

Executive Officer's Report

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Staffing

Paul Sanchez, the Board's Assistant Executive Officer and Sandra Monterrubio, who handled the administrative discipline program for the Board, have both moved on to promotional opportunities within the Department of Consumer Affairs.

Effective July 1, 2014 the Board was granted 11.5 new positions in both licensing and enforcement in order to address a backlog in its enforcement program and to meet the mandates of Senate Bill 304, effective January 1, 2014. SB 304, requires the Board, take make every effort, to inspect 20% of its registered hospitals and to issue Veterinary Assistant Controlled Substance Permits to individuals who have access to, and administer, controlled substances to the public. With the 11.5 new positions, the Board is restructuring its organization and is hiring two program managers; one to manage its licensing and examination programs, and the other to manage the Board's enforcement program. With the addition of the new staff and program managers, the Board's overall operational efficiency and educational outreach should dramatically improve.

Two new staff members have joined the Board in June 2014, Patty Rodriguez, is the lead over the hospital inspection program and will be responsible for managing the Board's field operations. Brenda McCutcheon, is working in the complaint unit, assisting with desk investigations, unlicensed activity cases, and the citation and fine program. Candace Raney, who has been with the Board since May 2014, is managing the Board's administrative cases.

In addition, the Board is currently recruiting two additional enforcement program analysts to handle the administrative discipline workload, that is, cases pending at the Office of the Attorney General, and to closely manage the Board's probation program. The two additional analysts should be on board in mid- August.

Seeking Expert Witnesses for Disciplinary Case Review

The Board has updated its website with information regarding recruiting for Expert Witnesses. We have asked for CVMA and others to assist the Board in disseminating information regarding the Expert Witness role with the Board. The Expert Witness Guidelines were updated late 2013 and are being distributed to the Board for your reference.

Inspection Program

Staff is currently interviewing new hospital inspectors for its inspection program. We hope to bring on at least 6-8 new inspectors this year as we ramp up the number of inspections we complete annually. We have new inspector training scheduled for mid-August and will begin assigning inspections immediately following the training session and field-shadowing. Our goal is to complete approximately 500 routine inspections between now and June 2015, which is more than double our annual average. The Board's goal is to inspect approximately 700 hospitals annually and possibly begin inspecting new hospitals within their first year of registrations.

Also, staff is looking forward to the launch of a webpage dedicated to hospital inspection program information, to include FAQs, photos of compliance issues and corrections, all pertinent forms, and program updates.

BreEZe Program

Licensing and Enforcement staff continues to work on DCA's new BreEZe database system. To date, key staff has devoted more than ½-time working with DCA and BreEZe personnel on program development and conversion. It is anticipated that approximately 40-50% of key staff will be dedicated to BreEZe tasks over the next 6 months.

Publications/Outreach:

Veterinary Premises Postcard The Veterinary Premises Postcards were mailed to all hospital premises in late-March 2014. As part of its data collection efforts for the new Veterinary Assistant Controlled Substances Permit, the Board distributed postcards to all veterinary premises requesting they take the Board's online survey. The survey closed on May 30, 2014 and the Board received only a 2% response from its outreach effort. Since the data is critical in determining VMB program impact, we began an in-house data collection by reviewing hospital inspection applications and tallying recorded staff. We also re-opened the survey in late June 2014 for another 60-day window and asked for assistance from CVMA and local chapters to disseminate the survey.

Social Media for the VMB! Staff met with the DCA's Public Affairs Unit to discuss options for reaching our constituents through social media. Public Affairs is constructing a Facebook and Twitter account for the VMB where current and hot topics may be posted. The account will be managed by VMB staff with assistance of the Public Affairs Unit for posting items such as videos, photos, etc. We will be seeking input from the Board members on timely and relevant postings.

CVMA Board of Governors & House of Delegates Meeting 6/19/14 I attended the CVMA meeting and provided a Board update on staffing, enforcement program statistics/workload, MDC priorities, and pressing VMB issues related to hospital premises, telehealth, and university licensure. A number of good questions were posed regarding the Board's hospital inspection program.

Meeting with UC Davis I met with Dean Ilkiw and Dean Pascoe on June 24, 2014 to discuss on-going student issues and collaborative projects: release of NAVLE examination score results, DVM program completion and licensing timelines, curriculum requirements for CA Law and Ethics Course, and student exemptions extending to off-site clinical settings. I will report on scope of the issues at the July 22-23, 2014 meeting.

Website Changes/Updates In addition to the hospital inspection program page, other important educational posts are being considered: on-line courses for record keeping and supervisory roles and responsibilities, posts regarding graduation dates and associated examination and application deadlines. **Please share your thoughts regarding other enhancements staff can make to our website to ensure that timely and resourceful information reaches our stakeholders.**

Updates on VMB Topics of Interest:

California Horse Racing Board – Proposed Rule on Bleeder Medication. Legal Counsel and I are working with the CHRB on technical changes to the proposed rule for the administration of Lasix. The CHRB submitted a proposed draft to Rebecca Bon on June 23, 2014 for review. Ms. Bon and I held a teleconference on July 8, 2014 with DCA Legislative Affairs and Agency (California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency) to discuss technical issues regarding maintaining the integrity of the VCPR and requiring appropriate veterinarian oversight for the administration of Lasix. Once the language is in final form, it will be presented to the Board for review and consideration.