



MEETING MINUTES

Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee
The Waterfront Hotel
10 Washington Street
Oakland, CA

10:00 a.m. Monday July 20, 2015

1. Call to Order- Establishment of a Quorum

Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee (MDC) Chair, Dr. William Grant II, called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. Veterinary Medical Board (Board) Executive Officer, Annemarie Del Mugnaio, called roll; nine members of the MDC were present and thus a quorum was established.

2. Introductions

Members Present

William A. Grant II, DVM, Chair
Allan Drusys, DVM
Diana Woodward Hagle, Public Member
David F. Johnson, RVT
Jon A. Klingborg, DVM
Jennifer Loredo, RVT, Board Liaison
Kristi Pawlowski, RVT
Jeff Pollard, DVM
Richard Sullivan, DVM, Board Liaison

Staff Present

Annemarie Del Mugnaio, Executive Officer, Veterinary Medical Board
Nina Galang, Administrative Program Coordinator
Lou Galiano, DCA Television Specialist
Sabina Knight, Legal Counsel
Ethan Mathes, Administrative Program Manager

Guests Present

Nancy Ehrlich, California Registered Veterinary Technician Association
Mark Nunez, DVM, Veterinary Medical Board
John Pascoe, University of California, Davis
Cindy Savely, Sacramento Valley Veterinary Technician Association
Dan Segna, DVM, California Veterinary Medical Association
Ron Terra, Western University of Health Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine
Linda Tripp, University of California, Davis and Sacramento Valley Veterinary Technician Association

3. Swearing in of New Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee Members

Ms. Del Mugnaio swore in Kristi Pawlowski as a new member, and Diana Woodward Hagle, Dr. William Grant, David Johnson, and Dr. Jon Klingborg as returning members on the MDC.

4. Election of Officers

- Dr. Richard Sullivan nominated Dr. Jon Klingborg for the new position of MDC Chair. Dr. Jon Klingborg accepted the nomination and the remaining members of the MDC voted 8-0 to elect Dr. Jon Klingborg as the new MDC Chair.
- Dr. Richard Sullivan nominated Dr. Allan Drusys for the new position of Vice Chair. Dr. Allan Drusys accepted the nomination and the remaining members of the MDC voted 8-0 to elect Dr. Allan Drusys as the new MDC Vice-Chair.

5. Review and Approval of February 19, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Public guest, Nancy Ehrlich, noted that the minutes regarding interactive versus non-interactive components should be corrected to be in reference to academic experience, instead of the practical experience. The minutes are also missing information regarding the eligibility for candidates who are pursuing the Alternate Route adhoc pathway for licensure, which the MDC agreed would be eliminated, and the effective date of when the alternate route pathway expires and the new requirements for Board approved programs must be included in the proposed regulations.

- Dr. Klingborg motioned and David Johnson seconded the motion to approve the February 19, 2015 meeting minutes as amended. Kristi Pawlowski was not in attendance at the February 19, 2015 meeting and therefore, was not allowed to vote. The motion carried 8-0.

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

Ms. Del Mugnaio clarified that the MDC agreed to move forward with the regulations regarding the AVMA and California-approved schools; however, since there are no regulations currently in place to approve the Alternate Route program, the student exemption will be folded in once an established format has been developed.

The MDC reviewed and discussed the revised Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT) student exemption regulatory language prepared by Diana Woodward Hagle. The definition for “immediate supervision,” is a new definition and the language was added to provide additional clarification since the enabling statute does not include RVTs as supervisors.

The approved veterinary technician program will retain responsibility of all training in the program, including assessing that the student is qualified to participate in a clinical externship and will be responsible for arranging the externship sites.

The MDC agreed that it is inappropriate to redefine the definition of “final year” to a percent-of-program-completion. Alternatively, the MDC agreed that the responsibility should lie with the program to assess the competency of the student and determine when the student has the knowledge and familiarity of the RVT animal health care tasks sufficient to perform these tasks under immediate supervision. The MDC agreed to revise section 2036.6 (4) and (4)(b) by removing the percentages and re-wording it to be at the program’s discretion.

- Dr. Richard Sullivan motioned and David Johnson seconded the motion to approve the proposed RVT Student Exemption regulations as amended and forward to the Board for discussion. Motion carried 9-0.

7. Discuss and Possible Action on University Licensure

Guest speaker, Dr. John Pascoe, spoke on behalf of University of California, Davis (UCD) to provide feedback on the proposed University Licensure issue. Dr. Pascoe shared the experience of the university to self-regulate its faculty of those veterinarians employed by UCD practicing veterinary medicine outside of the university, including cases of litigation and the non-reappointment of faculty whose competency did not meet the university's standards. In the opinion of UCD, a University License requirement would be acceptable; however, the language should be flexible enough to account, for example, for varying lengths of residency programs.

Guest speaker, Dr. Ron Terra, representing Western University of Health Sciences (WUHS) also shared support for the University License requirement.

