

MINUTES
UTAH VETERINARY PHYSICIANS LICENSING BOARD MEETING
MAY 8, 2025 9:00 A.M.
ROOM 402, 4TH FLOOR
160 E 300 S SALT LAKE CITY

Hybrid Meeting- In Person and Electronic

CONVENED: 9:02 AM

ADJOURNED: 10:49 AM

DOPPL STAFF PRESENT:

Bureau Manager: Jim Garfield
Board Secretary: Tina Marshall

Compliance Specialist: Bernice Palama

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair: Tonya Hardy, DVM
Amy Knollinger, DVM

Jason Gibson, DVM
Justin Berkowitz, Public Member

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Neil Moss, DVM

DOPPL STAFF NOT PRESENT:

DOPPL Investigation: Jack Guenon
Research & Policy Consultant: Alexander Bybee

GUESTS ATTENDED ELECTRONICALLY:

Andrei Tarassov

Note: Other guests may have been in attendance electronically but were not identified.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Dr. Hardy called the meeting to order at 9:02 A.M.

REVIEW AND APPROVE January 16, 2025 MINUTES (Audio 00:03:20)

Dr. Gibson motioned to approve the minutes.

Mr. Berkowitz seconded the motion.

The Board motion passed unanimously.

DOPPL INVESTIGATIONS (Audio 00:04:02)

Mr. Garfield explained that he could go over the handouts that Mr. Guenon provided but was unable to provide further detail. Mr. Garfield explained that there were 14 closed cases and 15 received cases from January 2025 to the beginning of May 2025.

APPOINTMENT ITEMS:

GARY DURRANT, PROBATIONARY INTERVIEW (*Audio 00:20:34*)

Ms. Palama explained that Dr. Durrant has had no missed check-ins and supervisor reports show no concerns.

Dr. Hardy asked if the probationary process has been supportive.

Dr. Durrant explained his supervisor and the Board have been very supportive.

Dr. Durrant requested that the Board at the next Board meeting review a request that would allow Dr. Durrant to handle controlled substances.

Dr. Hardy explained that they could review the request at the next meeting and explained the information that the Board would like to see and how the plan would be put into place with the supervisor.

Dr. Gibson made a motion to find Dr. Durrant in compliance with his Stipulation and Order.

Mr. Berkowitz seconded the motion.

The Board motion passed unanimously.

An appointment was made for Dr. Gary Durrant to meet for the October 2, 2025 meeting.

MICHAEL BLOTTER, PROBATIONARY INTERVIEW (*Audio 00:25:57*)

Ms. Palama explained that Dr. Blotter is currently tolling. Not working in field report has been received. An inspection was completed on 4/30/2025.

Dr. Hardy asked how things are going.

Dr. Blotter explained that he is still working on finding a supervisor and has completed his continuing education.

The Board, the Division and Dr. Blotter discussed the possibility of approving Dr. Manning as a supervisor as Dr. Manning was previously denied. Mr. Garfield explained what would be required in order for Dr. Manning to be reconsidered and the options that would be considered going forward.

Dr. Gibson made a motion to find Dr. Blotter in compliance with his Stipulation and Order.

Dr. Knollinger seconded the motion.

The Board motion passed unanimously.

An appointment was made for Michael Blotter to meet for the October 2, 2025 meeting.

ENEL HALILOVIC, TEMPORARY VETERINARIAN LICENSE EXTENSION

REQUEST (*Audio 00:08:44*)

Dr. Hardy asked Dr. Halilovic to provide background about the situation.

Dr. Halilovic explained where he completed his schooling, coming to the United States to work and starting the ECFVG program. Dr. Halilovic applied for and was granted a Temporary Veterinarian license. Dr. Halilovic has applied twice for step 4 of the ECFVG but has been unable to get a seat.

Dr. Gibson made a motion to recommend the temporary veterinarian license be extended for 1 year.

Mr. Berkowitz seconded the motion.

The Board motion passed unanimously.

