

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

**June 07, 2019**

## **ROLL CALL**

The meeting of the Board of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery was called to order at 9:00 am by Chairperson, 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, Chairperson  
Linda Heiden, Secretary  
Elizabeth Farrington, DVM  
Joshua Schlote, LVT

Absent: Micah R. Kohles, DVM, Vice Chairperson

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; and Anna Harrison, RN, Compliance Monitoring for Health Licensure & Investigations.

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**

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

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Farrington moved, seconded by Schlote to approve the March 04, 2019 minutes as written. Voting aye: Farrington, Heiden, Schlote and Unwin. Voting nay: None. Absent: Kohles. Motion carried.

## **PDMP (Prescription Drug Monitoring Program) UPDATES**

Felicia Quintana-Zinn, Epidemiology Surveillance Coordinator, presented a progress update on the PDMP. Nebraska is changing the PDMP software vendor from DrFirst to NIC's RxGov (<https://www.egov.com/rxgov>). The projections for the changeover are to have migration begin in July, testing in August and "Go Live" in early September. Parallel systems will be in place for approximately two months to migrate from system to system, therefore DrFirst will remain open till November. The new NIC RxGov program should be more user friendly and there will be a new training video provided. A mass email to all licensed veterinarians will be sent from PDMP announcing the change with an introduction of the new system.

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

Schlote moved, seconded by Farrington, to go into closed session at 9:20 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 and Unwin. Voting nay: None. Absent: Kohles. Motion carried.

Farrington moved, seconded by Heiden, to open the session at 10:35 a.m. Voting aye: Farrington, Heiden, Schlote and Unwin. Voting nay: None. Absent: Kohles. Motion carried.

## **APPLICATION REVIEW – OPEN SESSION**

KURTH, ELIZABETH KATHERINE, DVM - application for a license to practice veterinary medicine and surgery. Farrington moved, seconded by Heiden, to recommend issuance of a license. Voting aye: Farrington, Heiden, Schlote and Unwin. Voting nay: None. Absent: Kohles. Motion carried.

DOBESH, GERALD DALE, DVM – application for reinstatement after discipline requesting removal of limitations. Schlote moved, seconded by Farrington to change the practice monitor's monthly meetings with Dr. Dobesh to quarterly meetings. All other previous limitations will still remain. Voting aye: Farrington, Heiden, Schlote and Unwin. Voting nay: None. Absent: Kohles. Motion carried.

### **AAVSB ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE**

AAVSB has announced the 2019 Annual Meeting & Conference set for September 26-28, 2019 at the Ritz-Carlton in St. Louis, Missouri. There is a Funded Delegate Program provided by AAVSB for member boards. Member Boards can be represented at the Annual Meeting with up to two delegates (one voting and one alternate). Dr. Unwin and Josh Schlote have agreed to represent the Nebraska Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Board at the upcoming annual meeting. Dr. Farrington, who is on the AAVSB Nomination Committee will also be attending the meeting.

### **FYI(s)**

#### **A. AVMA – Veterinary Technician terminology:**

The AVMA Board approved the position statement on Veterinary Technician Terminology as noted below at its April 2018 meeting:

"The AVMA recognizes efforts by the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America and others to use the term "veterinary nurse" in place of veterinary technician within the profession and in criteria for credentialing purposes. The AVMA further recognizes ongoing efforts to promote adoption of the term "nurse" in state practice acts. The AVMA will continue to use the term veterinary technician in its policies and communications, but will recognize credentialed veterinary nurses as being equivalent to credentialed veterinary technicians."

Since the AAVSB reviews VTNE eligibility on behalf of the Nebraska Board of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery per state statutes and rules, they want a response indicating if there will be any issues in the eligibility review or the board's credential review process as the AAVSB begins to receive VTNE candidate applications and final transcripts from any colleges noting Veterinary Nursing degree.

The Board discussed the issue and will recognize credentialed veterinary nurses as being equivalent to credentialed veterinary technicians.

#### **B. AAVSB Proposed Bylaws Amendments:**

The AAVSB has provided the Board with the proposed amendments which will be reviewed and voted on at the Annual Meeting in September. The Board had no comments at this time.

### **2019 LEGISLATION UPDATES**

Updates of the different legislative bills that are being followed by the Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Board were discussed.

The following list of bills were available for review by the Board prior to the meeting:

LB29 - Provide and eliminate telehealth provisions

Current Status: Approved by Governor on March 21, 2019

LB61 - Change and eliminate provisions relating to rabies

Current Status: Approved by Governor on March 7, 2019

LB344 - Adopt the Animal Health and Disease Control Act, eliminate and provide duties for the Department of Agriculture, eliminate various acts, terminate and transfer certain funds, create a fund, and provide penalties

Current Status: No action

LB382 - Change the Dog and Cat Purchase Protection Act

Current Status: No action

LB489 - Require registration for the prescription drug monitoring system  
Current Status: No action

LB557 - Change provisions relating to prescriptions for controlled substances  
Current Status: No action

### **REGULATIONS UPDATE**

The proposed draft regulations for Title 172 NAC, Professional and Occupational Licensure, Chapter 180, Practice of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Regulations and Chapter 182, Licensure of Animal Therapists are still in the review stages so there are no updates at this time.

### **SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETING**

The next meeting of the Board is set for Wednesday, August 21, 2019, 9:00 am at the Staybridge Suites.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Farrington moved, seconded by Schlote, to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 a.m. Voting aye: Farrington, Heiden, Schlote and Unwin. Voting nay: None. Absent: Kohles. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

\*signature available upon request\*

Linda Heiden, Secretary  
Board of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery