

KANSAS BOARD OF VETERINARY EXAMINERS
KBVE Board Meeting
Wednesday, August 21, 2024, 10:00 am
In Person: Three Rivers, 504 Miller Drive, Wamego
Microsoft Teams: By Invitation

This meeting of the Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners (KBVE) was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by board President, Dr. Elizabeth Covington. The meeting was held in person and via Microsoft Teams. Board members participating in addition to Dr. Covington were Dr. Amy Ekerberg, Dr. Larry Snyder, Dr. Leann Flowers, and Dr. Randy Norton. Mr. Joe Allen and Dr. Stacy Rogers attended via Microsoft Teams. Also present were Tim Resner, Konrad Coe, Matthew Provencher, Jessica Wrosch, and Dr. Mark Olson. Mary Berg from the Kansas Veterinary Technician's Association and Megan Kilgore from the Kansas Veterinary Medical Association attended via Microsoft Teams. Others attending via Microsoft Teams were Sierra Emberson who arrived at 11:59 a.m. and Amy Kennedy who arrived at 12:12 p.m.

Dr. Covington welcomed and thanked those in attendance.

Dr. Flowers moved to adopt the agenda and Dr. Ekerberg seconded the motion. The motion passed on a voice vote with no dissenting votes.

Dr. Covington welcomed Mary Berg with the KVTa and Megan Kilgore with the KVMA. Dr. Covington invited Mary Berg to give her KVTa report. The KVTa continues to meet regularly and has increased its membership numbers. The KVTa advocates for RVT's in Kansas to better educate the veterinary profession and the public.

Dr. Flowers moved to approve the board minutes as written from the June 2, 2024, meeting. Dr. Ekerberg seconded the motion. The motion was approved with no dissenting votes.

Jessica Wrosch, Administrative Specialist, presented the licensed veterinarian and registered veterinary technician report from the KBVE office. There are presently 2,801 licensed veterinarians and 748 registered veterinary technicians. There have been 171 new veterinarians licensed and 54 new registered veterinary technicians in fiscal year 2024.

Konrad Coe, Inspector, presented the current premise audit report. There are 662 veterinary premises currently registered.

Matthew Provencher, Investigator, presented the current investigations status report. There have been 62 complaints received for calendar year 2024.

Dr. Olson presented the Executive Director report. The KBVE biennial budget for the KBVE for FY 26 and FY 27 will be submitted to the Division of Budget office by September 15. A veterinarian investigation case was recently completed that involved unlicensed practice by a graduate veterinarian in Kansas and Oklahoma and now that veterinarian is licensed in both states. He reported the updated information from the KVMA-KBVE task force meetings held in June, July and August. He also gave an update from the rural veterinary workforce meetings held at the KSU-CVM in May and June. The KBVE is working with the State of Kansas Office of Information Technology Services (OITS) to get a new software system, and the funding was approved by the Kansas legislature and the Governor with several other agencies in Kansas. The centralized database will be at the OITS in Topeka.

Megan Kilgore, Executive Director for the KVMA, reported that the KVMA has been having monthly task force meetings and recently held a KVMA Townhall to discuss input involving the proposed modernized Kansas veterinary practice act statutes. The task force has discussed multiple areas of the practice act, and this information will be voted on by the KVMA board at a meeting on September 15 and will be reported back to the KBVE at that time. Topics being considered are the VCPR timeline, telemedicine and virtual practice language, veterinary fees, and credentialed veterinary technician language.

Dr. Olson gave a presentation on the budgetary process for the KBVE to educate new board members of all the steps involved to get the agency budget approved.

Dr. Covington opened discussion on updated information from stakeholders involving language for credentialed veterinary technicians and Dr. Olson asked board members for comments about utilizing credentialed veterinary technicians working for Kansas licensed veterinarians under indirect supervision out in the field. The KVMA recent survey showed the shortage of veterinarian services was for emergencies only and not during regular veterinarian business hours. Emergency services are usually true emergencies that require a veterinarian, and some producers only use a veterinarian for emergency services. No entity presently supports the midlevel practitioner being established in veterinary medicine like in human medicine. Mary Berg with the KVTA explained to the KBVE board members the large animal class training the veterinary technicians receive in school to prepare to assist veterinarians in practice.

