

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AND SURGERY**

**February 28, 2018**

**ROLL CALL**

The meeting of the Board of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery was called to order at 9:10 am by Chairman, James F. Unwin, DVM, in the Staybridge Room at Staybridge Suites, 2701 Fletcher Avenue, Lincoln, Nebraska. Board members present and answering roll call were:

James F. Unwin, DVM, Chair  
Micah R. Kohles, DVM, Vice Chair  
Linda Heiden, Secretary  
Elizabeth Farrington, DVM  
Joshua Schlote, LVT

A quorum being present, the meeting convened. Also present to participate in the meeting: Kathie Lueke, Program Manager, Jan Gadeken-Harris, Health Licensing Coordinator, Mindy Lester, Assistant Attorney General, and Larry Wiehn, Investigator.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Kohles moved, seconded by Heiden, to adopt the Agenda. Voting aye: Heiden, Schlote, Unwin, and Kohles. Voting nay: None. Abstain: Farrington. Absent: None. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Kohles moved, seconded by Scholte to approve the December 6, 2017 minutes as written. Voting aye: Heiden, Unwin, Schlote, and Kohles. Voting nay: None. Abstain: Farrington. Absent: None. Motion carried.

**DESIGNATION OF METHOD BY WHICH THIS BODY WILL GIVE PUBLIC NOTICE OF ITS MEETINGS**

Kohles moved, seconded by Schlote, to continue to utilize the three current methods to give public notice of the Board of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery meetings. The current methods are to post the agenda on the Department public bulletin board, post to the Department website, and to send the agenda via email to interested parties. Voting aye: Unwin, Schlote, Heiden, Farrington, Kohles. Voting nay: none. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

**PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING PROGRAM**

Amy Reynoldson, PDMP Community Health Educator, and Felicia Quintana-Zinn, Epidemiology Surveillance Coordinator, presented a progress update on the PDMP. Darrell Klein, DHHS Attorney, accompanied the PDMP staff to respond to any questions that related to statutes associated with prescription drug monitoring in Nebraska. PDMP staff shared that as of July 1, 2018, Veterinarians who dispense Schedule II through IV controlled substances will need to report those for the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. PDMP staff stated they have invited Veterinarians to participate on a committee for planning purposes. Based on discussions that PDMP staff have had with large software vendors for veterinary practice, the vendors have indicated an ability to include elements for the prescription drug monitoring program in their software. Web-based training and support will be offered for Veterinarians prior to July 1, 2018. The Board encouraged PDMP staff to start notifying veterinarians as early as possible, and asked for another update to be presented at the next board meeting.

**2018 LEGISLATION**

LB596 was discussed and Kohles moved, seconded by Farrington to have a letter drafted from the Board reflecting that the Board is not in support of LB596. Voting aye: Unwin, Schlote, Heiden, Farrington, Kohles. Voting nay: none. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

LB788 there was discussion about concerns related to the five hours of continuing education requirement within the bill, and especially the requirement that two of these CE hours focused solely on the PDMP for each renewal period.

LB1057 there was no board discussion on this bill to update language in definitions in current statute on the system of prescription monitoring

LB834 there was no board discussion on this bill to waive licensing fees for applicants who are low income per criteria of the bill; applicants who are qualified members of military families; and young workers between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five years of age.

LB931 AM1849 there was no board discussion on this bill that is concerned with the number of days an opiate is prescribed and considerations of risks versus non-opiate alternatives.

### **INVESTIGATIONAL REPORTS AND APPLICATION REVIEW – CLOSED SESSION**

Unwin moved, seconded by Kohles, to go into closed session at 10:19 a.m., for the purpose of review and discussion of investigative reports, licensure applications, and other confidential information, and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of the individuals. Voting aye: Farrington, Heiden, Schlote, Unwin, and Kohles. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Unwin recused himself at 10:29 am.

Unwin returned at 10:46 am.

Heiden recused herself at 11:18 am.

Heiden returned at 11:26 am.

Unwin moved, seconded by Schlote, to open the session at 11:30 a.m. Voting aye: Farrington, Schlote, Unwin, Heiden and Kohles. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

### **APPLICATION REVIEW**

#### **Veterinarian Reinstatement Application(s)**

BEEBOUT, BRANDON – application to reinstate a veterinarian license. Kohles moved, seconded by Farrington, to approve the reinstatement application of Brandon Beebout. Voting aye: Unwin, Heiden, Farrington, Schlote and Kohles. Voting nay: None. Abstain: none. Absent: None. Motion carried.

#### **Licensed Animal Therapist–Physical Therapy Application(s)**

HARRISON, ALLISON ETHERIDGE – application for licensure as an Animal Therapist-Physical Therapy. Kohles moved, seconded by Schlote, to approve the application. Voting aye: Unwin, Heiden, Farrington, Schlote and Kohles. Voting nay: None. Abstain: none. Absent: None. Motion carried.

### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NEBRASKA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE – January, 2018, Lavista, NE**

Kohles and Lester conducted a presentation at the NVMA Annual Meeting on Mandatory Reporting. Lester invited Larry Wiehn, Investigator to also help with the presentation. The Board members discussed their concern regarding ways in which to communicate to licensees on what needs to be reported and when it needs to be reported to the DHHS Investigation Unit. It was noted that questions were raised by those attending the presentation on mandatory reporting by licensees. One of the reasons to report is a conviction of a misdemeanor or felony, whether in Nebraska or another jurisdiction. During the discussion at the board meeting, it was suggested that one way to easily identify a conviction that must be reported is the reference of “CR” on the ticket or conviction record.

Information on mandatory reporting is found at: <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/investigations.aspx>

Overall the Board members in attendance of the NVMA Annual Meeting felt that it was a good meeting.

**FYI**

The Board reviewed the FYI's and Dr. Unwin made note that attending the AAVSB meetings is an excellent activity, especially for new board members. Anyone interested in attending is asked to notify Kathie Lueke or Jan Harris. No other comments at this time.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Schlote moved, seconded by Farrington to keep the officers as they currently stand. Voting aye: Farrington, Schlote, Heiden, Kohles and Unwin. Abstain: none. Voting nay: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.

### **SET DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next meeting of the Board is set for May 23, 2018 at 9:00 am.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Heiden moved, seconded by Kohles, to adjourn the meeting at 12:11 p.m. Voting aye: Farrington, Schlote, Kohles, Heiden and Unwin. Voting nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

\*signature available upon request\*

Linda Heiden, Secretary  
Board of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery