

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

December 17, 2018

ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Board of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery was called to order at 9:02 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

Absent: Joshua Schlote, LVT

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

Unwin announced that there is a copy of all the public documents being reviewed at this meeting available in the meeting room pursuant to the Open Meetings Act.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Heiden moved, seconded by Farrington to approve the August 22, 2018 minutes as written. Voting aye: Farrington, Heiden, Kohles and Unwin. Voting nay: None. Absent: Schlote. Motion carried.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING PROGRAM

Felicia Quintana-Zinn, Epidemiology Surveillance Coordinator, was present to discuss with the Board a Conference that is being offered by the DPH (Department of Public Health) and DBH (Department of Behavior Health) for CME/CE credits relating to prescribing opiates and the PDMP. The meeting will be available for all professional license types that are required to complete the CME/CE credits for the 3 hours on opioids and the PDMP under LB 731. The contents of the meeting will be educating on pain management guidance including prescribing of opiates and other options. The meeting will also discuss treatment for those with opioid use disorders, the PDMP and motivational interviewing, (how to have discussions re: opiates with patients).

LICENSEE DISCIPLINE

Matthew Gelvin, Program Manager with the DHHS Compliance Monitoring Department and Juan Ramirez, an independent consultant with the Nebraska Center for Nursing, presented the Board with a statistical analysis regarding licensee compliance monitoring cases with discipline for the past five years. In future cases that are presented before the Board this report will be helpful in providing insight to the Board when considering, what is the appropriate amount of time to discipline a licensee.

FYI'S

A. Veterinary Nurse Initiative proposal by NAVTA – There were no comments by board members at this time.

B. The Board was advised that the NVMA will be introducing legislation regarding updates to the rabies statutes during the 106th Legislature, 1st Session which will convene January 9, 2019. The NVMA has decided to introduce legislation that would update the statutes on rabies that would better align them with current scientific evidence.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

A. Are Veterinary Professionals obligated to report human neglect and abuse cases?

Response: Yes, anyone not just licensed professionals must report suspected child abuse or elder abuse.

B. Does the Nebraska Veterinary Board have a position statement about the use of hemp or CBD for veterinary patients?

Response: Don't break the law, it's illegal in the State of Nebraska. Report any known abuse.

C. When a Veterinary Practice closes where does it need to forward the Rabies Records?

Response: Have a plan set up in your office protocols. Typically records should be maintained for three years.

D. Is it legal to set up treatment protocols so if an animal comes in with a common problem treatment can be started right away?

Response: No, a Veterinarian is required to be present to start treatment or diagnosis. Vitals can be obtained, but no treatment can be started without the presence of a Veterinarian.

E. Is Proin going to become a controlled substance drug that will need to be reported to PDMP?

Response: Unknown, it depends on legislation.

BOARD DISCUSSIONS

A. The Board has been approached regarding going to the 2nd year veterinary class at UNL and talking about licensing. Veterinary Technician schools are also interested in the same.

Discussion: An essential tool is the UCA (Statutes Relating to Uniform Credentialing Act). It was suggested that reading the UCA and having a copy at your desk at all time for awareness is essential. Dr. Kohles has agreed to speak (as a Licensed Veterinarian, not as a member of the Board) to the UNL class.

B. NVMA Annual Conference 2019 is scheduled for Thursday, 1/24/2019 – Saturday, 1/26/2019. The Board is on the agenda to give a presentation on Thursday from 5:00 – 5:30 pm. The Board needs to discuss how they would like to fill this time slot to qualify for CE.

Discussion: The Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Board would like the PDMP to do a presentation 10-15 min regarding the CE for the 3 hour opioid & PDMP requirement and available courses, plus any other relevant information on the manual reporting for PDMP. Felicia Quintana-Zinn, Drug Overdose Prevention Epidemiologist with the PDMP has agreed to the presentation.

C. Thoughts on having a Suggestion Box at the NVMA Annual Conference for input from Veterinarians.

Discussion: Great Idea – Dr. Unwin will set it up.

D. APHIS modules are not produced in connection with Iowa State University and are not RACE approved, therefore the Board will need to vote to have them approved for qualified Continuing Education credits.

