

**GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**  
**Board Zoom Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, October 21, 2020 – 9:30 a.m.**

The Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine met via zoom meeting on Wednesday, October 21, 2020. The following members were present:

**Board Members Present**

Dr. Larry Corry, DVM, Chair  
Dr. Henry Bohn, DVM, Vice Chair  
Dr. Beckey Malphus, DVM, Board Member  
Dr. Wendy Cuevas-Espelid, DACVPM, Board Member  
Dr. Matthew Bradley, DVM, Board Member  
Mr. Thomas Culpepper, Consumer Board Member

**Staff Present**

Adrienne Price, Executive Director  
Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist  
Charlotte Mason, Licensing Supervisor  
Meagan Doss, Complaints/Compliance Analyst

**Attorney General's Office**

Mary Brannen, Assistant Attorney General

**Board Members Absent**

No members absent.

**Visitors Present**

Susan Blevins, Executive Director, Georgia Veterinary Medical Association (GVMA)  
Mauricio Briceno  
Alphonso Steward  
Dr. Doris Miller, DVM, Department of Pathology, State Government Relations, UGA College of Veterinary Medicine

**Call to Order:** Dr. Corry established that a quorum of the Board was present and called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

**OPEN SESSION**

**Agenda** Dr. Bohn motioned, Dr. Malphus seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the agenda as presented.

**Open Session Board Minutes**

**1. September 2, 2020 Board Teleconference Minutes**

Dr. Bohn motioned, Dr. Bradley seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the September 2, 2020 open session Board teleconference minutes as presented.

**2. October 20, 2020 Investigative Committee Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Bohn motioned, Mr. Culpepper seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the October 20, 2020 open session investigative committee minutes as presented.

**Licenses to Ratify – August 5, 2020 – October 14, 2020**

Dr. Bradley motioned, Dr. Bohn seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to ratify the licenses by application and by reinstatement that were issued in accordance with Board Rules and Policies, between Board meetings.

**Correspondence – Questions Regarding CE**

**1. Correspondence – Dr. Amy Kasprisin, DVM**

Dr. Malphus motioned, Dr. Bradley seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to notify the writer that per the Board discussion during the March 24, 2020 teleconference, the Board determined that all CE providers seeking LEAP approval must submit a full and complete CE Provider Application for Cognizant review. The requirement applies to those programs previously approved and cancelled due to the Governor's recommendations regarding public gatherings. The CE Provider applications are to provide documentation of a defined method of presentation and recording elements used for participation/testing for licensees seeking LEAP credit from the program. All applications are subject to requirements stipulated in the Emergency Rule adopted by the Board and approved by the Governor's Office. Refer to Board Rule 700-7-.03(b)(1) regarding blanket approval. The list of approved courses can be found on the Board website under the "Application/Form Downloads" tab.

## **2. Correspondence – Dr. Joy Mary Markford, DVM**

Dr. Bradley motioned, Dr. Malphus seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to notify the writer that per the Board discussion during the March 24, 2020 teleconference, the Board determined that all CE providers seeking LEAP approval must submit a full and complete CE Provider Application for Cognizant review. The requirement applies to those programs previously approved and cancelled due to the Governor's recommendations regarding public gatherings. The CE Provider applications are to provide documentation of a defined method of presentation and recording elements used for participation/testing for licensees seeking LEAP credit from the program. All applications are subject to requirements stipulated in the Emergency Rule adopted by the Board and approved by the Governor's Office. Refer to Board Rule 700-7-.03(b)(1) regarding blanket approval. The list of approved courses can be found on the Board website under the Application/Form Downloads tab.

### **Discussion – HB 914 – Expedited License by Endorsement Spouses of Service Members or Transitioning Service Members**

The Board accepts the correspondence in reference to HB 914, as information.

### **Discussion – American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) – Council on Education (COE) Accreditation Actions – September 2020**

The Board accepts the correspondence in reference to AVMA, as information.

### **Discussion – International Council For Veterinary Assessment (ICVA) – September In Focus Newsletter**

The Board accepts the correspondence in reference to ICVA, as information.

### **Discussion – CE Provider Application Requirements – Dr. Wendy Cuevas-Espelid, DVM**

Dr. Malphus motioned, Dr. Bradley seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to post the updated information concerning the requirements for live/interactive and prerecorded CE webinars within the CE Program Application Form as discussed.

### **Discussion – American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) 2020 Annual Meeting & Conference Virtual Event**

#### **1. AAVSB – Develops Model Regulations for Appropriate Use of Opioids in Vet Medicine**

The Board members who attended the AAVSB Annual Meeting and Conference Virtual Event shared their take-aways. Dr. Bohn shared that he attended the seminars on Wellness During the Pandemic and Permissionless Innovation - Cutting Edge Regulation for the Idaho Pharmacy Board, and stated he thought both were beneficial. Dr. Cuevas also shared that she attended the seminar on Wellness During the Pandemic. She noted that the presentation had pertinent information regarding a website, [www.askassesssupportknow.com](http://www.askassesssupportknow.com) which was offered through a partnership between VetFolio and Banfield Pet Hospital. Dr. Cuevas explained that the site was developed to promote health and wellbeing for the veterinary professional and has a focus on suicide prevention due to some of the statistics they reported relevant to incidences of suicide amongst licensed veterinarians.

Dr. Cuevas shared an important fact demonstrated during the seminar which believes that the longer people stay isolated, the greater the threat to public safety, which is important to remember for veterinarian community. She asked if the website can be added to the Board web page, and it was the consensus of the Board for the Executive Director to forward the website to all Board members for their individual engagement and to provide feedback from the experience. Dr. Bohn commented he found it encouraging that 92% of veterinarians who go into recovery do not relapse.

Mr. Culpepper shared he attended the Permissionless Innovation Seminar and found Measuring Regulatory Performance very interesting. Ms. Price explained that within those seminars it was noted that many licensing Boards are hesitant to document the measures used in disciplinary cases and shy away from making disciplinary actions public. To the general public, this can appear that the Board is not protecting the public due to the fact that the Board is not divulging the actions. This trend creates the appearance that the Boards are protecting the individual licensee versus the Board's charge of protecting the public. Mr. Culpepper explained that it was good to see examples of proactive actions taken by member Boards to prevent potential problems going forward. Dr. Malphus and Mr. Culpepper suggested adding a synopsis to the Executive Director Report for the public to better understand the actions taken, specifically under standard of care.

Ms. Price shared about the session, Cannabinoids in Veterinary Medicine. She noted that she appreciated that providers were cautioned about its use, and because the makeup and ingredients are not regulated, the practitioner is not completely aware of the amount of hemp, thc, etc. as those levels matter from the standpoint of federal and state law. She concluded that it was a good discussion about the transition of use, where it began and where its leading.

Dr. Bohn brought up a point from another seminar he attended, Top Legal Cases, regarding the statute of limitations for filing a complaint. He remarked that it would be good if there were because some of the complaints submitted to the Board are very old. Assistant Attorney General, Mary Brannen, noted that the Veterinary Practice Act has no statutory limitations on the timeline for submitting complaints. Dr. Bohn also noted that he found the topic of defining "standard of care" of great interest as the size and location of a practice can define expectations regarding the standard. Dr. Malphus responded that the Board has taken great care not to raise the standards so high that the small rural practices cannot meet the requirements in the same manner as the practices in the metro specialty clinics. She specified that during the rule change/amendment process, all these aspects are taken into careful consideration.

Ms. Price concluded the discussion with her summary of the Executive Director and Registrar Session and comments about Racetrack and what this mean for jurisdictions. She mentioned that public perception of member board websites, the information housed therein and ease of use, was also discussed and of great interest.

The Board thanked Dr. Malphus for providing the opportunity for the full Board to be a part of this virtual conference.

