

**MINUTES, North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board
Raleigh, North Carolina, July 18, 2019**

At 8:00 a.m., President Susan Bull, DVM called to order the regular meeting of the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board. Present were the following Board members: Drs. Kent Dean, Susan Bull, Kim Gemeinhardt, Ronald Komich, and Azure Holland; and Robin Lazaro, RVT, and Mrs. Krissie Newman. Also present were Board Attorney, George Hearn, and Executive Director, Dr. Tod J. Schadler, and Elisa Meier, NCSU-CVM student liaison. Doug Meckes, DVM arrived at 8:07 a.m.

Dr. Bull reviewed with the Board the Governor's and the North Carolina Ethics Commission's statement on recognizing and avoiding conflicts of interest. She also reviewed G.S. § 90-179 of the North Carolina Veterinary Practice Act.

The following guests were introduced: Jennifer Shults, DVM, President-Elect, NCVMA, Joshua Chelgren, RVT, Jennifer Neel, DVM, Faculty at NCSU-CVM, and Dante Martin, DVM, Vice President, NCVMA.

The May 16, 2019 Board meeting minutes were reviewed. Dr. Gemeinhardt, seconded by Dr. Komich, moved to approve the May 16, 2019

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Board minutes with corrections. The corrected minutes were approved unanimously.

Dr. Dante Martin advised the Board that Dr. Kenneth Padgett, former NCVMB Board member, had passed away on July 14, 2019.

Reports:

North Carolina Professional Health Program (NCPHP) Report:

Dr. Joseph Jordan, CEO of NCPHP, gave an updated report on participants in its program. He gave a brief presentation on a one-hour program he has developed on “Substance Abuse” that will be used for CEs for veterinarians and registered veterinary technicians. This presentation will be available at no cost online.

A new Agreement with NCPHP was reviewed by the Board for the period of February 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. Included in this new Agreement is the new impairment definition which addresses both physical and mental illness.

Mrs. Krissie Newman made a motion to approve the Agreement with NCPHP, seconded by Dr. Gemeinhardt. The Agreement was approved unanimously and signed by Dr. Jordan and Dr. Schadler.

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NCSU-CVM and NCVMB Meeting:

Dr. Meckes, Dr. Holland, Dr. Bull, Dr. Schadler, and Dr. Neel met to discuss the extra-mural experience for veterinary students during their first three years. Dr. Meckes suggested that 3rd year students, who have had surgical courses, be able to apply as interns. Dr. Bull appointed Dr. Meckes, Dr. Holland, and Dr. Dean as a committee to look into this possibility.

Occupational Board Licensing Seminar:

On May 30, 2019 Dr. Bull, Keith West, and Mr. Hearn attended the OLA Best Practices Seminar, the agenda of which included topics developed specifically for NC occupational licensing board members, executive directors, and attorneys.

State Veterinarian:

Dr. Meckes presented a report which included an update on the African Swine Fever in Asia and the Asian Longhorned ticks. These ticks have been reported in Surry County.

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Chief Inspector's Report:

Dr. David Marshall, Chief Inspector, reported that the Board's facility inspectors inspected 145 facilities this last quarter. Of the few facilities that have serious violations, the violations are mostly for expired drugs and the security of controlled drugs. There was one concern about a facility that is in disrepair, with water dripping from ceilings, with ceiling tiles falling down and mold on walls. This veterinarian will be given 90 days to correct the violations.

Dr. Schadler complimented all of the inspectors for their professionalism, work and dedication.

At 9:30 a.m., the Board took a break and reconvened at 9:45 a.m.

Legislative Committees:

- **SB 604** – This amended Bill is on the Governor's desk for signature. The Bill includes authorization for the Board to adopt rules regarding telehealth/telemedicine. Jon Carr, attorney for NCVMA, who assisted greatly in communications with legislators, obtained a sponsor in the House for the Bill.

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- **HB 707** – This Bill recognized apprenticeships and training. As originally written, it would have affected the current requirements for registration of registered veterinary technicians. The Bill was amended to read that it shall “not apply to occupational licensing boards governing professions requiring advanced knowledge acquired by a prolonged course of specialized intellectual study, including those requiring a bachelor’s or advanced degree.” Jon Carr, attorney for NCVMA, greatly assisted in providing information about the Bill to legislators and the Board.

Shelter Oversight:

The joint NCDA&CS/NCVMB committee is still studying proposed shelter rules, one of which would incorporate NCVMB’s minimum standards for surgery, drug requirements, after hours care, and require that a licensed North Carolina veterinarian perform the surgery in shelters.

A motion was made at 10:20 a.m. by Dr. Dean, seconded by Dr. Gemeinhardt, for the Board to go into closed session to review a disciplinary case pursuant to G.S. 143.318.11(a)(3)(6). The motion passed unanimously.

At 10:59 the Board returned to the regular meeting.

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Dr. Dean, seconded by Dr. Gemeinhardt, made a motion to eliminate the remaining period of stayed suspension/probation under the Consent Order in complaint 2013024-3 with Dr. Timothy Jordan based on his compliance with the terms of the Consent Order and with his contract with NCPHP. The motion passed unanimously.

Student Liaison Report:

Elisa Meier, Student Liaison from North Carolina State University – College of Veterinary Medicine (NCSU-CVM) is continuing to collect questions from students and faculty to present to the Board.

Executive Director's Report:

Dr. Schadler gave an update on licensing activities and the financial report.

Dr. Schadler met with Michelle Foote, CPA, from the certified public accounting firm of Koonce, Wooten & Haywood. They will officially start the Board's audit at the end of July 2019.

Security update for the Board office: doors are consistently locked; there is an updated monitored security system; and there will be locks on the restrooms off of the lobby.

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Update on the Board's Facebook site: when Dr. Schadler first started updating Facebook, there were about 100 followers, now there are over 1,000 followers. This site is reaching both public and veterinary professionals. It is a good communication platform.

Dr. Schadler asked the Board if it would pay for Dr. Holland, Keith West, and Elisa Meier to go to the AAVSB meeting in St. Louis on September 26-28, 2019.

Dr. Gemeinhardt, seconded by Mrs. Robin Lazaro, made a motion for the NCVMB to pay for Dr. Holland, Keith West, and Elisa Meier to attend the AAVSB meeting in St. Louis on September 26-28, 2019. Motioned passed unanimously.

Dr. Schadler asked the Board to consider contacting other Veterinary Boards in States that border North Carolina to discuss differences in rules, emergency situations, etc. The Board instructed Dr. Schadler to look into this.

The topic of CBD oil and veterinary practices was discussed. Dr. Meckes will invite a FDA person to come to the next Board meeting to discuss this topic.

At 11:45 a.m., the Board took a brief break and continued the meeting during a working lunch with Mr. Hearn conducting required Board Training,

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including reviewing applicable statutes and rules. The Board reconvened at 12:35 p.m.

Report of Committee on Investigations No. 7

- a. 2017051-7 – Steven A. Walker, DVM (Countryside Animal Hospital) – Ms. Jean Wiggs – Reconsidered - Letter of Reprimand and Letter of Caution. The Committee recommends a \$5,000 civil monetary penalty.
- b. 2018047-7 - Matthew Eric Braun, DVM; Stephanie Loughlin Bedwell, DVM; Steven Michael Cogar, DVM (Carolina Veterinary Specialists Referral Animal Hospital Winston-Salem) – Ms. Louise A. Pecevich – Continued
- c. 2019017-7 – Jerry L. Eskridge, DVM (Kings Mountain Animal Hospital) – NCVMB – Withdrawn
- d. 201915-7 – Donald L. Fuller, DVM (Caswell Veterinary Service) – NCVMB – The Committee will hold this matter open through 12/31/2019
- e. 2019011-7 – Ann Ochiltree Griffin, DVM (Banfield Pet Hospital-Morrisville) – Dr. Sandra Thomas – Letter of Caution
- f. 2019023-7 – Jack Lee Miller, DVM (Miller Animal Hospital) – Mr. Hamid Ejlali – No Probable Cause, dismissed
- g. 2019021-7 – Elizabeth Gough Eubanks, DVM and Rebecca Gail Weaver, DVM (Animal Ark Veterinary Hospital) – Ms. Jennifer Hough - continued

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Regarding 2017051-7, Dr. Steven Walker, Dr. Gemeinhardt made a motion to accept Committee on Investigations No. 7's recommendation for a civil monetary penalty of \$5,000, to be paid in 45 days from receipt of the Letter of Reprimand, pursuant to the statutory factors set forth in G.S. §90-187.8 (1),(2) and (3), seconded by Dr. Dean. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Dean made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Krissie Newman, to approve the report from Committee on Investigations No. 7. The report from Committee 7 was approved unanimously.

Report of Committee on Investigations No. 1

- a. 2018046-1 – Candyce Marcel Thompson, DVM (CVS-Greensboro) – Ms. Courtney I. Raughley – No Probable Cause, dismissed
- b. 2019008-1 – Brian Theodor Barnett, DVM (Randolph Animal Hospital) – Christopher & Jennifer Priddy – Continued
- c. 2019012-1 – Lindsey Marie Davis, DVM (Banfield Pet Hospital-Cary) – Ms. Debra Kresch – No Probable Cause, dismissed
- d. 2019014-1 – Teresa Palmer Danford, DVM (Raleigh Community Animal Hospital) – Xaveria & Abraham Donovan – Letter of Reprimand
- e. 2019016-1 – Jillian Keffer Cort, DVM and Rudi Richmand, VMD (Animal Emergency & Trauma Hospital of Wilmington) – Ms. Tina Lee – No Probable Cause, dismissed

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- f. 2019018-1 - Candyce Marcel Thompson, DVM (CVS-Greensboro) – Ms. Linda Cooper – No Probable Cause, dismissed
- g. 2019020-1 – James R. McClearen, DVM (Tri-County Animal Clinic) – Ms. Darion Kinderknecht – No Probable Cause, dismissed
- h. 2019025-1 – James F. Link, DVM (North Stanly Animal Clinic) – NCVMB – Case held open until report of next inspection is received and reviewed.

Dr. Komich was recused from the discussion and voting on complaint 2018046-1.

Dr. Gemeinhardt made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Robin Lazaro, to approve the report from Committee on Investigations No. 1. The report from Committee 1 was approved.

Dr. Gemeinhardt, seconded by Dr. Dean, made a motion to approve the meeting's expenses. It was approved unanimously.

Congratulations were offered to Dr. Dean as past President of the Board and to Dr. Bull for conducting her first meeting as President.

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The Board having no further business, a motion to adjourn made by Dr. Gemeinhardt, seconded by Mrs. Krissie Newman, passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tod J. Schadler, DVM
Executive Director