

Ollie's Law Advisory Committee Meeting  
Minutes June 25th | 9 AM – 10:30 AM  
*Approved 7/30/2025*

**Advisory Committee Attendance**

Mike Cahill  
Louis Pacheco  
Jeni Mather  
Carmen Rustenbeck  
Dr. Erin Doyle  
Noelle Wilson  
Francine Coughlin  
Debra Cameron  
Kara Holmquist  
Mark Hogan

**Advisory Committee Absence**

Kevin Sullivan-absent for meeting  
Amy Baxter-absent for meeting  
Kathy MacKenzie-absent for meeting

**MDAR Attendees**

Katherine Foote  
Sheri Gustafson

**Public Attendees**

14 additional ZOOM attendees

This open meeting was held virtually over the ZOOM webinar platform. 825 0850 8445  
Meeting ID: Passcode: animal

**I. AC Attendance Roll Call**

Mathers started meeting at 9:01 AM by roll call.  
Cahill-present, Pacheco-present, Hogan-present, Doyle-present, Rustenbeck-present, Coughlin-present, Holmquist- present, Wilson-present Cameron-present.

**II. Minutes Review for 6/3/2025- vote required**

Pacheco motioned to accept the minutes from the AC meeting on 6/3/25. Wilson-second. All accepted.  
Minutes for June 3, 2025, Ollie's Law AC Meeting accepted.

**III. Wrap up Facility Discussion/ Care Standards**

**A. Discussion: Proposed Definition of "Establishment"**

An indoor or outdoor physical location where commercial boarding or training services are provided, including but not limited to: a residence, commercial facility, mobile unit, open space, rented or shared space.

Mather read off her proposed definition of establishment.

Cahill asked if it was intended to include public spaces.

Mather stated that yes that was her intent to include public spaces but she removed the language for owners' homes since it was determined to be an overreach by the AC at the last meeting. Mather stated that she felt the activity should be regulated.

Cameron mentioned that an open space would be hard to inspect for compliance and suggested that the language be changed to capture transport instead.

Pacheco said that he feels ACO enforcement is not consistent and that it could be an issue.

Mather said that she felt that although we can consider enforcement they should be more concerned with developing the standards for the regulations and that enforcement could be figured out after. Mather said that Cameron's idea about changing the wording to include transport is tangible and that the wording is suggestions, MDAR will ultimately decide what suggestions they will put in the regulations.

## **B. Discussion: Committee Participation in Online Learning Platforms**

Confirming agreement and outlining logistics

Mather presented her thoughts on having the AC utilize online learning platforms, she wanted the committee members to consider logging into her account at IBPSA and Dog Gurus to learn more about the industry. She asked if she would be allowed to collect emails and use her corporate account to give the AC members access. Mathers said the learning platforms would roughly take 8-12 hours to complete.

## **C. Proposal to Allow Access to Online Learning Platforms**

- 1.- Request for committee agreement to allow access to The Dog Gurus' Knowing Dogs 101 & 201 and IBPSA Level 1 & 2 Certifications for members as optional learning resources
- 2.- Discussion of process: collecting email addresses from interested members for 45-day learner access via LMS platforms

Rustenbeck stated that on the IBPSA platform AC members could gain access to the k9 Provider and the K9 Specialist courses. They would need to take the embedded quizzes and tests to progress in the course.

Coughlin said that she also has access to a corporate account that could be utilized if needed. She also asked what the goal would be for the AC if they were to take the courses? Would they be trying to pick on to endorse?

Mather said that she felt they needed to gain knowledge, but she did not believe they could pick a single training protocol for everyone.

Coughlin said that she felt they needed to understand basic tasks and safety but was looking for clarification on intent.

Mather stated that she felt that it was important for the AC to gain knowledge.

Foote commented that she believes this type of sharing would be allowed, but she would need the links sent to her through Gustafson to fully evaluate and decide.

Pacheco said he would like to look at both of these platforms.

Mather asked if they could make a motion.

Pacheco motioned. Cameron gave a 2nd. In favor? -no objections noted.

Mather said that her business also has a private learning system but that she was not sure if that would be allowed.

