



MEETING MINUTES
Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee
1747 N. Market Blvd. - Hearing Room
Sacramento, California

Thursday, February 19, 2015 – 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order- Establishment of a Quorum

Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee (MDC) Chair, Dr. William Grant II, called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. Veterinary Medical Board (Board) Executive Officer, Annemarie Del Mugnaio, called roll; eight members of the MDC were present and thus a quorum was established.

II. Introductions

Members Present

William A. Grant II, DVM, Chair
Jennifer E. Boyle, RVT, Vice-Chair
Allan Drusys, B Vet Med
Diana Woodward Hagle, Public Member
David F. Johnson, RVT
Jennifer Loreda, RVT, Board Liaison
Jeff Pollard, DVM
Richard Sullivan, DVM, Board Liaison

Staff Present

Rebecca Bon, Legal Counsel
Annemarie Del Mugnaio, Executive Officer, Veterinary Medical Board
Nina Galang, Administrative Program Coordinator
Sabina Knight, Legal Counsel
Ethan Mathes, Administrative Program Manager
Bryce Penney, DCA Web Cast
Candace Raney, Enforcement Program Manager

Guests Present

Al Aldrete, DVM, Veterinary Allied Staff Education
Ryan Arnold, DCA, Division of Legislative & Regulatory Review
Nancy Ehrlich, California Registered Veterinary Technician Association
Valarie Fenstermaker, California Veterinary Medical Association
Rebecca May, Department of Consumer Affairs
Mark Nunez, DVM, Veterinary Medical Board
Dan Segna, DVM, California Veterinary Medical Association

III. Review and Approval of October 20, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Dr. Richard Sullivan motioned and Dr. Allan Drusys seconded the motion to approve the October 20, 2014 meeting minutes. The motion carried 8-0.

IV. RVT Alternate Route Regulations

a. Review Alternate Route Programs

Administrative Program Manager, Ethan Mathes, provided an overview of the alternate route regulations and presented the final proposed regulatory language, including a comparison chart of the alternate route programs offered throughout California. The programs listed did not have American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) accreditation.

Executive Officer, Annemarie Del Mugnaio, noted that the intent is to show accessibility of current programs throughout California, costs of the program, and the availability of distance learning alternatives. MDC Chair, Dr. William Grant, added that there are a number of distance learning programs for Registered Veterinary Technicians (RVT) listed on the AVMA website. Public member, Dr. Al Aldrete, shared details on his program, Veterinary Allied Staff Education, and its effort to get AVMA accreditation.

MDC Vice-Chair, Jennifer Boyle, asked if the note explaining that students who do not choose to be licensed RVTs are still able to work in field as animal health technicians was removed from the board website. Ethan Mathes confirmed that it was misinformation and has been removed.

b. Discussion and Possible Action on Proposed Alternate Route Program Regulations (California Code of Regulations Title 16, Division 20, sections 2065.1 and 2065.6)

The MDC reviewed and discussed amendments to the proposed Alternate Route Program Regulations. Nancy Ehrlich expressed concerns regarding the high number of categories required for completing on-the-job training experience. The MDC agreed to separate the language explaining the requirements for practical experience from the program experience. The MDC discussed clarifying the language that explains that the practical experience must be completed within five years prior to the date an applicant takes the RVT examination or any subsequent re-examination.

The MDC wanted to ensure that library facilities, online resources, and equipment used for instruction are adequate for conducting the education program.

The MDC also discussed various clarifications to the regulatory language to clear up ambiguities including “interactive” versus “non-interactive” components of the clinical practice experience.

Dr. Al Aldrete shared that subsections (e) and (f) regarding library facilities of the program and the physical plant and equipment used for instruction are not conducive to distance learning. The MDC determined that the language should reflect that adequate resources are available to students whether the resources are provided online or at a physical location.

Alternate route programs may need Bureau of Private and Postsecondary Education (BPPE) approval for ‘degree granting’ programs. The MDC directed staff to research BPPE requirements and whether alternate route programs would be subject to BPPE oversight.

- Dr. Richard Sullivan motioned and David Johnson seconded the motion to approve the amendments to the proposed Alternate Route Program Regulations and forward to the Veterinary Medical Board. The motion carried 8-0.

V. Discussion and Possible Action on Proposed RVT Student Exemption Regulation (California Code of Regulations Title 16, Division 20, section 2064)

Ethan Mathes provided a background on the RVT Student Exemption regulatory language. Two areas that need further clarification are the definition for the “final year” of the clinical portion of study and the level of supervision provided to the RVT student.

Dr. Aldrete shared some details regarding his program, VASE, and how the “final year” is determined within his program. Ms. Del Mugnaio suggested that students to have completed not less than 75% of both the required classroom instruction and the clinical instruction, not to exceed six months, to be considered in their “final year”.

Dr. Dan Segna noted that the regulations do not mention anything regarding the validation of qualifications and enforcement. The MDC added that the responsibility should be that of the supervising California licensed veterinarian or RVT.