Kohles moved, seconded by Farrington, to approve the APHIS modules. Voting aye: Farrington, Heiden, Kohles and Unwin. Voting nay: None. Absent: Schlote. Motion carried.

E. Discussion regarding implementation of Telehealth through Regulations and Rules vs Statutes.

Discussion: Dr. Unwin would like the Board to start considering this topic and to review the AAVSB proposed changes to VCPR (veterinarian-client-patient relationship) definition. Dr. Unwin also suggested review of the Colorado Board Guidelines for the Appropriate Use of Telehealth Technologies in the Practice of Veterinary Medicine.

F. AAVSB Resolution 2018-01

Discussion: It was decided to table this discussion until Jesse Cushman, Program Manager has investigated the NE Statutes and confers with the DHHS Department Attorney.

COMMENTS FROM THE AAVSB ANNUAL MEETING (September 13-15, 2018)

Dr. Farrington has been appointed to the AAVSB Nominating Committee. Each year, the Nominating Committee of the AAVSB sends out a **Call for Nominations** to provide Member Boards information regarding the open elected positions and to request nominations. The Nominating Committee is charged with preparing a ballot of candidates for all elected positions to be filled. This process is vital to the AAVSB's ability to carry out its mission.

Board Break 10:49 a.m.
Board Reconvene 10:52 a.m.

AAVSB PRESENTATION

Jim Penrod, AAVSB Executive Director was present to give a presentation on what the AAVSB has to offer and how they can assist our Board and Staff. Some of the many Services and Benefits that AAVSB offers to its Member States are:

- Model Regulatory Language (PAM) Practice Act Model
- Telehealth Guidelines
- AAVSB Annual Meetings – next meeting will be September, 2019 in St. Louis
 - Global perspective
 - Idea Exchange
 - Delegate Funding Programs
- Board Basics & Beyond – an interactive training session for new board members or executive directors. The next meeting will be held April 5-6, 2019 in Kansas City.
- Member Communications
 - President Updates
 - AAVSB Newsletters
 - The Link – a source of direct communication between the AAVSB leadership, Member Board executive directors, and registrars.
- Member Board Profile Survey – conducted annually to examine how other jurisdictions do business.
- Member Webcast Series – free interactive webinar series focused on hot topics relevant to you as a veterinary regulator.
- Volunteering
- Continuing Education Services
 - RACE (Registry of Approved Continuing Education)
 - VCET (Veterinary Continuing Education Tracking)
- Exam Services – VTNE (Veterinary Technician National Exam)
- Licensure Assistance
 - PAVE (Program for Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalency)
 - SPA (State and Provincial Assessments) – administration of Jurisprudence Exams
- Centralized Licensure Database
 - VIVA (Veterinary Information Verifying Agency) includes licensure and disciplinary action updates for Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians.
 - VAULT (Veterinary application for Uniform Licensure Transfer)

AAVSB PRESENTATION, continued

The Board and Department Staff wish to express our appreciation and Thanks to Jim for making time in his schedule to visit Nebraska and provide us with valuable information and updates.

Board Break 11:31 a.m.

Board Reconvene 11:36 a.m.

INVESTIGATIONAL REPORTS AND APPLICATION REVIEW – CLOSED SESSION

Kohles moved, seconded by Farrington, to go into closed session at 11:36 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, Kohles and Unwin. Voting nay: None. Absent: Schlote. Motion carried.

Unwin recused himself at 12:07 p.m.

Unwin returned at 12:37 p.m.

Kohles moved, seconded by Farrington, to open the session at 12:44 p.m. Voting aye: Farrington, Heiden, Kohles and Unwin. Voting nay: None. Absent: Schlote. Motion carried.

APPLICATION REVIEW – OPEN SESSION

No applications were presented to the Board for review.

SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Board is set for Monday March 4, 2019, 9:00 am at the Staybridge Suites.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Kohles moved, seconded by Heiden, to adjourn the meeting at 12:48 p.m. . Voting aye: Farrington, Heiden, Kohles and Unwin. Voting nay: None. Absent: Schlote. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

signature available upon request

Linda Heiden, Secretary
Board of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery