

**Reg/Leg Report**  
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**The Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee (MDC) met on April 21 via the web.** It was announced that Dr. Warner moved out of state and would no longer be on the committee and that Dr. Lazarcheff's term was expiring. Maria Sperber was introduced as a new Public Member.

**The MDC initially approved a variety of definitions for telemedicine, telehealth, etc., but decided to continue working on the definitions at the next meeting.** They also approved a series of FAQs on the VCPR, but will be working on adding more.

The MDC reported that they have consulted with other boards about their inspection programs. Many other boards use full-time employees rather than licensee contractors as the VMB does. They also reported that they are looking at a mobile app that inspectors could use as soon as 2022.

The Complaint Audit Subcommittee reported that cost recovery is extremely difficult, although they are trying hard to do so.

**The MDC is working on creating content for CE webinars that would be free to licensees.** Topics mentioned so far include Inspections, Enforcement, VMB Overview and Telemedicine. The MDC is seeking volunteers to create content.

The Veterinary Medical Board (VMB) met on April 22-23 via the web. Carrie Holmes, Deputy Director of the DCA reported that unless the law is changed, all boards will have to return to meeting in person once the pandemic is over.

**Kristi Pawlowski, RVT, Chair of the MDC presented the MDC report.** She informed the VMB that they will be reworking the definitions of telemedicine, etc. She also presented the recommendation that the VMB approve the AAVSB's foreign graduate program for RVTs (PAVE for RVTs). The VMB approved the motion. The VMB also voted to extend all waivers until the end of the emergency.

**Ms. Pawlowski presented the VMB with a proposal to create a \$100 application fee for the VACSP and to raise the VACSP fee from \$50 to \$100.** It has become clear that the VACSP program is not bringing in sufficient revenue to cover its costs under the current structure. The VMB voted to approve the new fees and to add them to the Sunset legislation.

The VMB voted to reappoint Dr. Lazarcheff to the MDC and to add Dr. Dianne Sequoia to replace Dr. Warner.

**The VMB next moved on to discuss proposed legislation.** The VMB noted that it was early in the legislative process, so they had time to take positions on bills. They decided to move forward. The VMB voted to support AB1282 if funded. That bill will require the eventual closing of closed canine blood banks to be replaced by community blood banks. The also voted to support AB1535 which changes the term "diversion" to "wellness". The also voted to support SB344 which provides grants for homeless shelters to include pets and veterinary care.

**Next was a discussion of proposed regulations.** The regulatory change that allows an RVT in an emergency to provide emergency aid including pain management goes into effect on July 1, 2021. The

change allowing drug prescriptions in the absence of the original DVM went into effect on April 1, 2021. The regulation allowing RVTs to apply casts and splints under Indirect Supervision went into effect on April 1, 2021. For details, go to:

[https://vmb.ca.gov/meetings/materials/20210422\\_23\\_8\\_a\\_pending\\_regulations.pdf](https://vmb.ca.gov/meetings/materials/20210422_23_8_a_pending_regulations.pdf)

**The VMB meeting continued on April 23 with a hearing on the possibility of putting the San Joaquin Valley College RVT Program on probation due to their low VTNE pass rates.** After hearing a presentation from representatives of the school describing the improvements they have made to their program, the VMB voted to not put the program on probation at this time.

**Under the Executive Management Reports, the VMB discussed the possibility of continuing to meet virtually - perhaps 2 in-person, 2 virtual, in order to facilitate people being able to attend.** They also reported that they are taking in more revenue than anticipated due to the fee increases. The staff reported that they are aware of complaints about not answering the phone at the VMB office and are working to resolve the issue.

After a closed session, the VMB voted to reappoint Kathy Bowler as a representative to the AAVSB and to nominate Dr. Mark Nunez as AAVBS President. They noted that 50% of all current complaints are designated as "high priority", which puts them in an untenable position. They will consider reevaluating the rating system so that something closer to 10% of cases would be considered "high priority". They also noted that the mandate that the VMB inspect 20% of all facilities yearly is unreasonable. They noted that other boards do not have any mandate for inspections at all.

It was noted that the next MDC/VMB meeting on July 21-23 will be virtual.