

Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
Minutes for July 23, 2026

Meet In Person at 10:30 AM

Joint Meeting Minutes

Board Members: Dr. Christine Calvert, President; Ms. Patricia Quimby, Vice-President; Dr. Heidi Schmechel; Ms. Lynne Chaput; Dr. Peter Radue, Dr. Monica Maa, Dr. Justin Sobota.

Staff: Nathaniel Boan, Executive Director; Susan Husk, Assistant Director; Cindy Spirt, Assistant Attorney General; Sarah Hultz, Investigator; Tonya Kendrick-Green, Licensing Administrator; Britney Brach, Office Administrator; Ellen James, Inspector; and Pegeen Morgan, Inspector.

Dr. Calvert called the meeting to order at 10:35am.

Open Meeting Minutes

Approval of the Minutes:

In a motion by Ms. Quimby, and seconded by Dr. Calvert, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the May 28th, 2026 and June 25th, 2026 meetings.

License Applications Approvals:

- Veterinarians:
 - Under Board Review
 - Dr. Alicia Gutierrez update.
 - Answered 4 questions inaccurately on her application; including licensed in another jurisdiction, not having disciplinary action, not having a conviction (and no conviction involving CDS drugs).
 - NB Called and spoke with her about the concerns. She did not want to meet with the Board. Requested to withdraw her application and will not practice in Maryland.
 - The Board accepted the withdrawal of the application.
 - In a motion by Dr. Schmechel, and seconded by Dr. Maa, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following applications approved by designated authority.
 - Veterinarians Approved by Designated Authority
 - J. Williams
 - B. Romagnano
 - P. Nava
 - Z. Omarbekov
 - J. Paugh
 - P. Baker
 - K. Mussman
 - K. LeBlanc
 - S. Chae
 - C. Clark
 - A. Krieger
 - H. Ferguson
 - C. Riviera
 - G. Cruse
 - C. Perez
 - M. Woodruff
 - P. Kelly
 - A. Burns
 - C. Harro
 - J. Nelson
 - L. Belloff
 - J. Rusk

- K. Moore
- L. Chevoiser
- Veterinary Technicians
 - In a motion by Dr. Sobota, and seconded by Dr. Calvert, the Board voted unanimously to:
 - Require the following license applicants to retake the VTNE to meet the requirements of the licensing regulations:
 - Samantha Yuan
 - No Active licenses since 2018 (PA and VA); working in Maryland since 2015, VTNE scores from 2012.
 - Not eligible for endorsement.
 - Danielle Genzel
 - Currently licensed in PA but has not worked in PA for over 5 years. Has worked for 3 years as a “CVT” in Maryland, possibly unlicensed practice. VTNE scores from 2013.
 - Not eligible for endorsement.
 - Lorraine Lage
 - Currently licensed in NY but has not worked in NY for 5 years. Past experience also includes a 1-2 year gap. Has not practiced as a licensed technician. VTNE scores from 2005.
 - Not eligible for endorsement; and,
 - Approve the applications of the following Veterinary Technicians approved by designated authority:

• K. Newlen	• A.
• E. Turner	• Schlotterbeck
• T. Butcher	• J. Canby
• S. Vannoy	• R. Aten

Sanitation Reports:

- Inspectors Ellen James and Pegeen Morgan presented the hospital sanitation reports.
- In a motion by Dr. Sobota, and seconded by Dr. Radue, the Board voted unanimously to accept the reports as presented.

The Board discussed the following hospital’s hours of operation:

- Kiel Associates, PA (Erdman Animal Hospital) L#30-013
 - Only wants to open 3 consecutive days a month but not the same each month.
 - Some existing staff intend to continue the Boarding portion under a new separate business.
 - Must clearly advertise this.
 - Concerns about prescription drug access.
 - NB to Draft a letter with instructions on how to appropriately handle this situation.
 - Limited access of technicians to the hospital area.
 - Can not do remote supervision.
 - No filling prescriptions when he is not there.
 - Controlled substances need to be updated to home address and transported in a secure lock box with him when seeing patients at the facility.

CE Approval Requests:

- In a motion by Dr. Maa, and seconded by Dr. Sobota, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following Continuing Education courses for use in Maryland.
 - 917 - Managing Canine Osteoarthritis

- VOSM - Veterinary Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Group
 - 1 Credit
 - Clinical/Scientific
 - Vets & RVTs
- 918 - Clinical Equine Behaviour
 - VetPD
 - 12.5 Credits (31 Total Possible)
 - Clinical/Scientific
 - (Module 9 would be 1.5 non-clinical).
 - Vets & RVTs
- 919 - Advancing Research Infrastructure to Study Human Diseases
 - NIH Office of Research Infrastructure Programs
 - 8 Credits (15.5 Total Possible)
 - Clinical/Scientific
 - Vets & RVTs
 - Please continue to do a solid mix of lab and clinical research.