Ms. Del Mugnaio emphasized that one of the main functions of a government agency is to provide protection and recourse for consumers. The Board can provide mediation, restitution, and transparency to the public, among other things.

The MDC discussed the option to remove, keep, or modify the standing exemption as put forth in the Practice Act. Dr. Sullivan recommended adding the phrase "except for those veterinarians working on private animals" to the exemption. The MDC expressed the desire to modify the language to protect the consumer, include the veterinary law exam and regionally specific diseases examination, and to reaffirm that the Board has the authority to investigate complaints. Diana Woodward Hagle and Jeff Pollard expressed concern regarding the potential for universities to compete with private practices.

Ms. Del Mugnaio reviewed the options presented before the MDC for possible consideration:

1) modifying the existing exemption, BPC section 4830(a)(4) to provide for an exemption to licensure only when individuals are practicing on the public's animals and 2) modifying 4830(a)(4) to state that this section does not apply to veterinarians employed by the universities while engaged in the performance of duties in connection with the universities, if and only if that veterinarian obtains a limited license to practice as issued by the Board. Ms. Del Mugnaio also explained the option to have a Grandfather clause, which attaches a date to the exemption.

Dr. Pascoe shared that he favors the modification that allows the Board to provide recourse to consumers and recommended calling it a University License, as opposed to a Faculty License.

Ms. Del Mugnaio clarified that the proposed language is modeled after section 4848 regarding temporary licenses and would also necessitate an additional statute, as proposed BPC section 4848.1 to require individuals to obtain a University License and a definition of the requirements for eligibility of the license.

Dr. Sullivan suggested breaking down the requirements into three categories (interns/residents, existing faculty, and new faculty) to create a clear distinction between interns/residents and faculty staff.

The MDC discussed amending the language to strike the word "temporary," create a new category for university licenses, and add language which would prevent a person with a fitness to practice issues to obtain the license.

- Dr. Jon Klingborg motioned and Dr. Allan Drusys seconded the motion to approve the proposed University Licensure language as amended and forward to the Board for discussion. The motion carried 6-1-2. Dr. Richard Sullivan opposed. Jennifer Loreda and Kathy Bowler abstained.

8. Discuss Shelter Medicine Protocols

The MDC discussed the need for training for RVTs in order to provide care in an animal shelter in the absence of a supervising veterinarian. There are currently no minimum standards for shelter medicine.

Jennifer Loreda shared her experience working at a clinic where there are many RVTs and only one veterinarian. Dr. Drusys shared his research regarding animals being vaccinated and euthanized in animal shelters by unlicensed persons, such as animal control officers.

Ms. Del Mugnaio noted that current statute provides the authority for RVTs to perform services based on orders received telephonically from veterinarians, but clarified that these orders are on a case-by-case basis. This per patient orders may not work for shelter medicine.

Mr. Johnson discussed the low percentage of animals that are claimed by their owners upon intake and are therefore known as “owner relinquished animals”. In the case of an owner relinquished animal, the shelter is considered the repository, and therefore, the animal has no client owner with whom to establish a Veterinary-Client-Patient-Relationship (VCPR). The MDC discussed when it is appropriate to establish a VCPR. Ms. Del Mugnaio suggested that in a shelter environment, the requirement for a VCPR to be established after the animal is triaged.

Mr. Johnson shared that, in his experience, only mid-level practitioners order and maintain controlled substances, and if an animal is taken to the emergency veterinary hospital, euthanasia is only performed if the animal is truly suffering. Drugs are then logged electronically.

Dr. Dan Segna updated that the California Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) is working to put together a task force to propose minimum standards per shelter medicine among other premise types. Ms. Del Mugnaio requested to have a subcommittee created to deal only with shelter medicine issues, separate from the task force that is already being created to cover other premise types, equine medicine, etc. Shelter medicine needs to be a priority to establish a protocol for RVTs. Dr. Segna shared that the task force will meet in September 2015.

Ms. Del Mugnaio clarified that the only thing that can be brought before the MDC is the minimum standards for public and private animal shelters from a premise permit standpoint. Dr. Grant noted that the new Chair can appoint a subcommittee at a future date, after the scheduled Board meeting tomorrow.

9. Review Board Strategic Action Plan 2015-2019

A. Review Proposed Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee Action Items

The Board is scheduled to meet tomorrow and will prioritize the issues they would like the MDC to address at its next meeting.

10. Comments from Public/Outside Agencies/Associations on Items Not on the Agenda

There were no comments from public/outside agencies/associations.

11. Agenda Items and Next Meeting Dates

A. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

The MDC noted that the Board is scheduled to meet July 21, 2015 and may decide what items will be on the agenda for the next MDC meeting.

B. Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee Meetings – 2015 Schedule

12. Adjourn

The MDC meeting adjourned at 2:06 p.m.