

**MEETING MINUTES
MULTIDISCIPLINARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Mission Inn Hotel
3649 Mission Inn Avenue
Riverside, California 92501**

10:00 a.m. Tuesday, April 16, 2019

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Establishment of a Quorum

Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee (MDC) Chair, Dr. Jeff Pollard, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Veterinary Medical Board (Board) Executive Officer, Ms. Jessica Sieferman, called roll; nine members of the MDC were present, and a quorum was established.

2. Committee Chair's Remarks, Committee Member Comments, and Introductions

Dr. Pollard announced that it would be Dr. Allan Drusys' last meeting on the MDC, as he is terming out, and thanked him for the last six years of service on the MDC.

Members Present

Jeff Pollard, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM), Chair
Kristi Pawlowski, RVT, Vice-Chair
Allan C. Drusys, DVM
Stuart Eckmann, Public Member
Kevin Lazarcheff, DVM
Jennifer Loreda, RVT, Board Liaison
Leah Shufelt, RVT
Margaret Warner, DVM
Cheryl Waterhouse, DVM, Board Liaison

Staff Present

Jessica Sieferman, Executive Officer
Robert Stephanopoulos, Enforcement Manager
Moneel Singh, Administrative Program Manager
Amanda Drummond, Administrative Program Analyst
Tara Welch, Legal Counsel

Guests Present

Kathy Bowler, Board
Tonya Buenrostro, County of Riverside
Katherine Buff, RVT, County of Riverside
Mark Cushing, Animal Policy Group
Rich Edling, Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health (BIAH)

Nancy Ehrlich, CaRVTA
Stacey Evans, Stacey Evans Consulting, LLC
Valerie Fenstermaker, California Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA)
Charis Fifield, VETCBD
Cindy Gonzalez, County of Riverside
Sharon Gonzales, County of Riverside
Paul Hansbury, Lovingly and Legally Grown
Bonnie Lutz, Esq.
Max Mikalonis, K Street Consulting
Grant Miller, DVM, CVMA
Elaine Myers, CaRVTA
Jaymie Noland, DVM, Board
Mark Nunez, DVM, Board
John Pascoe, DVM, University of California, Davis (UC Davis)
Ken Pawlowski, DVM, CVMA
Emma Perez-Singh, County of Riverside
Jaymie Peyton, DVM, UC Davis
Travis Scott, County of Riverside
Tim Shu, DVM, VETCBD
Richard Sullivan, DVM
Todd Tamms, DVM, VCA Chief Medical Officer
Susan Tibbon, Lovingly and Legally Grown
David Urrutia, County of Riverside

3. Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

There were no comments from the public, outside agencies, or associations.

4. Review and Approval of January 22, 2019 Committee Meeting Minutes

The MDC made minor changes to the January 22, 2019 meeting minutes.

- Dr. Allan Drusys moved and Dr. Kevin Lazarcheff seconded the motion to approve the minutes as amended. The motion carried 9-0.

5. Discussion on Legislative and Regulatory Proposals Regarding the Corporate Practice of Veterinary Medicine; Potential Recommendation to Full Board

The subcommittee consisting of Ms. Kristi Pawlowski and Mr. Stuart Eckmann provided an update to the MDC regarding the topic of corporate practice in veterinary medicine. A survey was submitted to licensees asking them to provide information about their practices. In a little over a week, the Board received approximately 500 responses. Ms. Sieferman clarified that the intent of the survey was to identify if there is a need to investigate corporate practice further and

determine if this was an issue in veterinary medicine, rather than to provide a statistical analysis of the results. The survey results indicated that this is an issue in veterinary medicine and one that warranted further investigation.

Public comments were received indicating that this was a complex issue and that the survey is not something that should be used to draw conclusions as the survey was not statistically sound. The MDC also discussed legislation regarding corporate practice of veterinary medicine in other states. Given the short time the survey was open, the MDC determined to leave the survey open and to reach out again to licensees to encourage additional responses. Additionally, the MDC subcommittee will continue researching this issue to determine what steps are necessary.

6. Discussion and Development of Guidelines for Discussion of Cannabis with Veterinary Clients; Potential Recommendation to Full Board

Dr. Margaret Warner provided an update from the subcommittee for cannabis guidelines and reported that definitions have been added to the guidelines to include hemp products following the passing of the Farm Bill. Additionally, comments received at the January meeting have been included in the guidelines to address continuing education and specifics on what the Board can provide. Public comment noted that the guidelines focus heavily on the dangers of cannabis products, but not the benefits. The MDC commented that the benefits of cannabis in animals is still new and developing, and it is not something that can be included in the guidelines, as it is up to the veterinarian discussing cannabis to take continuing education courses to learn the benefits. Additionally, it was commented that by indicating the benefits of cannabis in the guidelines, it can be interpreted as recommending cannabis, which currently is not authorized. Members of the public and the MDC made recommendations for amendments to the guidelines, and the MDC agreed they would bring this issue back to the July meeting for further deliberation. The modifications include:

- Modifying the first bullet point of the guidelines (page 2) to “The variability of quality, safety, testing, and sources of cannabis products.”
- Modifying the final bullet point (page 3) to “The importance of periodic re-evaluation of the patient.”

7. Update from the Complaint Process Audit Subcommittee

Dr. Pollard provided a brief update on the complaint process audit subcommittee. The subcommittee would continue to collaborate with Board staff regarding expert witness training, with focus on consistency, feedback, and re-training of expert witnesses.

8. **Future Agenda Items and 2019 Meeting Dates**

A. Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee Assignment Priorities

- Update from the Complaint Process Audit Subcommittee
- Update from the Cannabis Guidelines Discussion Subcommittee
- Update from the Corporate Practice Subcommittee
- Discussion of Managing Licensees and Premises Registration

B. 2019 Meeting Dates

- July 16, 2019 – Bay Area, Foothill College
- October 8, 2019 – Sacramento, DCA

9. **Adjournment**

The MDC adjourned at 2:25 p.m.