Miscellaneous:

- **Vet Tech Committee Recruitment Results**
 - The Board reviewed the applications received and agrees the Committee's suggestions to interview the following applications:
 - Alexey Folkmann, RVT
 - Elizabeth Faux, RVT
 - Dr. Rachel Lisankis
 - Callie Shanahan, RVT
- **Dr. Mahmoud Aboalkasem**
 - Dr. Aboalkasem submitted an inquiry about licensing pathways. He did not attend an AVMA accredited school and worked in regulatory settings overseas.
 - He has been informed that he would need to take the ECFVG or PAVE. He may be able to work as a Veterinary Assistant but would need to only perform tasks permissible of that role until he has met the requirements.
- **AAVSB Model Documents**
 - The Board reviewed the Practice Act Model, Article 1; and Model Regulations for Establishing and Maintaining of a VCPR and Standards of Practice and Facility regulations.
 - The Board had no feedback to submit at this time.
- **CE for State Fair**
 - During the renewal there were issues noted with the amount of hours and shifts that individuals were claiming, particularly with technicians over a 3 year period. The Board had not considered the interaction with the triennial renewal requirements.
 - Dr. Trout agreed that we should not offer CE for volunteering at the State Fair this year.
 - Board has concerns about veterinarians using this every year.

- Considering updating regulations to allow for 2 hours of veterinary volunteer work as part of non-clinical.
 - Considering only allowing the state fair volunteer work every other year.
- More discussion with Dr. Trout in the fall for future years.
- **VetEvolve Compliance & Licensing Manager - Destinee DeAngelo**
 - Reported missing 122 Xanax on an audit and reported it to the DEA.
 - 2 Hours later, they sent a correction stating there was not a significant discrepancy and it was caused by a discrepancy of unique ID numbers assigned to the bottles when they were logged into the inventory system.
 - No action required.

Compass Veterinary Neurology and Imaging -Jayme Pfisterer

- Inquiry: My question is more related to who is considered to be the responsible/overseeing veterinarian in our unique overnight care situation here at CVRC. We round our patients to AAVEC overnight technicians and doctors, however, AAVEC considers our doctors to be the overseeing practitioners but we are not in the building. Just looking for little clarification on what the board might view as the responsible doctor.
 - **NB preliminary response:** I will put your inquiry on to be discussed at the next meeting. My general inclination is that this should be worked out between the two hospitals in written agreements. Most likely the Board would not make a determination based off of this information, but, if we received a complaint about the care of an animal that was involved in this situation, the Board may find either or both parties at fault and would make that determination based on the facts in the case.
 - Update 7/9/2026: Hospital reports they met with the other hospital and have come to an agreement on who is assuming care of the animals.
 - No additional discussion was required.
- **Dr. Roswell Bowersett**
 - New RV for Montgomery Animal Hospital and wanted more information regarding the duties of the RV.
 - The Board reviewed an extensive draft response provided by Cindy.
 - The Board would like to send a shortened version of the document in response.
 - Response included staff training & supervision, licensing and regulatory compliance for facility and staff, overseeing hospital protocols related to drug handling and expired medication removal, Sanitation and facility construction standards, and record keeping requirements.
- **Dr. Benjamin Harman**
 - Inquiry asking for a pre-approval to do a declaw surgery due to Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome.
 - The Board reviewed and approved a draft response.
 - The Board does not provide approvals for individual surgeries. Response explains how the Board would consider a case if a complaint was received.

Final Orders since June 25th, 2026

- Docket No. 26-040: SBVME / Dr. Rachel Cezar-Martinez

- License Surrender - Granted License without Passing NAVLE.

In a motion by Ms. Quimby, and seconded by Dr. Maa, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting to move into an administrative closed session to perform administrative functions outside the scope of the Open Meetings Act, in accordance with § 3-103(a)(1)(i) of the General Provisions Article. The administrative functions to be performed include discussion of the specific matters identified on the Board Minutes. In the alternative, I move to close the meeting pursuant to the following Section 3-305(b):

(7) To obtain advice of counsel;

(8) To consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation;

(12) To conduct or discuss an investigative proceeding on actual or possible criminal conduct;" and

(13) To comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter.

Following a unanimous vote, at 12:06pm, the Joint Open Session of the SBVME was closed to perform administrative functions outside the scope of the Open Meetings Act, in accordance with §3-103(a)(1)(i) of the General Provisions Article. The meeting took place in person at the Maryland Department of Agriculture, and the following were present:

Dr. Christine Calvert, President; Ms. Patricia Quimby, Vice-President; Ms. Lynne Chaput; Dr. Monica Ma; Dr. Peter Radue; Dr. Heidi Schmechel; Dr. Justin Sobota.

The following members were not present: None

In addition, the following staff and legal representatives were also present during the closed meeting:

Nathaniel Boan, Executive Director; Susan Husk, Assistant Director; Cynthia Spirt, Assistant Attorney General; Britney Branch, Office Administrator; Pegeen Morgan, Inspector; Ellen James, Inspector; Sarah Hultz, Investigator.

During the administrative session, the SBVME discussed confidential disciplinary matters currently pending before the Board, as identified in the non-public agenda. No other topics were discussed.

The administrative session was adjourned at 2:03 p.m.