



MEETING MINUTES MULTIDISCIPLINARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Department of Consumer Affairs
1747 N. Market Blvd.
1st Floor Hearing Room
Sacramento, California 95834

10:00 a.m. Tuesday, July 16, 2019

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Establishment of a Quorum

Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee (MDC) chair, Dr. Jeff Pollard, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Veterinary Medical Board (Board) Executive Officer, Ms. Jessica Sieferman, called roll; eight members of the Board were present, and a quorum was established. Ms. Kristi Pawlowski, registered veterinary technician (RVT), Vice-Chair, was absent.

2. Board President's Remarks, Board Member Comments, and Introductions

Dr. Pollard welcomed Dr. Richard Sullivan back to the MDC.

Members Present

Jeff Pollard, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM), Chair
Stuart Eckmann, Public Member
Kevin Lazarcheff, DVM
Jennifer Loreda, RVT, Board Liaison
Leah Shufelt, RVT
Richard Sullivan, DVM
Margaret Warner, DVM
Cheryl Waterhouse, DVM, Board Liaison

Staff Present

Jessica Sieferman, Executive Officer
Patty Rodriguez, Hospital Inspection Program Manager
Moneel Singh, Administrative Program Manager
Robert Stephanopoulos, Enforcement Manager
Andrea Amaya-Torres, Licensing Technician
Amanda Drummond, Administrative Program Analyst
Kellie Flores, Licensing Analyst
Jim Howard, DVM, Inspector
Tara Welch, Legal Counsel

Guests Present

Michelle Angus, Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA)
Kathy Bowler, Board
Nancy Ehrlich, California Registered Veterinary Technicians Association (CaRVTA)
Valerie Fenstermaker, California Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA)
Paul Hansbury, Lovingly and Legally Grown
Liz Hughston, Veterinary Cannabis Academy
Patrick Le, DCA
Caroline Leichter, CVMA
Anita Levy, CaRVTA
Max Mikalonis, K Street Consulting, VETCBD
Grant Miller, DVM, CVMA
Paula Moon-Smith, Veterinary Consulting Services
John Pascoe, DVM, University of California, Davis (UC Davis)
Cindy Savely, Sacramento Valley Veterinary Technician Association (SVVTA)
Susan Tibbon, Lovingly and Legally Grown

3. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

No public comments were received.

4. Review and Approval of April 16, 2019 Committee Meeting Minutes

The MDC made no changes to the April 16, 2019 meeting minutes.

- Dr. Margaret Warner moved and Dr. Kevin Lazarcheff seconded the motion to approve the minutes. The motion carried 7-0-1. Dr. Richard Sullivan abstained. [Webcast: 2:39](#).

5. Discussion, Development, and Potential Recommendation on Guidelines for Veterinarian Discussion with Veterinary Clients of Cannabis Treatment on Animal Patients

Dr. Margaret Warner provided an update from the subcommittee for cannabis guidelines which incorporated changes from the April meeting. These guidelines must be developed by January 1, 2020, as mandated by Assembly Bill (AB) 2215 (Kalra, Chapter 819, Statutes of 2018). Comments from the Committee included clarifying the language in the guidelines to make it more specific that the licensee cannot have a financial interest with a cannabis licensee.

Public comments included concerns with the term cannabis, as cannabis is too broad of a term and needs to be more specific as it can incorporate hemp products, which have been removed as a Schedule I drug as a result of the federal Farm Bill. The public requested clarification between industrial hemp and cannabis because there is confusion about what veterinarians are authorized to discuss. Members of the public and the MDC also discussed the ability of licensees to administer, dispense, furnish, recommend, or discuss hemp products.

