

April 25, 2022

The Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee (MDC) met on April 19 in Sacramento and on-line via WebEx. All members were present except for Drs. Payton and Lazarcheff.

During Public Comment, a veterinarian from the Santa Rosa Junior College Alternate Route program asked the Veterinary Medical Board (VMB) to reconsider the 2000 hour work requirement prior to enrolling in an Alternate Route program currently in the RVT Education regulation going through. He felt that the work requirement was unnecessary and was a barrier for many potential candidates, especially considering the shortage of RVTs. Several other members of the public stood up to agree with him.

The MDC members reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting and approved them as written. (https://vmb.ca.gov/meetings/materials/20220419_mdc_4.pdf)

The MDC then moved on to discuss expanding health care tasks for RVTs. Current regulations require an RVT to be supervised by a DVM when performing any health care service. A sub-committee of the MDC looked into expanding RVT job tasks and concluded that legislation will be necessary to expand RVT's scope of practice. CaRVTA and CVMA will be working together on legislation that would allow RVTs to perform some tasks without veterinary supervision, such as administering prescribed treatments in a client's home. The sub-committee also concluded that RVTs are not currently being used to the full extent other license.

Another MDC sub-committee reported on their review of RVT education approval. They concluded that there is no advantage to having the VMB approve RVT programs that have been approved by AVMA. Even if the VMB elects not to approve these schools, they will still have the authority to inspect the schools if needed.

The next item on the agenda was a discussion about whether it was appropriate at this time to create guidelines for veterinarians for prescribing cannabis. Currently, veterinarians may only discuss, but not recommend. AB 1885 is going through the state legislature and would authorize veterinarians to prescribe as well as discuss cannabis. If passed, the legislation would require the guidelines to be in effect by January, 2024. The MDC voted to not create guidelines at this time and to wait for the outcome of AB 1885.

A discussion about the requirement for a VCPR at Small Animal Vaccination Clinics was next. The MDC voted to recommend the elimination of the VCPR at small animal vaccination clinics and to require that the animals at these clinics appear "bright, alert and responsive" prior to vaccination.

Drug Compounding was the next item on the agenda. New regulations on drug compounding became effective open April 1, 2022 (https://www.vmb.ca.gov/laws_regs/2021-22/ccr_2090_2095_drug_compounding_2021_07_28_mrpt.pdf). The MDC voted to approve the Guidelines for Drug Compounding as amended.

The MDC reported that the Complaint Process Audit Subcommittee held a training session with expert witnesses that they felt was very helpful. Previously, expert witnesses had been trained only by the Medical Board.

The meeting was adjourned. **The next meeting of the MDC will be on July 19, 2022.**

The Veterinary Medical Board met on April 20 in Sacramento and on-line via WebEx. All members were present except for Diane Prado.

After approving the minutes as amended, the VMB heard from a representative of the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA). She reported that as of April 1, 2022, all boards will be meeting in-person as well as remotely thanks to AB 1733.

Next was the MDC report (see above). **Dr. Richard Sullivan reported that in the opinion of the MDC, the drug compounding rules are problematic for practices and should be reviewed.** He also encouraged the VMB to consider

reducing the 2000 hour work requirement for enrollment in Alternate Route programs. Dr. Richard Sullivan was also reappointed to the MDC for a second term.

Dr. Jayme Noland reported on the Access to Veterinary Care Task Force (AVCTF). She said that RVTs need to be utilized to the fullest extent. She also said there was a need to increase the scope of practice for RVTs and that there was support from CVMA to seek legislation. There will be an AVCTF meeting on April 27 that will be available on-line.

The VMB moved on to discuss pending legislation. They voted to support AB 1885, the law that would allow veterinarians to prescribe cannabis. They noted that the Sunset bill did not include adding a second RVT to the VMB, so this issue will need to be addressed in separate legislation.

The next item was a discussion of pending regulations. The RVT Education regulation is still pending, which means there will be an opportunity to amend it to decrease the 2000 work hours currently required prior to enrolling in an Alternate Route program. There will also be an opportunity to update the regulation's implementation date, which is currently set at January 1, 2024.

The VMB adjourned until the next day.

At the beginning of the meeting on April 21, Dr. Mark Nunez reminded the room that this was his last meeting as a Board member. He encouraged other veterinarians to apply for his position with the Governor.

The Administrative Report showed that the VMB now has 10 months in fiscal reserve, so there will be no fee increases at least until the next Sunset Review.

Jennifer Loreda, RVT presented the RVT Report. She noted that getting a second RVT on the VMB is in progress, as is expansion of the RVT tasks. She also stated that due to high turn-over in the RVT profession, the VMB should consider reinstating the BS degree in an animal related science as an eligibility category for RVT candidates. The VMB voted to add Pathways to Licensure for RVTs to the MDC agenda.

Jennifer also noted that her term is coming to an end and that RVTs should start applying for her position. To apply to be an RVT member of the VMB, follow the link for a Governor's Appointment:
https://www.dca.ca.gov/about_us/board_members/appointment.shtml.

VMB President, Kathy Bowler, reported that she will be the new Chair of the International Council for Veterinary Assessment - the first Public Member to hold that position. Dr. Nunez reported that there is a national move to increase RVT job tasks. Jessica Siefertman, the VMB EO, said that she would like the American Association of State Boards (AAVSB) to review their Model Practice Act, particularly the section on establishing a VCPR. The VMB also voted to nominate Dr. Mark Nunez for a Director position on the AAVSB.

Next on the agenda were the student reports from the two California veterinary schools. Both representatives offered support for extending RVT duties.

During the Executive Management Reports, it was stated that BreEze has simplified the VACSP application process. They also discussed the possibility of charging applicants for credit card fees. Also mentioned was the fact that licenses are now being issued within 7 days of applying. The VMB will be creating free CE on the Practice Act that will be available on-line starting on June 14, 2022. The VMB's Strategic Planning meeting will be held on October 22, 2022, 1 year earlier than usual.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting of the VMB will be on July 20-21.