

Reg/Leg Report

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The Veterinary Medical Board's (VMB) Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee (MDC) met on January 18 via the web. Marie Usery, RVT was welcomed as a new member. The minutes were approved as written.

The next item on the agenda was a discussion of Board Approval of RVT Colleges and Post-Secondary Institutions. The VMB has asked the MDC to find out if the Bureau of Private Post-Secondary Education (BPPE) can handle RVT school approval and to find out what other agencies are doing in this area. A sub-committee was appointed to report back. While discussing the approval of Alternate Route programs, it was mentioned that the BPPE partners with Boards to make sure that the curriculum offered at schools meets the requirements of the Board. In order to insure compliance, the BPPE inspects schools twice yearly – one announced and one unannounced.

The MDC went on to discuss the AVMA's oversight of RVT schools. Rachel Valentine, BS, RVT, Assistant Director of the Committee of Veterinary Technician Education and Activities (CVTEA), stated that the CVTEA is a semi-autonomous entity within the AVMA. Both Jennifer Loreda, RVT from the VMB and Leah Schufelt, RVT from the MDC have been appointed to the CVTEA.

Next on the agenda was a discussion about the Complaint Process Audit Sub-Committee. It was announced that Dr. Richard Sullivan will be replacing Dr. Lazarcheff. Dr. Sullivan reported that the training for Board members included information only on human medicine. However, the plan is to create scenarios including information on veterinary medicine in the future. Dr. Grant Miller of the CVMA said that he believes that the VMB is holding veterinarians to the "gold standard" rather than the "minimum standard" as required by law. Dr. Bradbury said that they will be looking into the qualifications of expert witnesses to be sure they understand their role.

The MDC members agreed to discuss complying with the new regulations on compounding at their next meeting on April 19, 2022.

The Veterinary Medical Board met via the web on January 19 with all members present. During Public Comment, several equine veterinarians asked the VMB to review minimum standards for equine practice, as they believe that the VMB is holding equine veterinarians to unreasonably high standards. The VMB then approved the minutes as written.

A representative of the Department of Consumer Affairs reported that they have approved on-line meetings until March 31. After that date, boards will be expected to begin holding their meetings in person, although they may continue to have web access. All attendees at Board meetings will be required to be vaccinated against Covid..

Dr. Richard Sullivan presented the MDC report. He said that the current implementation date of January 1, 2024 for approving Alternate Route schools may change depending on the report from the MDC sub-committee as to whether the BPPE can appropriately handle approval of these schools. The VMB asked the MDC to discuss the use of hemp products in veterinary medicine. The MDC was tasked with working on

language to amend the current Cannabis Guidelines to include a section on veterinarians prescribing hemp products.

Next was a discussion on Access to Veterinary Care. The CVMA created a Task Force to discuss the subject and made several recommendations which the MDC will review:

- Review expert witness standards
- Review regulations for vaccine clinics
- More clearly define incremental care
- Clarify minimum standards
- Ensure standards for animal care are not higher than for human care
- Identify current standards that are acting as barriers to care with a focus on Minimum Standards.

A motion was approved to delegate to the MDC the identification of statutes and regulations with particular emphasis on Minimum Standards for veterinary premises, clinics and alternative premises that act as barriers to care

The VMB went on to discuss AB133, which created the Health Workforce Research Data Center. The center will be a central source for health workforce data. They will be making an annual report to the legislature on supply and demand, educational capacity as well as other data they collect through surveys of licensees re ethnicity, salary, debts, etc.

Next on the agenda was a discussion about adding a second RVT to the VMB. Jennifer Loreda, currently the only RVT on the VMB, stated that there is too much on the plate for one RVT to handle. She also emphasized that RVTs work in a variety of settings, and that more than one RVT was needed to bring a diverse perspective. Adding another RVT would also create an odd number of VMB members, making it easier to break a tie vote. **The VMB voted to ask the legislature to add a second RVT to the VMB.**

In their discussion about legislation, the VMB voted to ask the legislature to correct the recent legislation that confined the approval of veterinary “specialists” to the AVMA. That legislation limited the use of the specialist title to a person approved by an AVMA approved program. The North American Veterinary Technicians Association (NAVTA), is actually the organization that approves specialties for RVTs, not the AVMA, so that change is necessary for VTSS, who are veterinary technician specialists. **The VMB also voted to allow RVTs to assist clients in administering prescribed treatments without supervision.** Currently, the law allows anyone to assist a client with prescribed treatments if they do so for free. Changing the regulations would allow an RVT to charge for their service. They referred this issue to the MDC. The VMB also voted to approve the by-laws changes made by the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB).

The meeting was adjourned for the day.

On January 20, the VMB reconvened. Board President Kathy Bowler reported that the new Public Member had to resign due to time commitments, so the VMB is now waiting for a new appointment from the State Senate.

Jennifer Loreda, RVT gave the RVT Report. She restated the RVT issues already discussed. She also pointed out that distance learning is popular, but not adequate for learning all the RVT job tasks, which require hands-on training. She also clarified that the Alternate Route is not being eliminated, but assuming that the current regulation going through is approved, the “ad hoc” Alternate Route will no longer be accepted in favor of students attending approved Alternate Route programs.

During the Administration Report, it was stated that there have been several staff changes at the VMB office. It was also reported that the VMB's fund condition is in good shape. **During the National Association Report, it was reported that the AAVSB maintains RACETrack, a site for DVMs and RVTs to log their approved CE.**

The student liaison from UC Davis Veterinary School reported that they have instituted a Spanish language class to improve communications with clients. She also reported that all classes are still virtual except for labs. The student liaison from Western University Veterinary School reported that their school is also holding virtual classes except for labs and also has a Spanish class.

During the Exam and Licensing Report, it was stated that the AAVSB has expressed a willingness to review Alternate Route applications, which are currently being reviewed by the VMB. They did say that it would take some time to work out the details.

It was reported that as of December 17, 2021, the Inspection and Enforcement Divisions of the VMB have been successfully merged for efficiency and money saving.

The VMB also reported that they are working on creating approved CE courses on veterinary law and regulations that will be available on-line. They also made their Strategic Plan available here: https://www.vmb.ca.gov/meetings/materials/20220119_20_item_18e.pdf.

The meeting was adjourned. The next VMB meeting will be on **April 20-21.**