

Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners

March 25, 2021

By Teleconference

Joint Open Meeting Minutes

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

Dr. Callahan called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes. In a motion by Dr. Reed, seconded by Dr. Radue, the minutes of the February 25, Joint Board meeting were unanimously approved, as edited by Dr. Joung.

Veterinary License Applications Approvals. In a motion by Dr. Reed, seconded by Dr. Radue, the veterinary license applications were approved for Drs. Mark Cofone, Jacob Hiller, Maureen O'Brien and Dr. Kimberly Pope-Robinson.

Veterinary License Reinstatement Application Approval. In a motion by Dr. Calvert, seconded by Dr. Joung, the reinstatement application for Dr. Tania Germann was unanimously approved.

Sanitation Reports. Inspectors Peggy Morgan and Ellen James reported on the inspections they have conducted since the February meeting. In a motion by Ms. Chaput, seconded by Dr. Reed, the Board voted unanimously to accept the sanitation reports.

CE Approval Requests. In a motion by Dr. Joung, seconded by Dr. Callahan, the Board voted to approve CE Requests #404, #406, #407, #408, #409, and #417, as submitted. NOTE: There was discussion that #406 should only be approved as non-clinical CE; however, it was submitted for non-clinical approval.

COMAR Chapter One Proposed Revisions. The Board agreed to postpone the discussion until the April meeting to ensure MVMA Board members all have time to submit feedback on the working draft.

Curbside Recommendation Revisited. The Board office has begun receiving a few calls, asking if the Board planned to update its recommendations on curbside service given that other sectors are increasing capacity levels. After some discussion, Ms. Orlando said she would draft possible newsletter text and send it around for comment.

Backlog Status Report. Ms. Orlando shared the current status on the backlog of complaint investigations, as of March 10.

COMAR Violation Sheet. Ms. Spirt proposed updating the language on the COMAR warning sheet that inspectors sometime give out to be more precise and clarifying that the Board may charge for violations whether or not they receive a warning. The Board agreed to the updated language.

The Physical Therapy Board sent in a question asking, "Can a physical therapist and/or physical therapist assistant practice physical therapy on animals under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian?" While Board members agreed that they would rather see only certified animal rehab specialist provide therapies, they agreed that current regulations only require a provider to be working under the direct supervision of a veterinarian. Revision of these regulations may be discussed in the near future.

Other Business / Reminders

Ms. Orlando reminded Board members that the deadline for filing their Financial/Ethics Reports is April 30.

PDMP Work Group Update. Dr. Callahan reported that the group has met once so far. She reported that standardize software in pharmacies does not allow the PDMP to track veterinarians' prescriptions for CDS so there was discussion on how it could be entered. Of all prescriptions filled at pharmacies, 0.04 percent are from veterinarians. The group intends to meet two more times.

In a motion by Dr. Callahan, seconded by Dr. Reed, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting to move into an administrative closed session to perform administrative functions outside the scope of the Open Meetings Act, in accordance with § 3-103(a)(1)(i) of the General Provisions Article. The administrative functions to be performed include discussion of the specific matters identified on the Board Agenda. In the alternative, I move to close the meeting pursuant to the following Section 3-305(b):

(7) To obtain advice of counsel;

(8) To consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation;

(12) To conduct or discuss an investigative proceeding on actual or possible criminal conduct;" and

(13) To comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter.