

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**  
**FULL BOARD MEETING**  
**VIRTUAL**  
**March 11, 2021**

**TIME AND PLACE:** A virtual meeting via Webex of the Board of Veterinary Medicine (Board) was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

**PRESIDING OFFICER** Tregel Cockburn, D.V.M., President

**PARTICIPATING VIRTUALLY:**

**MEMBERS PARTICIPATING VIRTUALLY:** Mary Yancey Spencer, J.D., Citizen Member, Vice-President  
Autumn N. Halsey, L.V.T., Secretary  
Ellen G. Hillyer, D.V.M.  
Steven B. Karras, D.V.M.  
Jeffery Newman, D.V.M.  
Bayard A. Rucker, III, D.V.M.

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:** All members were present.

**STAFF PARTICIPATING VIRTUALLY:** Leslie L. Knachel, Executive Director  
Kelli Moss, Deputy Executive Director  
Anthony C. Morales, Licensing/Operations Manager  
Celia Wilson, Operations Administrative Assistant  
Heather Pote, Disciplinary Case Specialist  
Matt Treacy, Media Production Specialist  
Barbara Allison-Bryan, M.D., Agency Chief Deputy Director  
Kelly Gottschalk, D.V.M., Veterinary Review Coordinator  
Amy Davis, Administrative Assistant  
Charis Mitchell, Assistant Attorney General, Board Counsel  
Elaine Yeatts, Senior Policy Analyst  
Rebecca Schultz, Policy Specialist  
Melody Morton, Inspections Manager, Enforcement Division

**OTHERS PARTICIPATING VIRTUALLY:** Eight members of the public

**CALL TO ORDER QUORUM:** Dr. Cockburn welcomed attendees and requested that Ms. Knachel take a roll call of the board members present. With seven members of the Board present, a quorum was established. Ms. Knachel introduced new staff member, Heather Pote. Dr. Cockburn read the Board's mission statement.

**ORDERING OF AGENDA:** Ms. Knachel requested to amend the Discussion Items of the agenda by removing 150-2, Guidance on Expanded Duties for Licensed Veterinary Technicians, under the Review of Guidance Documents.

Dr. Karras moved to accept the agenda with the deletion of 150-2, Guidance on Expanded Duties for Licensed Veterinary Technicians, under the Review of Guidance Documents. The motion was properly seconded by Dr. Rucker.

A roll call vote was taken by Ms. Knachel. The motion carried with a unanimous "aye" vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** There was no public comment.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Dr. Karras moved to approve the meeting minutes as presented for the following meetings:

- July 21, 2020 WebEx Training Session
- July 28, 2020 Full Board Meeting

The motion was properly seconded by Dr. Newman. A roll call vote was taken by Ms. Knachel. The motion carried with a unanimous “aye” vote.

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT:**

Dr. Allison-Bryan reported on the agency’s formation of a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, (DEI) counsel. She then reported on COVID-19 vaccine statistics in Virginia. Dr. Allison-Bryan stated that most Boards have forgone continuing education audits for this year due to the pandemic.

**LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY UPDATE:**

**2021 Legislative/Regulatory Update**

Ms. Yeatts provided an update on the 2021 legislative session.

Ms. Yeatts experienced technical issues and asked the Board to move to the Discussion Items until the issue was resolved.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**Veterinary Establishment Inspection Update**

Ms. Morton provided an update on the veterinary establishment inspection process.

**LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY UPDATE**

**2021 Legislative/Regulatory Update Continued**

Petition for Rulemaking – Consideration of Cary petition to add requirement for one hour of continuing education on the subjects of diversity, equity and inclusion.

The Board discussed the petition.

Ms. Halsey moved to deny initiating rulemaking for the Cary petition because the purpose of the Board is protection of the public and continuing education should be used to improve patient care.

The motion was properly seconded by Dr. Rucker. A roll call vote was taken by Ms. Knachel. Drs. Cockburn, Hillyer, Karras and Rucker voted “aye” and Dr. Newman voted “nay.” The motion carried with a 6 to 1 vote.

Petition for Rulemaking - Consideration of Daniel petition to allow unlicensed veterinary assistant to place intravenous catheter.

The Board discussed the petition.

Ms. Halsey moved to deny the Daniel petition for rulemaking due to concerns about patient safety and the need for education and training prior to performing an invasive procedure.

The motion was properly seconded by Dr. Karras. A roll call vote was taken by Ms. Knachel. A roll call vote was taken by Ms. Knachel. The motion carried with a unanimous “aye” vote.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS CONTINUED:**

**Veterinary Establishment Inspection Update Continued**

**Inspection Committee**

Dr. Cockburn reported on the Committee’s activities.

## **Review of Guidance Documents – Ms. Knachel/Ms. Yeatts**

### 76-21.2.1, Veterinary Establishment Inspection Report

Ms. Knachel commented that the updated guidance document presented for the Board's consideration is based on the Veterinary Establishment Inspection Committee's recommendations.

The Board discussed the changes.

Dr. Rucker moved to accept the updated version of Guidance Document 76-21.2.1 as presented.

The motion was properly seconded by Dr. Karras. A roll call vote was taken by Ms. Knachel. The motion carried with a unanimous "aye" vote.

Ms. Knachel and Ms. Yeatts provided information on the following guidance documents:

- 150-3, Preceptorship and Externships for Veterinary Technician Students;
- 150-6, Ambulatory Mobile Service Establishments;
- 150-7, Disposition of Cases Involving Failure of Veterinarian-in-Charge to Notify Board of Veterinary Establishment Closure;
- 150-13, Controlled Substances (Schedule II-VI) in Veterinary Practice;
- 150-16, Protocol to follow upon discovery of a loss or theft of drugs;
- 150-23, Disposal of deceased animals; and
- 150-XX Veterinary Establishments.

The Board discussed the guidance document. Ms. Yeatts indicated that 150-XX Veterinary Establishments would be numbered as 150-26.

Ms. Halsey moved to accept the guidance documents reviewed as presented with the following changes:

- Deleting 150-6, Ambulatory Mobile Service Establishments when 150-26 Veterinary Establishments becomes effective;
- Fix a typo found in 150-23, Disposal of deceased animals.

The motion was properly seconded by Dr. Newman. A roll call vote was taken by Ms. Knachel. The motion carried with a unanimous "aye" vote.

### **Veterinary Technician vs. Veterinary Nurse Degrees**

Ms. Knachel stated that several accredited veterinary technology programs have changed the degree awarded from "veterinary technology" to "veterinary nurse." The Board's regulations require a "degree in veterinary technology from a college or school accredited by the AVMA..." She presented a statement from the AVMA that states "The AVMA will continue to use the term veterinary technician in its policies and communications, but will recognize credential veterinary nurses as being equivalent to credentialed veterinary technicians."

Ms. Knachel proposed Guidance Document 150-XX, Recognized Veterinary Technology Degrees and to move forward with a fast-track action to amend the regulations by including "veterinary nurse degree." Ms. Yeatts indicated that 150-XX, Recognized Veterinary Technology Degrees would be numbered as 150-27.

Dr. Karras moved to accept proposed Guidance Document, 150-27, Recognized Veterinary Technology Degrees and to initiate a fast-track action to amend the regulations to include “veterinary nurse degree.”

The motion was properly seconded by Dr. Newman.

The Board discussed the documents. Ms. Yeatts indicated the license issued would remain “Veterinary Technician” unless a change to the Code of Virginia was made.

A roll call vote was taken by Ms. Knachel. The motion carried with a unanimous “aye” vote.

The Board recessed at 11:00 a.m. and reconvened at 11:10 a.m. at which time a roll call vote was taken. With all 7 members of the Board present, the meeting continued.

#### **Continuing Education, (CE) Audit**

Ms. Knachel asked the Board to consider foregoing a CE audit for the time period of January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020 due to the pandemic.

Dr. Newman moved to forego conducting a CE audit for the time period of January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

The motion was properly seconded by Dr. Hillyer. A roll call vote was taken by Ms. Knachel. The motion carried with a unanimous “aye” vote.

#### **BOARD COUNSEL REPORT:**

Ms. Mitchell had nothing to report to the Board.

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS CONTINUED:**

#### **Update United States Pharmacopeia, (USP) Chapters 795, 797 and 800**

Ms. Knachel provided an update on the USP chapters related to compounding by the veterinary community.

#### **PRESIDENT’S REPORT:**

Dr. Cockburn thanked Board members and staff for continuing board activities during the pandemic. She recognized Dr. Rucker for his eight-years of service to the Board as his term expires on June 30, 2021.

#### **BOARD OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS’ REPORT:**

Dr. Karras provided a report on the recent activities of the Board of Health Professions.

#### **STAFF REPORTS:**

#### **Executive Director’s Report**

Ms. Knachel and Ms. Moss reported on statistics for licensure, budget and discipline caseload.

Ms. Knachel provided information on the following:

- Activities of the American Association of Veterinary State Boards;
- American Veterinary Medical Association’s Telehealth Guidelines
- International Council for Veterinary Assessments 2020 Report for Veterinary Licensing Boards
- Outreach Activities by the Board

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Ms. Knachel asked the Board to clarify the wording in Guidance Document 150-18, Bylaws, Article I (A)(2) which states “a person may serve in the same office for one additional term.”

The Board discussed the wording and asked Ms. Knachel to research the other health regulatory boards and report back to the Board at its next meeting.

**Officer Elections Effective March 12, 2021**

Dr. Hillyer moved to nominate Dr. Newman for President.

The motion was properly seconded by Dr. Karras. A roll call vote was taken by Ms. Knachel. The motion carried with a unanimous “aye” vote.

Dr. Karras moved to nominate himself as Vice-President.

The motion was properly seconded by Dr. Hillyer. A roll call vote was taken by Ms. Knachel. The motion carried with a unanimous “aye” vote.

Dr. Hillyer moved to nominate Ms. Spencer for Secretary.

The motion was properly seconded by Dr. Karras. A roll call vote was taken by Ms. Knachel. The motion carried with a unanimous “aye” vote.

The Board requested more information at the next meeting as to its role in supporting diversity, equity and inclusion effort.

**NEXT MEETING:**

Dr. Cockburn announced that the next full board meeting is scheduled for July 29, 2021. Staff anticipates that this will be a virtual meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Dr. Cockburn adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

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Tregel Cockburn, D.V.M  
Chair

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Leslie L. Knachel, M.P.H  
Executive Director

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Date

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Date