Meeting is available via WebEx and being recorded.

Dr. Doug Aspros called the meeting to order at 10:04 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 Zoyhofsli, Alexandria Kanes LVT, Erica McKee LVT, and public member Samantha Segal.

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

Guests Present: Morgan Guiffre and Michele (Surname Unknown) Vets to Pets House Call Service. Tim Atkinson and Emily Whalen from the NYSVMS. Eric Greppo, Executive Secretary to the State Board for Engineering, Land Surveying and Geology and the State Board for Interior Design. Evan Seiden, Executive Secretary to the State Board for Social Work and the State Board for Mental Health Practitioners.

Motion to approve minutes of January 7th meeting, 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. Dr. Aspros requested additional information concerning censure and reprimand, and how it may best be used in veterinary disciplinary cases.

Update from NYSED and the Office of Professions, Stephen Boese:

Regulatory proposal: The Governor’s proposal to transfer the healthcare professions from OP to DOH was not included in the final budget.

The open meetings law amendment allowing teleconference meetings has been extended to May 15th, 2022. The recent State Budget legislation contained provisions regarding amendments to the Open Meeting Law. Once NYSED policy is finalized, we will so inform all members.

FDA Compounding Guidance: There is a guidance allowance for non-patient specific medications. There is concern from the board that this is technically illegal under federal law, even if there is nonbinding FDA guidance.

Update: Discussion With Mr. Spillane Concerning Corporate Practice and Veterinary Medicine:
Dr. Aspros and Mr. Boese had a conversation with Professional Conduct Officer Dennis Spillane regarding the concern of out-of-state corporations practicing Veterinary Telemedicine. OPD-Investigations are now investigating several instances of possible violations.

Request from Vets to Pets House Call Service to Establish VCPR by Video Chat. Review of VCPR Guidance for Discussion: (See http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/vetmed/vetpg5.htm)

Morgan Guiffre from Vets to Pets House Call Service has provided the board with a proposal for a Veterinary Client Patient Relationship (VCPR) to be established via telehealth services. The justification is that this will relieve the strain on veterinary practices due to the ongoing Veterinarian shortage and the COVID-19 crisis. Vets to Pets is located in Virginia, which changed their regulations to allow a telehealth VCPR in 2020. They have been utilizing telehealth as a triaging tool to determine patient need before providing a referral for in-person care. The Board appreciates some of these concerns and have additional questions. The Board assembled a workgroup, to be led by Dr. Thompson to further discuss these issues.

Other Issues:

Dr. Thompson raised concerns regarding recordkeeping requirements and their impact on patient care and disciplinary investigations. Notably, many records presented in investigations are missing important elements like radiographs, anesthesia sheets and electronic treatment sheets. Poor records can impact the board’s ability to determine if proper care was provided—It can be challenging or impossible to discipline a licensee for misconduct if no specific proof of the misconduct exists.

Dr. Chico volunteered with the International Fund for Animal Welfare at the Ukrainian/Polish border assisting with the evacuation of Ukrainian citizens with companion animals. Individuals looking to help are encouraged to provide cash donations so the organization has the flexibility to meet their evolving needs.

Next Meeting Dates:

The next meeting is set for Friday, September 16th, 2022 at 10:00 AM.

Meeting adjourned at 11:37 AM

Draft respectfully submitted,

Lee Fitzgerald
Education Program Assistant 1