The MDC directed staff to solicit input from accredited programs and alternate route programs regarding the program’s course matriculation in which a student will have sufficient knowledge and exposure to RVT specific tasks in order to safely authorize students to operate under this exemption. Staff will bring the input back to report at the next meeting.

VI. Discussion and Possible Action on University Licensure

Dr. Grant provided a background on the concept of university licenses and recommended that we place “university license” in its own class of licenses. The MDC discussed requiring foreign-educated veterinarians teaching at a university to pass an examination prior to being issued a university license. However, the MDC argued that not everyone that works at universities works on the public’s animals. Valerie Fenstermaker shared her concern that there is no disclosure to the public that there are unlicensed veterinarians working at the university.

Diane Woodward Hagle suggested requiring a memorandum of understanding (MOU); however, Ms. Del Mugnaio clarified that an MOU that would not supersede the exemption in statute. Dr. Mark Nunez pointed out a need to define where activity under a university license may be legally practiced. Dr. Dan Segna argued that the university should not have preferential treatment and should be held to the same standard as California licensees.

Rebecca Bon recommended structuring the distinctions of working on public vs. private animals within the exemption. The MDC agreed to add this item to the next agenda and Dr. Grant agreed to invite the University Deans to be present at the discussion.

VII. Discussion and Possible Action on Proposed Amendments to Minimum Standards

The MDC reviewed and discussed the recent changes made to the Minimum Standards regulatory language since the last MDC meeting in October 2014, including clarification regarding the definition for a small animal vaccination clinic, veterinarian-client-patient relationships in the absence of client communication, and written prescriptions in the absence of the originally prescribing veterinarian.

- Dr. Richard Sullivan motioned and David F. Johnson seconded the motion to approve the proposed amendments to the Minimum Standards language and forward to the Board for consideration. The motion carried 8-0.

Ms. Del Mugnaio will conduct research on any existing public health codes applicable to animal vaccination.

VIII. Premise Permit Limitations Update

Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that the premise permit regulations were brought before the MDC in October 2014. CVMA offered to develop a task force, with the intent to provide minimum standards that are feasible for alternate practice settings and to provide education to the public.

Ms. Del Mugnaio agreed to work with CVMA when they initiate the Task Force.

The MDC agreed that there is a need to develop minimum standards specific to animal shelters, mobile equine, house calls, and ambulatory services.

IX. Comments from Public/Outside Agencies/Associations

Nancy Ehrlich updated the MDC that she has received numerous complaints regarding alternate route applicants. Dr. Grant reminded the group that the MDC has no authority to instruct the Board on this particular issue and advised Mrs. Ehrlich to address it directly with the Board.

X. Agenda Items and Next Meeting Dates

a. Review Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee Priorities

Dr. Grant noted that the animal shelter regulations, premise permit limitations, and pursuing statutory authority for drug compounding should be considered a higher priority and should be moved up on the existing priorities list. David Johnson requested to have “extended duty” for RVTs placed as a higher priority MDC issue.

Ms. Del Mugnaio clarified that the drug compounding issue was moved on to the VMB as of October 2014 to move forward with a statutory change to provide the authority for veterinarians to compound pursuant to the exemption in federal rule. Dr. Richard Sullivan proposed creating a task force with CVMA in conjunction with the statutory change to address the needs for pursuing statutory authority for drug compounding.

Ms. Del Mugnaio noted that the task list is only considered a recommendation until it is adopted by the Board.

Valerie Fenstermaker pointed out that temporary licenses during disaster situations for out-of-state practitioners is in print as a bill. Ms. Del Mugnaio added that this issue will come up at the next VMB meeting and the Board will need to take a position on it.

Ms. Del Mugnaio noted that the feasibility of implementing an approval process for RVT alternate route programs and Minimum Standards will be removed from the MDC list as they have since been moved to the VMB. The MDC will still retain the university license issue and the RVT student exemption issue on the existing priorities list. The MDC also agreed to remove electronic record keeping as it is no longer an issue.

Ms. Del Mugnaio touched on the difficulties of enforcing an English language proficiency exam as a requirement for licensure and the potential for discrimination. Ms. Del Mugnaio noted that there is already a national English proficiency exam that they must complete in order to obtain licensure in a MDC Meeting

regulated field. The MDC agreed to remove this item from the list, as well as the feasibility of requiring written estimates for fees, and implementation of Euthanasia forms.

b. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Ms. Del Mugnaio reminded the MDC that four members' terms are expiring in June of this year. The vacancies will be posted on June 30, 2015 and any interested persons must submit an application.

c. Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee Meetings – 2015 Schedule

Ms. Del Mugnaio noted that the next MDC meeting will be on July 20, 2015 in Sacramento, California. The next MDC meeting following July will be on October 22, 2015, the day after the October VMB meeting.

XI. Adjourn

The MDC meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m.