



Veterinarian Board of Governors Regular Meeting Minutes

December 4, 2023

Location: Labor & Industries, 7273 Linderson Way SW, Tumwater, WA 98501

Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Board members present: Dai-E Dordor Vang, DVM, MPH, Chair
Andrea Sanchez-Chambers, DVM, Vice-chairperson
Aja Senestraro, DVM
Debra Clabough Sellon, DVM
Kathryn Haigh, DVM
Kim Morgan, LVT
Jessica Reed, DVM
Katherine Bibi, DVM
Rebecca Knoke, General Member

Board members absent: None

Staff members present: Tracie Drake, Executive Director
Poppy Budrow, Program Manager
Lisa Kelley Christensen, Assistant Attorney General
Shelly Buchanan, Supervising Staff Attorney
Catharine Roner-Reiter, Staff Attorney
Tonya Mills, Credentialing
Brandon Williams, Project Manager
Shelbee Scrimo, Administrative Assistant
Audrey Hu, Epidemiologist
Fan Xiong, Epidemiologist

Others present: Bob Nicoloff, CQAC
Candace Joy, WSVMA
Ashley Byrne, President of WSAVT
Zack Hambleton, Cascade
Brittany Benesi
Chris Bundy

Notice of this meeting was published on the Veterinarian Board of Governors profession website and was sent out through the GovDelivery listserv.

Call to Order, Mission, and Introductions – Dordor Vang, DVM, MPH,

Dai-E Dordor Vang, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

1. Approval of Agenda – Dai-E Dordor Vang, Chair

1.1. Approval of the December 4, 2023 agenda.

Motion to move Rules hearing to below item 3 due to faulty Teams link, seconded, and passed 8-0

2. Approval of meeting minutes

2.1. September 11, 2023- Regular meeting

Motioned, seconded, and approved.

2.2. October 23, 2023- Special Meeting

Motioned, seconded, and approved.

3. Reports

3.1. Dordor Vang, DVM, MPH, Chairperson

Dr. Vang welcomed the new board member Katherine Bibi and new Executive Director, Tracie Drake.

3.2. Tracie Drake, Executive Director- Department of Health

Ms. Drake gave an update on the reorganization of the Office of Health Professions which will soon include the credential staff as well. Ms. Drake also updated the board on the Helms project which will be the new licensing system, it was supposed to start in April of 2024, but that date will have to be pushed out at this time.

3.3. Poppy Budrow, Program Manager- Department of Health

Ms. Budrow gave an update on credential statistics, budget status and reviewed meeting dates. The board discussed who they would like to send to the AAVSB Board Basics and Beyond held on April 12-13, 2024, PNWVC Conference in Tacoma held in September and the AAVSB 2024 conference being held in San Diego, CA on September 25-28, 2024.

3.4. Lisa Kelley-Christiansen, AAG- Updates

No updates at this time.

4. Rules Hearing

4.1. Eligibility for Examination as Veterinary Technician – Public Hearing

The board will hear public comment and consider adoption of proposed rules filed under WSR 23-23-094 filed on October 18, 2023. The proposed language clarifies that a registered apprenticeship program is an approved post-secondary educational pathway to qualify for licensure exams as a veterinary technician.

Dr. Dordor Vang, chairperson, called the rules hearing to order at 9:28 a.m. and read from a prepared statement on file.

The Board took public comments:

Ashley Byrnes:

Ashley Byrne is a licensed veterinary technician and the President elect of the Washington State Association of Veterinary Technicians. She made a comment on the proposed rulemaking for apprenticeship for veterinary technicians. She spoke with the Washington State Board of Nursing where they were able to shed some light on their approach to apprenticeships and their profession. The current apprenticeship model being proposed on the human healthcare side is for LPN's not RN's, and LVT is much closer to an RN than an LPN and an LPN is much like a vet assist. Healthcare professionals have what is likely the highest level of responsibility to the public standards of education and licensure have been established in order to keep the public safe and cannot be compromised without proposing significant risk to the public, the Washington State Board of Nursing has worked in collaboration with L and I to ensure the integrity of the LPN would not be compromised in the process of discussing a potential error apprenticeship. This was really important to their board. Instead of dropping educational requirements or licensing standards, as this proposal is doing both. They not only kept their educational requirements, but also made no changes to their licensing requirements. Instead, they worked with L and I to combine the two sets of requirements. The requirements of their nursing board for licensure and the requirements of L and I to get to a product that they hope achieves a shared goal. The LPN students are still receiving accredited education and meet current licensure requirements. Ms. Byrne asks the board to refuse to make any changes or educational and licensure requirements for the role of the licensed veterinary technician. She is not convinced that an apprenticeship model is the right route for licensed veterinary technicians, and it must only be considered when both educational and licensure requirements are upheld. The wearing educational and licensing requirements for an unaccredited apprenticeship program is not safe and will damage the integrity of the profession.

Candace Joy:

Ms. Joy is the former CEO of the WSVMA and commented on this potential rulemaking that the WSVMA continues to oppose the apprenticeship program as an adequate program to train LVTs. In 2010, because of continuing scientific advances in veterinary, medical, science and technological improvements that mirror the care and treatment of humans along with changing attitudes about Pets as family members. The Washington state legislature made a concrete determination that on-the-job training was no longer an adequate pathway to achieve the education necessary for an effective LVT entrusted with the medical care of the state's animal patients. The states animal patients, indeed the legislature believed that LVT is needed more in depth traditional education from an institution that could provide foundational knowledge and techniques required to achieve the highest quality of care for animals. With that the WSVMA asks the board to not pass this rule making.

Zack Hambleton

I would like to thank the board for their diligence, dedication, and thoroughness throughout this process of endorsing the first registered LVT Apprenticeship program. This puts Washington state on the leading edge of progressive veterinary education, as directed by the VBOG at the October 2022 meeting. We saw it and were awarded formal approval for the LVT Apprenticeship program from Washington State Apprenticeship and Training Council with the formal endorsement of L and I. We look forward to the promised real change by the VBOG explicitly allowing registered apprenticeship survival pathway for sitting for the VTNE the language proposed in the CR 102 is appropriate and accurate. The apprenticeship program has been running since January of 2023, successful apprentices working towards completion of the program, Cascade Vet clinic fully endorses the proposed language of the CR 102.

The board discussed the comments and came to the decision that they were not ready to make a vote today on the language of the rule. Motioned, seconded, passed 7-1

Rule hearing concluded at 10:16am

5. Open Forum – Dai-E Dordor Vang, Chair

There were no public comments at this time.

6. Washington Physicians Health Program (WPHP)

Dr. Chris Bundy gave a presentation regarding the WPHP.

7. Second Substitute House Bill 1724 Section 8

Brandon Williams gave a presentation regarding SSHB 1724 and the board reviewed the informational attachment of SSHB 1724. The board discussed options to comply with SSHB 1724. Motioned to open rules to remove the JP Exam, seconded, and approved. Motioned to have Brandon's team help with state equivalency, seconded, and approved.



8. Prescription Monitoring Program (WPHP)

Ms. Hu gave a presentation on PMP regarding the veterinarian profession and answered questions regarding PMP information.

9. Rulemaking- Exam and Licensure Requirements

Ms. Budrow gave an update on the rulemaking stating it is still in the review process. The board decided on a subcommittee and the first meeting will be on January 19th.

10. Rulemaking- Veterinary Telemedicine

10.1 The board has received comments from the public regarding veterinary-client patient relationship (VCPR).

Candace Joy:

WSVMA submitted written comments, generally the WSVMA has supportive of the use of telemedicine in veterinary practice in between visits to the veterinarian. We are against changing the regulations that would allow veterinarians to establish VCPR solely through telephonic or electronic means. So, we believe that the current draft that you have, it's developed to be very well thought out and we appreciate the thoughtfulness in that, and we do think that it properly addresses the various changes to practice.

Brittany Benesi:

On behalf of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. We believe that expanding the access to veterinary care, including an expansion of allowable veterinary telemedicine is key to improving animal welfare and keeping pets and people together. We are very grateful to the board for the time and effort that has gone into considering changes to the VCPR rules over the past several years. Unfortunately, we are concerned that the ultimate impact of the current proposed changes will be to curtail one of the most promising and immediately available tools in the access to care toolkit, at a time when Washington pet owners are struggling to access care for their pets based on data from the CDC, US Census Bureau and the AVMA, Washington has a veterinary care accessibility score of 47 out of 100. So a failing grade in access to veterinary care and additionally one in three pets does not receive regular veterinary care and so the basis of considering veterinary telemedicine really shouldn't be framed as whether a physical exam is preferred to an exam via telemedicine, but whether a telemedicine exam is preferred to no care at all whether a client is waiting weeks for an appointment, has mobility challenges or lacks transportation, or simply who has a pet who gets stress going to the vet, all of which are stories we have heard from Washington. Pet owners expanding the use of veterinary telemedicine in Washington will improve access to care. As of today, no US or Canadian jurisdiction has reported harm due to telemedicine and Washington's own experience of the in person VCPR should be showed that Washington licensed veterinarians can and should be trusted to exercise their professional judgment to determine whether establishing a VCPR using telemedicine is appropriate. We greatly appreciate that the proposed rule changes include 2 exceptions in veterinary telemedicine that may be used outside of a VCPR.

However, these exceptions will do little to improve access to care on the details on those positions are included in our comment letter provided and so rather than hardening. We would welcome the opportunity to speak to the VCPR subcommittee as they consider the public's comments.

- 10.2** The board agreed they needed to review more and set a Veterinary Telemedicine Subcommittee meeting for February 7th to review comments received.

11. Rulemaking- Animal Healthcare Tasks

- 11.1. Animal Manipulation Subcommittee met on November 21, 2023. Dr. Senestraro and Dr. Sellon gave an update on the subcommittee meeting and their recommendations. The board discussed continuing to work with the Chiropractic Commission on restricting language on who can perform animal manipulation.

The board motioned to support the Chiropractic Commission with legislation to restrict animal manipulation to those who meet requirements as defined by the Veterinary Board of Governors, motioned was seconded and passed.

Another subcommittee meeting is scheduled for January 8th, 2024.

- 11.2. Animal Healthcare Tasks scheduled their subcommittee meeting for February 2nd, 2024.

12. Correspondence

The board reviewed the letter from Katherine Haigh where she gave an overview of the conference she attended in September.

13. Legislative Update

The board decided that Dr. Haigh and Dr. Vang will receive and attend the legislative updates.

14. Board Elections

Andrea Sanchez-Chambers was nominated for Board Chair and Debra Sellon for Vice-Chair. Nominations were motioned, seconded, and approved.

15. Meeting Dates for 2024

The Board reviewed all the meeting dates for 2024.

16. Agenda Development

The Board discussed items for their next meeting held in March 2024.



17. Meeting Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:34 p.m., seconded, passed unanimously.

Submitted by:

Poppy Budrow, Program Manager
Veterinarian Board of Governors

Approved by:

Dai-E Dordor Vang, Chair
Veterinarian Board of Governors

On file

SIGNATURE

DATE

On file

SIGNATURE

DATE