## **Discussion – Board Member Elections**

### **1. Board Chairperson**

Dr. Malphus motioned, Dr. Bradley seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to elect Dr. Henry Bohn as the Board's Chair.

### **2. Vice Chairperson**

Dr. Malphus motioned, Dr. Bradley seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to elect Dr. Wendy Cuevas as the Board's Vice Chairperson.

### **3. CE Cognizant**

Dr. Malphus motioned, Dr. Bradley seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to elect Dr. Matthew Bradley as the Board's CE Cognizant.

### **4. Application Cognizant**

Dr. Malphus motioned, Dr. Bradley seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to re-elect Dr. Becky Malphus as the Board's Application Cognizant.

#### **5. Investigative Committee**

Dr. Malphus motioned, Dr. Bradley seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to elect Dr. Larry Corry, Dr. Becky Malphus, and Dr. Wendy Cuevas to the Investigative Committee with Dr. Corry as the Chair.

#### **6. Rules Committee**

Dr. Malphus motioned, Dr. Bradley seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to elect Dr. Becky Malphus and Dr. Matthew Bradley to the Rules Committee.

#### **Petition for Rule Waiver – BR 700-7-03 – Dr. James Freeman, DVM VET005743**

Dr. Malphus motioned, Dr. Bradley seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the petition to waive BR 700-7-.03, based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

#### **Executive Director's Report – A. Price**

Executive Director's Report presented the Board with statistical data relevant to the processing of applications, the number of licensees, and complaints/compliance matters to include the number of Continuing Education applications pending, approved and denied. In addition, she addressed the following topics with the Board:

- Implementation of Provisions of Senate Bill 346:
- Temporary Licenses for Military, Military Spouses and Transitioning Service Members
- Electronic Submission of Graduation Data in Lieu of Transcript
- Board Rules Hearings
- Efforts to Gain & Retain Revenue and the need to charge for all services allowed by law, to include Continuing Education Applications
- Customer Service and System Enhancements

Mr. Culpepper left the meeting at 11:00 a.m. with a quorum of the Board still present.

Dr. Bohn motioned, Dr. Bradley seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the Executive Director's report as presented and for the Executive Director to research the fees associated with the processing of CE applications for other licensing boards within the Professional Licensing Boards Division.

#### **Board Chair's Report – L. Corry, DVM**

Dr. Corry expressed his appreciation for the ability to serve as president over the past year and further shared his gratitude toward the Board members and staff for serving with dedication in such an unusual and difficult year.

**Dr. Malphus made a motion, Dr. Bradley seconded, and the Board voted to enter into Executive Session in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-2(k); 43-1-19 (h) and 50-14-2 (1) to receive and review information pertaining to investigative reports, pending cases and enforcement matters and to receive the Assistant Attorney General's report. Voting in favor of the motion were those present who included: Dr. Corry, Dr. Bohn, Dr. Malthus, Dr. Cuevas, Dr. Bradley, and Mr. Culpepper.**

**At the conclusion of Executive Session on Wednesday, October 21, 2020, Dr. Corry declared the meeting to be "open" pursuant to the Open and Public Meeting Act O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1 et seq. No votes were taken during executive session.**

**OPEN SESSION**

Dr. Malphus left the meeting at 1:01 p.m. a quorum of the Board still present.

Dr. Malphus rejoined the meeting at 1:22 p.m.

**Scheduled Board Interview**

**11:00 VET200043**

Dr. Bohn motioned, Dr. Bradley seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to uphold the previous motion to require an OMPE, if the results of the OMPE are satisfactory applicant must pass an ICVA Species Specific exam or NAVLE due to having been out of practice for over 5 years, and extend the application until April 2021 in order for the applicant to complete all of the requirements. If fail to do so, the application will be withdrawn due to expiration.