ORQUIDEA LOYOLA, TEMPORARY VETERINARIAN LICENSE EXTENSION REQUEST (*Audio 00:48:10*)

Dr. Hardy asked Dr. Loyola to provide background about the situation.

Dr. Loyola explained that she moved to the United States in 2022 and started working on completing the ECFVG program. Dr. Loyola has not been able to get a seat to complete step 4 of the program.

Dr. Loyola provided who her supervisor was and her professional experience.

Dr. Gibson made a motion to recommend the temporary veterinarian license be extended for 1 year.

Mr. Berkowitz seconded the motion.

The Board motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

BOARD TRAINING – BERNICE PALAMA (*Audio 00:53:40*)

Ms. Palama had a conflict with another meeting she needed to attend. The Board training will be provided in the October 2, 2025 meeting.

TEMPORARY VETERINARIAN AND VETERINARY INTERN EXTENSIONS (*Audio 00:54:04*)

Mr. Garfield explained that a pathway for extensions needs to be created so the Division can handle the requests.

Dr. Gibson stated that he had no issue with extending licenses for individuals that are currently in the ECFVG program.

The Board and Mr. Garfield discussed the length of time the license could be extended or if another license may need to be created.

Dr. Gibson made a motion to recommend that a temporary license can be extended 3 times before having to meet with the Board.

Mr. Berkowitz seconded the motion.

The Board motion passed unanimously.

PAVE (*Audio 01:00:01*)

Mr. Garfield explained that PAVE has ended the internationally trained pathway for veterinary technicians.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – SB 120 AND HB 194 (*Audio 01:00:38*)

Mr. Garfield explained that HB 194 added language to the veterinarian-client-patient relationship regarding beekeeping.

Mr. Garfield explained that SB 120 created an exemption for veterinarians prescribing gabapentin. Mr. Garfield also explained that if a veterinarian sends a prescription for gabapentin to a pharmacy, the prescription will be handled as a controlled substance as pharmacies are not exempt.

FAX – DR. GIBSON (*Audio 01:03:50*)

Dr. Gibson explained that they are trying to eliminate the fax machine in their office but are being told by the pharmacy they need to use it to send prescriptions.

Dr. Hardy and Dr. Knolliger stated they both use email at their practice.

Mr. Garfield and the Board discussed what requirements are needed for the practice to use email instead of fax.

DESIGNATION OF BOARD MEMBER PER 58-28-201(4)(E) (*Audio 01:08:19*)

Dr. Hardy explained that this has been previously discussed by the Board and the previous decision was that the chair would work with investigations.

The Board discussed when the Board is contacted by investigations, what the investigations process is and that complainants can reach out to the investigator for an update.

The Board discussed the issues arising around the practice of equine dental floating and reproductive clinics.

AAVSB ANNUAL MEETING (*Audio 01:41:10*)

Mr. Garfield asked if any Board members were interested in attending the AAVSB annual conference.

Dr. Gibson expressed interest in going to the meeting.

Mr. Garfield explained he would reach out to see if Dr. Moss would like to go as Mr. Garfield needs to inform the AAVSB of the two delegates Utah will be sending to the conference.

FUTURE MEETINGS (*Audio 01:44:06*)

Mr. Garfield explained that the September meeting was moved to October as it conflicted with the AAVSB annual meeting. Mr. Garfield also explained that Board had expressed interest in adding another meeting to their schedule.

Dr. Gibson expressed he thought three times a year was insufficient and he would like to try meeting four times a year. Dr. Hardy and Dr. Knolliger agreed.

Ms. Marshall explained that the four meetings a year would fall in the following months: January, May, August and October.

The Board agreed those months would be acceptable.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 10:49 A.M.

Note: These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcript but are intended to record the significant features of the business conducted in this meeting. Discussed items are not necessarily shown in the chronological order they occurred.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: October 2, 2025

Tonya Hardy
Chairperson

10/3/25
Date


Jim Garfield (Oct 7, 2025 07:49:15 MDT)
Bureau Manager

10/07/2025
Date