

Minutes of the Meeting of the
New York State Board for Veterinary Medicine
Friday, November 1, 2024
1411 Broadway NY, NY

Dr. Doug Aspros called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Introductions and Review of Roster.

Board Members Present: Dr. Doug Aspros, Dr. Frank Capella, Dr. Mark Chmielewicz, Dr. Julie Fixman, Dr. Howard Gittelman, Dr. Ashley Harris, Dr. Margret Thompson, Dr. Sandra Van Der Woerdt, Dr. Paul Zoyhofski, Alexandria Kanes LVT, Erica McKee LVT, and public member Samantha Segal.

NYSED Staff Present: Stephen Boese, Executive Secretary to the Board; Michelle Pawlowski, Education Credentials Specialist 2; Carla Wells, Education Program Assistant 2; Lee Fitzgerald, Education Program Assistant 2.

Guests Present: Dennis Spillane of OPD, Dr. Lauren Kleine, President of NYSVMS, Tim Atkinson of NYSVMS, and Dr. Helen Tuzio

Motion to approve minutes of August 16, 2024 meeting, seconded, and passed.

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

The board had questions at the last meeting about Dr. Michael Miller's actions on two different licenses, LVT and DVM. The board previously asked if the suspensions were concurrent or separate. Mr. Spillane has confirmed they were concurrent.

Update from NYSED and the Office of Professions:

Nominations were made for a new board chair. Dr. Margaret Thompson is nominated, motion is made, seconded and passed. For AAVSB liaison, Dr. Ashley Harris is nominated, motion is made, seconded, and passed. For vice chair, Dr. Sandra Van Der Woerdt is nominated, motion is made, seconded, and passed. All appointments will be for the remainder of 2024 and 2025.

Pregnant Women Holding Radiography Patients:

The DOH has proposed a full revision of their article 16 regulations concerning ionizing radiation which includes a prohibition on pregnant women holding animals during radiation procedures.

The board asked at the last meeting if the same provisions applied to human medicine. Mr. Boese confirmed that yes, there is the same provision in human medicine. Mr. Boese will follow up with BERP on questions about dosimetry parameters and other specifics, such as privacy concerns about LVTs needing to violate their privacy to disclose pregnancy. Many practices already expect disclosure of pregnancy to adequately protect them from radiation, inhalant gases, and other chemicals. Health codes already prohibit pregnant LVTs from performing those services.

ECFVG certification:

A question was raised if the ECFVG certification is required for foreign graduates. Review of the regulations has confirmed that it is recommended but not required. However, The ICVA website states that for admittance to the NAVLE exam, they do need to be ECFVG or PAVE certified.

Preview of AAVSB Annual Meeting:

Dr. Chmielewicz reports on the AAVSB annual conference. He reviews the composition and purpose of the AAVSB. Dr. Chmielewicz has been nominated and appointed to the Board of Directors. A question was raised at the conference of why NYS doesn't require health department visits and reviews of veterinary hospitals. Mr. Boese reports on the conversation held about a previous announcement issued by the AAVSB about a board member being dismissed. Dr. Venit presented on the survey issued to boards about the addition of mid-level practitioners. The majority result was not in support of that, and they would continue to develop LVT roles and responsibilities.

Update on VTNE eligibility, VAULT Premium acceptance, and RACE credits approval:

Mrs. Gibbons presents updates on the three areas she is working with OP leadership to streamline and make more time and cost-effective. VTNE eligibility has been resolved because the AAVSB has now taken full responsibility for candidate eligibility for the exam and states are no longer able to be the intermediary. Comparative Education and PEPR are still reviewing the ability to accept VAULT Premium packets as proof of education and licenses in other states. The Coordinator of OP and the Assistant Deputy Commissioner are still reviewing the ability to accept AAVSB/RACE as an approved CE provider, as well as using RACETrack as first-party verification of licensee CE credits. Mrs. Gibbons will report again at the next meeting with an update on these processes.

Presentation by Dennis Spillane on Professional Misconduct Investigations and Prosecution:

Mr. Spillane reviews the composition and purpose of the investigation and prosecution departments and their different roles in the investigative process of OPD cases. He discusses the application of the NYSED standards of practice when evaluating complaints. He also discusses the difference between simple and major offenses. He also reviews the statutes and regulations pertaining to veterinary medicine, as well as the processes associated with each type of violation, including restoration and moral character cases.

Review of policy concerning the names of veterinary PCs and PLLCs:

This issue is being postponed to the next meeting.

Next Meeting Dates:

The next meeting will be on February 28, 2025 at 11:00 am at 1411 Broadway.

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm

Draft respectfully submitted,

Carla Gibbons
Education Program Assistant 2

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