The modifications to the guidelines include:

- Modifying the Preamble (page 1) to add “These guidelines are not intended to mandate standard of care.” to the end of the section.
- Modifying the second paragraph of the Background (page 1) to read “The bill also prohibits a veterinarian from dispensing or administering cannabis or cannabis products. This bill does not pertain to industrial hemp.” and striking the remainder of the paragraph.
- Modifying the Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship section (page 1) to add “A veterinarian cannot prescribe or recommend the use of cannabis, only enter into discussions with the veterinary client concerning appropriate medical use within the confines of a VCPR.” to the end of the section.
- Modifying the Conflict of Interest section (page 2) to clarify the how a veterinarian, RVT, or veterinary assistant controlled substance permit (VACSP) holder may be disciplined for the offer, delivery, receipt, or acceptance of any rebate, refund, commission, preference, patronage dividend, discount, or other consideration as compensation or inducement for referring patients, clients, or customers to a cannabis licensee.
- Adding an Advertising section stating “Advertising: The Board is authorized to discipline a veterinarian, RVT, or VACSP holder if he or she distributes any form of advertising for cannabis in California.”
- Modifying the Industrial Hemp section (page 3) to add “Industrial hemp is not tested or regulated in the same manner as cannabis, so the veterinarian should use caution when administering, dispensing, furnishing, recommending, or discussing industrial hemp and ensure the product to be used is industrial hemp and not cannabis.” to the end of the section.
- Striking the in-parenthesis citations to statute and regulations and placing them in footnotes at the end for clarity purposes.
 - Dr. Margaret Warner moved and Dr. Kevin Lazarcheff seconded the motion to approve the Guidelines as amended and recommend them to the Board. The motion carried 8-0. [Webcast: 2:12:55.](#)

6. Discussion and Potential Recommendation on Defining Conditions That Must be Met for Board Approval of Providing Statutory Authority for a Veterinarian to Give Clients Cannabis Treatment Recommendations

Dr. Pollard advised that this was tasked to the MDC from the Board after it was discussed what was needed prior to a licensee recommending cannabis to a client, should Senate Bill (SB) 627 (Galgiani, 2019) pass. Ms. Sieferman provided an update on the current status of SB 627 and where it currently is in the legislative cycle.

Public comment advised that, in the preamble of the document, it states that once adequate research is conducted, the following topics should be considered when developing guidelines and that this should be revised to “while research is ongoing” as adequate research will take a significant amount of time. Additional public comment recommended referencing the “Guidelines for the Recommendation of Cannabis for Medical Purposes” developed by the

Medical Board of California (Medical Board) for general rules and principles on how to recommend cannabis.

The MDC reviewed the document, and with public input, made the following amendments:

- Adding “Proven alternative” to bullet point 2
- Adding “suppositories” to bullet point 14
- Adding “FDA Approval” to new bullet point 20
- Adding “Range of dose” to new bullet point 21
- Adding “Go low and go slow” to new bullet point 22
- Adding “Difference between veterinary and human products” to new bullet point 23
- Adding “What the specific products have been tested for – i.e., trace components, methods of extraction, etc.” to new bullet point 24

7. Discussion on Duplicative, Overlapping, or Outdated Regulations

Dr. Sullivan advised that he will take the information that Board staff has provided and review the regulations to determine if anything needs updating. He did advise that several regulations have either been recently updated, or are in the process of being updated, so this does not appear to be an overwhelming task.

8. Update from the Complaint Process Audit Subcommittee

Mr. Robert Stephanopoulos provided an update on the Complaint Process Audit Subcommittee including ensuring the consistency among the expert witnesses. Dr. Pollard, Dr. Lazarcheff, and the new Board liaison, Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Karen Denvir, have helped improve the process and ensure the expert witness reports are in line with the Medical Board guidelines. Mr. Stephanopoulos also advised that there is an upcoming expert witness training in August and November.

9. Future Agenda Items, Committee Priorities, and Meeting Dates

- Future Items/Priorities for October 8, 2019 (Sacramento):
 - Corporate Practice
 - Duplicative, Overlapping, or Outdated Regulations
- Proposed 2020 Schedule:
 - January 28, 2020
 - April 21, 2020
 - July 21, 2020
 - October 20, 2020

10. Adjournment

Dr. Kevin Lazarcheff moved and Dr. Margaret Warner seconded the motion to adjourn.
The MDC adjourned at 2:58 p.m.