Minutes of the Meeting of the
New York State Board for Veterinary Medicine
Friday, September 3, 2021
Meeting Held Via WebEx

Meeting is available via WebEx and being recorded.

Dr. Doug Aspros called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Introductions and Review of Roster.

Board Members Present: Dr. Doug Aspros, Dr. David Chico, Dr. Mark Chmielewicz, Dr. Howard Gittelman, Dr. Margret Thompson, Dr. Alexandra Van der Woerdt, Dr. Paul Zoyhofs (call-in user), Alexandria Kanes LVT, Erica McKee LVT (call-in user), and public member Samantha Segal.

NYSED Staff Present: Stephen Boese, Executive Secretary to the Board; Carla Wells, Education Program Assistant 2; Lee Fitzgerald, Education Program Assistant; and Heidi Weinman, Secretary.

Guests Present: Timothy Atkinson and Emily Whalen of NYSVMS; Dennis Spillane of OPD, Heather Klusendorf, Director of the OP Modernization Program, and Gabriel Montgomery of the OP Modernization Program, Dr. Karen Brandt, Director of Education and Research Division at the AVMA, and members of the public Libby Post and Noreen Early.

Motion to approve minutes of March meeting (July meeting was cancelled), seconded, and passed.

Review Public Record of Board of Regents Enforcement Action in Veterinary Medicine:

Everyone has received a list of cases resolved since the last meeting. There was a question about a case of “forcible touching” and what that meant. There are questions about the length of time it takes for cases to be resolved and Dennis Spillane explains the process and time frame for each step of the process.

Update from NYSED and the Office of Professions:

Mr. Boese explains that we are meeting via WebEx today due to Hurricane Ida causing a transportation crisis in New York City. The open meetings law amendment allowing teleconference meetings has been extended to January 20, 2022.

Currently licensing is slightly behind the normal pace, but we’re doing the best we can with limited staff.

Selection of Delegate to the AAVSB Annual Meeting:

Dr. Chmielewicz has been the representative in the pass. Motion made to keep him in that position, seconded, and passed.
Update on Office of Professions Technology Improvements for Applicants and Licensees:

Heather Klusendorf and Gabriel Montgomery discuss the various projects being undertaken by the OP Modernization Program. This includes updates to the OP website, creating a central place for initiating and managing licenses and renewals, streamlining the back-end database system that NYSED staff uses, and getting more forms online, especially Limited Permits. The publicly available information for a licensee online will be expanded, and there is a suggestion to add links to any professional publications by the licensee. They are also making the user interface more user-friendly with making relevant information easy to understand and access.

Supervision of Veterinarians Providing Care in Multi-Doctor Practices:

The board has worked on and passed earlier this year practice guidelines for multi-doctor practices. Mr. Spillane explains the problems that were coming up with OPD complaints when multiple doctors were engaged in one case at different times. Mr. Boese explains the difference between a practice guideline and a Regents Rule. Guidance in the field contributes to disciplinary cases as a basis for Standards of Care. This board has requested to make this a Regents Rule, that has the force of law and is a clear misconduct charge.

There are three goals. Clear records that list what staff member is performing what acts on an animal at any given time. Adequate supervision of all staff, both licensed and unlicensed to manage care for an animal at all times. Principals in a multi-doctor practice must provide all appropriate supervision, equipment, human resources, medical record, and client communication platform under which practice staff can provide adequate care. We’ll send the guidelines to NYSVMS one more time for comment before we submit it to the Board of Regents for review.

Policy review: Pre-professional education licensure requirements:

This is under the Regents Rules. Dr. Aspros explains that the pre-professional education requirement often keeps veterinarians from being licensed in NYS because it’s a requirement that many other states don’t have and not every school requires the same length of time. Dr. Karen Brandt, Director of Education and Research Division at the AVMA discusses various facets of the issue. She discusses accreditation standards including admissions, curriculum, and outcomes assessment.

The board discusses the Regents rule of 60 hours of pre-professional education and if they should keep it, modify it, or remove it.

Motion is made to modify the requirement to 30 hours, seconded, and passed. Drs. Zoyhofski and Chmielewicz vote “Nay”, all others vote “Yay.” Stephen will put it in the appropriate form to go to the Regents and move to the next step.

Next Meeting Dates:

The next meeting is set for Friday, January 7, 2022 at 10:00 am via WebEx.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm

Draft respectfully submitted,
Carla Wells

Education Program Assistant 2