

**GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**  
**Alternative to Discipline Subcommittee Zoom Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, May 11, 2021 – 12:00 p.m.**

The Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine, Alternative to Discipline Subcommittee, met via Zoom meeting on Tuesday, May 11, 2021. The following members were present:

**Committee Members Present**

Dr. Wendy Cuevas-Espelid, DACVPM, Committee Chair  
Dr. Matthew Bradley, DVM, Committee Member  
Dr. William Wright, DVM, Committee Member

**Staff Present**

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

**Attorney General's Office**

No Attorney General present.

**Visitors Present**

Susan Blevins, Georgia Veterinary Medical Association (GVMA)  
Dr. Jill Lancaster, DVM, Georgia Veterinary Medical Association (GVMA)

**Administrative Staff Absent**

Charlotte Mason, Licensing Supervisor

**Call to Order:** Dr. Cuevas called the Committee meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

**OPEN SESSION**

**Agenda** The Committee accepted the agenda as presented.

**Discussion – Self-Report Packet**

The Committee discussed Georgia's Professionals Health Program (GaPHP) Agreement for Veterinarians and self-reporting as a mechanism to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public and licensed veterinarians while at the same time advocating privacy and anonymity. It was determined that the self-reporting packet would will made available to licensees who have not entered into an agreement or contract with the GaPHP for treatment of any issues with drug abuse, alcohol abuse, a mental disorder, or a physical disorder that impairs their ability to practice veterinary medicine with reasonable skill and safety. The self-reporting process allows for the Board to further assess the reasons why the licensee opted not to contact the GaPHP, determine whether the licensee's circumstance warrants a referral to the GaPHP or whether there are other treatment options suitable to the needs of the practitioner that will serve to protect the public.

Dr, Cuevas recommended that licensure application questions be amended to allow the applicant to maintain some anonymity if enrolled in GaPHP. Ms. Price stated that initial application forms and reinstatement applications may be amended easily; however, since the proposed language was adopted from a veterinary board in another state, the full Board may want to refer the proposed language to the Attorney General's Office for a Memorandum of Advice, to ensure that the wording would not violate any statutes in the state of Georgia. Ms. Price further stated that the Attorney General's approval of the language would also be helpful as it relates to changing the wording on the renewal applications as the current questions on the renewal applications are the same for most all license types at the Professional Licensing Boards Division of the Office of Secretary of State.

The Subcommittee entered into a discussion regarding the development of a decision tree to assist licensees and employers with navigating through the process of accessing treatment and/or reporting to the Board.

After much discussion as well as input from GVMA affiliates on the agenda items, Dr. Cuevas volunteered to draft a decision tree document for everyone to review. It was the consensus of the Subcommittee to table further discussion of the decision tree for the next meeting to be held by Zoom on May 20, 2021 at 12 Noon.

It was the consensus of the Subcommittee that the Self Report Packet (Attachment A) and the GaPHP Agreement (Attachment B) be presented to the Board during the June 23, 2021 meeting with a recommendation for approval and referral of Attachment B to Legal Services for legal review and execution.

The Subcommittee further recommends that the Board vote to refer the proposed language for veterinary applications for licensure, reinstatement and renewal (Attachment C) to the Attorney General's Office for a Memorandum of advice regarding its use in the state of Georgia.

**Adjournment** No further business was discussed and the Committee meeting adjourned at 12:47 p.m.

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

**Minutes reviewed by:** Adrienne Price, Executive Director

**Minutes approved on:** June 23, 2021

DR. WENDY CUEVAS-ESPELID, DACVPM  
**COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON**

ADRIENNE PRICE  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

BECKEY MALPHUS, DVM  
**BOARD CHAIRPERSON**