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Board of Registration in Veterinary Medicine
January 9, 2025, Public Meeting Minutes

A public meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Veterinary Medicine (“the Board”) was held remotely *via* video and telephone conferencing pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, allowing remote participation by Board members and the public.

Attending Members: Dr. Rachel Orlowski, Board Chair; Dr. David Tubman, Secretary; Dr. David Diamond, Member; and Dr. Stephanie Kube, Member

Members Absent: Dr. Candace Sloane, Public member

Staff: Marjorie Campbell, Executive Director; Philip Chan, Board Counsel; Nirit Eriksson, Board Counsel; Keith Gleason, former Executive Director; and John Hill, Board Administrative Staff

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 A.M. Board members, Board staff, and members of the Public were introduced and welcomed, and all present were informed the meeting was being recorded.

- **Review and Approve Minutes:**
- The Board reviewed the minutes from the Open Meeting of December 12, 2024, as well as the minutes from the December 12, 2024 Executive Session Meeting. Board members agreed to approve and accept both sets of minutes, the Public Session and the Executive Session, as written:
 - Motion made by Dr. Diamond to accept the December 12, 2024, Public Session and Executive Session minutes
 - Motion seconded by Dr. Tubman
 - Roll Call vote
 - In Favor: Dr. Orlowski, Dr. Diamond, Dr. Kube, and Dr. Tubman
 - Opposed: none
 - Motion passes
- **Executive Director Report**
 - From the AAVSB Watchdog: Ollies Law: The Executive Director (ED) just wanted to inform the Board members and the public that the legislation known as Ollie’s Law, is now the law in Massachusetts as of September 2024. In summary, this law was enacted to enable



promulgation of protective regulations for pets in daycare and boarding facilities in Massachusetts.

- The ED also gave an update to the Board regarding a question that came up at last month's meeting, regarding available services for Massachusetts' Veterinarians suffering from Substance Use Disorder (SUD). The ED contacted PHS, an organization that assists medical physicians suffering from SUD, but PHS does not work with Veterinarians. The ED also contacted the Department of Public Health (DPH) which has recently established a path for its licensees to seek help for SUD; however, this service is limited to the DPH licensees, and as such, would not be available to Veterinarians.
- Moment of Silence at 10 am, in honor of Jimmy Carter

- **Board Counsel Report**

- Board Counsel, Phil Chan, informed the Board that Nirit Eriksson, also present at the meeting, would be taking over as the new Board Counsel for the Veterinarian Board. Board members expressed their appreciation to Phil Chan for his work, and their welcome to Attorney Eriksson.

- **Correspondence Items:** Board Members reviewed the following question that was submitted by public inquiry:

- A question was submitted to the Board from East Bay Animal Hospital seeking clarification on "when it is ok to release medical history without first getting owner's consent. Specifically to release information to Animal Control." The Board members discussed this and stated that there is a confidential relationship between the Veterinarian and the patient and patient owner, except when information is required to be released by law, owner's consent is obtained, or abuse is suspected. No vote was taken.

- **Matters not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of the meeting:**

- The Board Chair noted that there is a pending bill pertaining to the declawing of cats in Massachusetts. This bill has not yet been signed by the Governor. Board Counsel advised that, if and when the Governor signs the bill, the Board agendaize the law for discussion, if it so chooses.
 - There was a question from a member of the public attending the meeting, Ms. Vest-Parris, in relation to a specific complaint that this person filed. Ms. Vest-Parris was informed that any complaints are not discussed in open session.

- At this time, there were no further matters for the Public Session. At 9:50 am, a Motion was made by Dr. Diamond to close the Public Session and enter the Executive Session, which is closed to the public per M.G. L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(1). Following the Executive Session, the Board will move directly into the closed Quasi-Judicial Session to discuss disciplinary decisions, per M.G.L. c. 30A, § 18; followed by the closed Investigative Conference, to discuss open cases, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 112, § 65C. The Board does not anticipate re-entering the public session.

- Motion by Dr. Diamond to close the Public Session of the Meeting and enter into Executive Session
 - Motion seconded by Dr. Tubman
 - Roll Call vote

- In favor: Dr. Orlowski, Dr. Diamond, Dr. Kube, Dr, and Dr. Tubman
- Opposed: None
- Motion passes

Quasi-Judicial Session (Closed per M.G.L. c. 30A, § 18)

- 2024-000667-CP-ENF: Close Probation

At 10:00 am, Motion made to exit the Quasi-Judicial Session and enter into the Investigative Conference.

- Motion by Dr. Orlowski to close the Quasi-Judicial Session and enter into the Investigative Conference
- Motion seconded by Dr. Diamond
- Roll Call vote
- In favor: Dr. Orlowski, Dr. Diamond, Dr. Kube, Dr, and Dr. Tubman
- Opposed: None
- Motion passes

Investigative Conference (Closed per M.G.L. c. 112, § 65C):

The following actions were taken during the Investigative Conference: (Dr. Kube left the meeting at 12:48 pm)

Settlements

No cases

Cases:

- 2024-000696-IT-ENF: Dismiss (Dr. Kube recused)
- 2024-000697-IT-ENF: Refer to Prosecutions
- 2024-000698-IT-ENF: Dismiss
- 2024-000699-IT-ENF: Refer to Prosecutions
- 2024-000700-IT-ENF: Dismiss
- 2024-000785-IT-ENF: Dismiss
- 2024-000788-IT-ENF: Dismiss
- 2024-000836-IT-ENF: Dismiss (Board opened new complaint)
- 2024-000858-IT-ENF: Dismiss
- 2024-000914-IT-ENF: Refer to Prosecutions
- 2024-206555-FI-ENF: Refer to Prosecutions

Adjournment: At 11:43 am, a Motion to Adjourn meeting was made.

- Motion to Adjourn meeting made by Dr. Orlowski
- Motion seconded by Dr. Kube
- Roll Call vote
- In favor: Dr. Orlowski, Dr. Diamond, Dr. Kube, and Dr. Tubman
- Opposed: None
- Motion passes, meeting Adjourned

Meeting minutes signed by:

Board Chair, Dr. Rachel Orlowski

Documents Used During the Public Meeting:

- Agenda for the January 9, 2025, Open Meeting
- Minutes from the December 12, 2024, Open Meeting and minutes from the December 12, 2024 Executive Session
- Correspondence from the public seeking clarification on when it is required to release medical records to Animal Control