Dr. Olson presented updated information from the KVMA task force committee to the KBVE about considering using the consumer price index (CPI) to adjust fees versus the present system that requires updating rules and regulations. Legal counsel, Tim Resner, informed the board that if this process was not allowed in statutes it would need to be added to the practice act before this could be considered. The KVMA task force does not support this idea as the variability of which CPI to use and how to manage it could be problematic.

The board reviewed the updated 12-6-23 statute draft updated language since the last board meeting that has been considered by stakeholders throughout 2024. Once the stakeholders approve at board meetings in September an updated draft will come to the KBVE board to be considered for implementation to the proposed draft language. Dr. Olson reported that the KVMA, KVTA, KDA, and the KSU-CVM have all added suggestions to the draft modernized statutes.

Dr. Covington reported that she will be the delegate and Dr. Rogers will be the alternate delegate at the AAVSB Annual Conference in San Diego, CA from September 25-28. Discussion was held on the voting considerations for the delegates to vote on from the Kansas board. Dr. Norton moved the Kansas delegate vote for Dr. Frank Walker to be reelected as a representative from the AAVSB to serve a second three-year term on the ICVA board. Dr. Ekerberg seconded the motion, and the motion passed on a voice vote with no dissenting votes. Dr. Olson announced that one present AAVSB board member would not be on the ballot to serve a second term and that their will be nominations from the floor at the annual business meeting for the delegates to consider. Mr. Allen moved to increase the by-laws committee members terms from two years to three years and Dr. Ekerberg seconded the motion. The motion passed on a voice vote with no dissenting votes.

Dr. Covington recessed the meeting at 11:45 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 12:00 p.m.

Sierra Emberson came before the board at 12:00 pm to discuss her RVT application with the full board. Dr. Norton moved and Dr. Ekerberg seconded a motion to approve Sierra Emberson to become a registered veterinary technician in Kansas. The motion passed on a voice vote with no dissenting votes. Amy Kennedy came before the board at 12:15 pm to discuss her RVT application with the full board. Dr. Flowers moved and Dr. Ekerberg seconded the motion to approve Amy Kennedy to become a registered veterinary technician in Kansas. The motion passed on a voice vote with no dissenting votes.

Dr. Covington, Dr. Rogers, Dr. Ekerberg and Dr. Olson will all be attending the AAVSB Annual Conference in San Diego from September 25-28.

Dr. Covington called for a 20-minute lunch break at 12:30 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 12:50 p.m.

Dr. Olson brought a request to the board to expunge discipline to a licensee who has fully retired from the practice of veterinary medicine in Kansas. Legal counsel, Tim Resner, informed the board that it needs to be determined if the practice act allows expungement, or the alternative option would be for the agencies to reconsider orders. Mr. Resner and Mr. Fowler will review the practice act and report at a later meeting.

Dr. Norton made the following motion: In order to protect the privacy of the non-elected personnel involved, I move that the Board recess into executive session to discuss personnel matters for the board. In addition, I move that, Legal Counsel, Tim Resner, Executive Director, Dr. Mark Olson, Investigator, Matthew Provencher, Inspector, Konrad Coe, and Administrative Specialist Jessica Wrosch be present in the executive session to aid the board in their discussions. The board will reconvene the open meeting in this same location in 10 minutes at 1:14 pm. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion. Motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Dr. Ekerberg moved to return to regular session at 1:14 pm. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion. Motion passed with no dissenting votes.

The next board meeting will be held at the KSU-CVM BI Auditorium at 12:00 pm with lunch being served by the veterinary school. The following meeting will be held on January 22, 2025, in the Topeka Capitol building starting at 10:00 am.

Dr. Ekerberg moved to adjourn the meeting and Dr. Norton seconded the motion. The motion passed on a voice vote with no dissenting votes.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm

Signed:  Date: 11/12/2024