

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
New York State Board for Veterinary Medicine  
Friday, February 28, 2025  
1411 Broadway, New York, New York

Dr. Gittelman called the meeting to order at 11:00 am

Welcome and Introductions – Dr. Gittelman

Board Members Present: Dr. Frank Capella, Dr. Julie Fixman, Dr. Howard Gittelman, Dr. Ashley Harris, Alexandria Kanis LVT, Dr. Beth Ann Shane-Holser, Dr. Margret Thompson (remote), Dr. Paul Zoyhofski

NYSED Staff Present: Stephen Boese, Michelle Pawlowski, Lee Fitzgerald

Guest Present in Albany: Tim Atkinson of NYSVMS, Dr. Lauren Klein, President of NYSVMS, Emily Whalen, Attorney at Brown & Weinraub.

Motion to approve minutes of November 1, 2024, meeting, seconded and passed.

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

The Board did not have any questions regarding the enforcement actions.

Update from NYSED and the Office of Professions:

Board Membership is still in need of a Vet Technician to fill Erica's position.

Dr. Chmielewicz recommended an LVT candidate in practice to fill the position.

We have veterinarians waiting to apply for Board membership when an opening becomes available.

Pregnant women holding animals during radiographs:

There have not been any updates from BERP. Article 16 regulations say that pregnant women cannot hold an animal or assist in holding during radiographs. It does not say women of childbearing age. We will revisit at a later meeting.

Veterinary Medicine and Social Work:

Veterinarians hiring social workers is illegal and against business corporation law. A Veterinarian is not qualified to supervise a social worker. Veterinarians cannot employ a social worker even if they are working for the same not-for-profit. Social workers need to have a waiver to work for a not-for-profit and confer with Social Work Board. A Veterinarian practice or limited liability practice cannot hire a social worker. Referral relationships could be acceptable. The question was raised about social workers hiring veterinarians. More questions describing different Veterinarian/Social Worker arrangements will need to be investigated. For example, out of state social work entities being hired by New York Veterinary practices.

Veterinary Professional Associate:

The Board reviewed AAVSB statement from Frank Richardson, AAVSB President.

Proposal for veterinary assistant in Colorado.

AAVSB proposed to offer guidance of education and resources.

Mid-level practitioner that supersedes Technician is what Colorado wants to implement.

Expanding the role of LVT could be an answer for Veterinarian shortage, increase the salary, and allow them to prescribe.

The Board suggests waiting to see how it works in Colorado before moving forward with a position in New York.

Career ladders for Veterinary Technicians may increase the numbers of LVTs leading to full Veterinarians.

The proposed Veterinarian Professional Associate would have a Master's Degree.

Should the state boards be the one helping to design the education and exams for a new position?

More information is needed, and this will continue to be under active discussion.

Stephen will report back in the next meeting with updates.

Update: VTNE eligibility, VAULT, RACE:

We do not have a lot of new information. We are working with council to see if all Race approved credits can be NY State approved CE.

VAULT for VET Techs is ending due to lack of necessity and utilization.

Review of proposed policy concerning the names of veterinary PC's and PLLC's:

Board members were asked to take a closer look at the proposed policy and to share their comments.

Urgent Care and Emergency differences need to be addressed including requiring a veterinarian certified in emergency care is to be on staff.

Veterinarians are required to have boarded certification if they are advertising a specialty to the public.

All owners and licensed veterinarians on staff of the practice must meet this standard, providing evidence of having met these standards is the responsibility of the applicant(s).

The Department can look at substantial equivalence to board certification to say that they specialize in the field they are advertising in their business name.

The Board motions for a workgroup to look more closely at the proposed policy.

Motion for a workgroup is seconded and passed.

Dr. Ashley Harris, Dr. Julie Fixman, Dr. Howard Gittelman volunteered to be on the workgroup. Dr. Paul Zoyhofski volunteered if a fourth member is needed for the workgroup.

Next Meeting Date: Friday, June 13, 10 am.

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm

Draft respectfully submitted,

Michelle Pawlowski

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