

Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
Minutes of the April 23, 2020

The meeting was held by teleconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Joint Open Meeting

Board Members Participating: Dr. Elizabeth Callahan, President; Dr. Heather Hendler, Vice President; Dr. Christine Calvert, Ms. Lynne Chaput, Dr. Karena Joung, Ms. Patricia Quimby, Dr. Peter Radue. Staff participating: Executive Director Vanessa Orlando, Assistant Director Susan Husk, Assistant Attorney General Cynthia Spirt, Inspectors Pegeen Morgan, Ellen James, Sarah Hultz, and Administrative Specialist Britney Branch.

Introduction of Sarah Hultz. Ms. Hultz joined the Board staff on April 1 as an inspector-investigator. She is an RVT with more than seven years of experience working in a specialty facility.

Approval of the Minutes. In a motion by Ms. Chaput, seconded by Dr. Radue, the minutes of the March 26, 2020 Joint Board Meetings were unanimously approved.

Veterinary License Applications Approvals. In a motion by Dr. Joung, seconded by Dr. Hendler, the Board voted unanimously to approve veterinary license applications for Drs. Keith Latson, Margaret Loomer, Mia Provost, Rachel Lisankis, Robert O'Neil, Sarah Wallace. In a motion by Dr. Joung, seconded by Dr. Radue, the Board voted unanimously to approve Dr. Sherry VanDalsen.

Coronavirus Issues. Board members had a lengthy discussion about the possibility of relaxing some guidelines related to COVID-19 and the conditions that would have to change to endorse a relaxation of guidelines. Most of the conversation revolved around the need to conserve PPEs and reduce exposure.

Virtual Sanitation Inspections. Although routine inspections have been suspended because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Inspector James reported on how virtual inspections are being conducted for brand new facilities. These inspections include room-by-room videos that are sent in over secure servers for review. Licensees are aware that in-person inspections will be done in the future and corrections and improvements may be required at that time.

Virtual Resolution Conferences. Ms. Spirt reported that there is a backlog of resolution conferences because no in-person meetings are allowed and asked if they could be done remotely. Board members agreed they would be willing to do these remotely some evening if they can be scheduled conveniently.

CE Approval Requests. One request asked that interns be provided with CE credit. Board members agreed that they would not award blanket approvals to interns but would consider individual submissions that included a lecture-type activity on a certain topic, an advisor's sign-off, and documentation of the work completed. They also noted that daily cage rounds would not be approved.

In a motion by Dr. Radue, seconded by Dr. Joung, all other requests submitted for the month were approved.

Managing for Results (MFR) Metrics. Ms. Orlando reported that updating the Board's MFRs was one of the welcomed recommendations in the Sunset Review; however, the new metrics are due by

June 1. She asked Board members for their initial thoughts and reported that a draft would be prepared for the May meeting for Board review.

Veterinary Question – Medical Records

Ms. Husk reported that she had a question from a veterinarian asking how long it should take to close a case out on the hospital's computer system. Some software closes that case at 24 hours. Board members agreed that they did not want people waiting too long to complete their notes, and 24 hours is the ideal to aim for.

Other Business

Ms. Orlando reminded Board members that Financial/Ethics Disclosure Reports are due April 30.