**Executive Session Board Minutes**

- 1. September 2, 2020 Executive Board Teleconference Minutes**
- 2. October 20, 2020 Investigative Committee Executive Session Minutes**

Dr. Bohn motioned, Dr. Bradley seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the September 2, 2020 executive session Board teleconference minutes and the October 20, 2020 executive session investigative committee minutes as presented.

**Attorney General's Report – M. Brannen**

**AG MEMO – Final Authority on Rules Chapter Amendments**

Dr. Malphus motioned, Dr. Bohn seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the Attorney General's report as presented.

**VET180048**

Dr. Bradley motioned, Dr. Bohn seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to refer to Attorney General's Office for an amended Public Consent Order with a fine of \$500 for failure to submit employer reports in a timely manner.

**Investigative Committee Report – B. Malphus, DVM**

Dr. Bohn motioned, Dr. Bradley seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the following recommendations made in Executive Session.

- VET200053** Issue a Mitigating Circumstances Letter with terms and conditions as discussed.
- VET170056** Close the case with a letter of concern.
- VET170061** Close the case, no action. Dr. Cuevas recused herself from this recommendation.
- VET170076** Table pending additional investigation.
- VET190092** Table pending peer review.
- VET190028** Approve the request to lift supervision requirement of order and issue a Letter of Concern.

- VET190048** Refer Respondent 1 to the Attorney General’s office for a hearing or Public Consent Order with terms and conditions as discussed for aiding and abetting unlicensed practice and prescribing violations. Refer Respondent 2 to the Attorney General’s office for a hearing for a Cease and Desist Order.
- VET190093** Schedule an Investigative Interview.
- VET190097** Close the case.
- VET200013** Close the case.
- VET200037** Close the case.
- VET200044** Approve the medication management provider.
- VET200055** Complete a facility inspection and schedule an Investigative Interview.
- VET200063** Schedule an Investigative Interview for Respondent 1 and Respondent 2.
- VET200066** Schedule an Investigative Interview for both Respondents.
- VET210027** Close the case.
- VET210030** Close the case.
- VET190084** Notify Respondent of violation as discussed. If the Respondent does not comply, refer to the Attorney General’s office for a hearing or Public Consent Order for violation of the previous order terms and conditions as discussed.

**Miscellaneous Executive Discussion**

**1. VET170060**

Dr. Bohn motioned, Dr. Bradley seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the Respondent’s request to change employment.

**2. VET190011**

Dr. Bohn motioned, Dr. Bradley seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the Respondent’s request regarding monitoring to remove the hair follicle testing requirement and reduce urine drug screenings from monthly testing to quarterly.

**Applications for Board Review**

Dr. Bohn motioned, Dr. Bradley seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the following recommendations made in Executive Session.

- Applicant 2883710** Refer to Legal Services for a Private Consent Agreement with a fine of \$100 for unlicensed practice from February 2020 through July 20, 2020.
- Applicant 2898295** Issue the license.
- Applicant 2890838** Issue the license.
- Applicant 2895489** Issue the license.

**Applicant 2893425** Issue the license.

**Applicant 2872879** Issue the license.

**Applicant 2889653** Issue the license with a Letter of Concern regarding previous disciplinary action in another jurisdiction.

**Reinstatements**

**Applicant 2860601** Refer to Legal Services with Public Consent Order with a fine of \$600 for unlicensed practice from April 3, 2017 – March 5, 2020. Continuing Education hours submitted for late renewal/reinstatement cannot be used for the upcoming renewal period. If reinstatement is granted, the license will be required to be renewed by the last day of December in EVEN numbered years, regardless of when the license is reinstated.

**Adjournment** No further business was discussed and the meeting adjourned at 1:29 p.m.

**Minutes recorded by:** Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist

**Minutes reviewed by:** Charlotte Mason, Licensing Supervisor & Adrienne Price, Executive Director

**Minutes approved on:** December 2, 2020

LARRY CORRY, DVM  
**BOARD CHAIRPERSON**

ADRIENNE PRICE  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**