mr. Tabor's survey. Ms. Moss thanked Mr. Tabor for his efforts to widely publicize the workgroup's purpose and his survey, to increase both public interest and the response rate.

Dr. Broaddus reported on data obtained from Virginia's livestock markets to determine their veterinarian needs and presented his findings to the workgroup.

Ms. Moore provided status updates to budget amendment requests drafted for two of the workgroup's recommendations: a request for additional seats at VMCVM for Virginia residents, which was not successful; and a request for state veterinary financial incentive program, which was placed in the Governor's budget for funding.

Dr. Broaddus reported on joint legislation passed by the 2025 General Assembly assigning the State Veterinarian to establish the Virginia Large Animal Veterinarian Grant Program (VLAVGP), based on bills introduced by Delegate Alfonso Lopez in the House and Senator T. Travis Hackworth in the Senate. He led a discussion of the development of the VLAVGP, including qualification of shortage areas, applicant criteria and candidate selection. He will assemble a steering group comprised of stakeholders identified in the legislation to develop the program and review candidate applications.

Ms. Moss reviewed the Veterinary Shortage Study Workgroup's directives, recommendations and next steps and the following related topics were discussed:

Mr. Stephen Versen reported on an incentive program that was presented to the Commission to fund a coordinator position to support large animal veterinarians in rural communities. The workgroup discussed possible funding and scope of responsibilities to facilitate and connect food animal veterinarians to existing resources. The Commission is looking at leveraging other investment opportunities to make this effort as impactful as possible. Some of the funds could be used to provide educational services to rural high schools to generate interest in large animal veterinary medicine and support occupations. This program is designed to complement the VLAVGP.

The workgroup discussed the next steps needed to create a regulatory pathway for haul-in veterinary establishments. Ms. Moss will provide an update at the next meeting.

Ms. Moore reported on her participation in a council creating a curriculum for animal services occupations, as well as programs to increase the number of LVTs that is under development.

New Business


Ms. Moore discussed West Virginia's funding of a four-year Veterinary Technology Program in partnership with West Virginia State University and the West Virginia Department of Agriculture, which may create an alternate career pathway to address a gap in education for students interested in veterinary medicine who do not enter veterinary school. The workgroup will discuss this further at its next meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting date will be held in August or September at a date to be determined.

Adjournment

With no objection, Ms. Moss adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.



Kelli Moss
Executive Director
Chair