#### **IV. Summer Work**

A. Reading Materials

B. Review Core Competencies

Mather shared her screen with links to submitted reading materials.

Cahill stated that he wanted to mention that the reason the individuals were selected for Ollie's AC was because of the expertise in their fields that they could bring to the committee. He said that he felt it was more important to utilize this expertise rather than try to make everyone experts in all areas. He also mentioned that they should get into the "weeds" of developing the regulations soon.

Mather stated that she felt a basic understanding of the business was needed, and that she felt the AC has already made a lot of headway in matters such as facility definition and isolation.

Doyle said that her thoughts echoed Cahill's and that while she is happy to learn she feels she is best equipped to speak on the medical side since that is where her expertise is.

Cameron asks what is needed to prep for the next meeting's discussion, and if they have the authority to regulate staff training.

Cahill mentioned that they had a similar issue when creating the shelter/rescue regulations. While he felt that can't necessarily require specific training, they can try to meet the spirit of the law, by asking staff to complete training from a list of various courses that are approved.

Hogan mirrored what Cahill said and voiced that he felt parts of the regulations should get assigned to the people with expertise in that area and then presented to the AC to determine if it is reasonable.

Mather said that because there are so many different business models she wants to make sure we are not approaching things through a single lens.

Doyle commented that she would be happy to take on the medical section and that she felt that it should be pretty straightforward. The business has to have a way to get animal medical care if needed while being able to maintain the safety of the other animals at the facility.

Mather said that she has always been about easy wins and would be open to having committee members take a stab at the various sections.

Coughlin mentioned that she felt it was her responsibility to not only give an opinion but to listen to the public and consider their opinions as well.

Cameron said that when she is considering things she often falls back on something Doyle said and tries to look at it from the dog's perspective.

Rustenbeck shared what was listed on an outline she had been creating- education of staff.

Cahill stated that the regulations developed probably won't go further than the categories that are listed in the statute.

Mather shared her screen showing the reading materials that have been previously shared with the AC and explained which documents she felt were the most important for the AC to review before they discuss staff and training. She also shared one document that was not previously shared called "JM Pet Resort Emergency Evacuation Plan". Mather also mentioned the PACT certification program as one to consider.

Coughlin asked if there were any templates to use if she was to work on the behavior aspects of the regulations.

Cahill stated that the best approach might be to think about the context of the subject with respect to what you would like to see in the regulations. For example, when it comes to the emergency plan portion, we can't expect the inspecting ACO to read through everyone's plan to make sure it is adequate. It may end up being more of a checkbox, depending on how deep we decide the regulations should go.

Doyle asked to review the meeting schedule.

Mather showed that the next meeting is planned to discuss supervision and staffing.

Pacheco asked about the possibility of having subcommittees, and Mather responded that she didn't think they could.

Coughlin asked for a template for the regulations.

Cahill stated that the document that Holmquist created could be utilized for that purpose but stressed that the document does not represent the regulations that have not yet been written by MDAR in any way.

Mather asked if the Google doc link could be shared.

Holmquist replied that the Google doc cannot be but it can be shared as a PDF or Word doc.

Mather asked for feedback on things she could do differently moving forward.

Cahill responded that he felt this meeting ended well and that his biggest concern is that they are against the clock to develop these regulations.

## **VII. New Business**

Cameron asked Cahill what information was gathered by the department from the July 1<sup>st</sup>, kennel reporting deadline.

Cahill clarified that under the statute municipalities were required to report the type and number of licensed kennels in their community. 114 municipalities failed to report to MDAR, and a handful of municipalities reported the information in a way that could not be used. From the reporting municipalities we developed a list of 415 commercial boarding and training kennels, 41 commercial breeding kennels (but he felt that number may be inflated and some of those kennels may not fit the definition), 31 domestic charitable kennels, 23 veterinary kennels, 822 personal kennels. and 38 kennels reported that were not classified. The total number of reported kennels was 1,370.

Mather asked if there was any additional new business otherwise she would accept a motion to adjourn. Pacheco gave a motion to adjourn, Cahill a second.

**10:32 meeting adjourned.**