MVMA Veterinary Technician Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 11th, 2020 6:30-8:30pm
ZOOM Meeting

Attendees: Al Balay (chair), Dan Tjornehoj, David Fell, Jenny Glock, Karen Marcus, Kim Horne, Kim Rowley, Kristi Gorton, Nickie Hanson, Nicole Niemen-York, Peter Hughes, Sally Lightner

1) Al Balay called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.
    a) Welcome / Introductions
2) Approve (email) meeting minutes from September 2019
    a) **MOTION: To approve September 2019 meeting minutes. Seconded and approved.**
3) Updates from VT Schools
    a) Dakota County Technical College (Nicole Niemen-York, CVT)
        i) Lab skills are postponed; finish essential skills prior to Fall semester (nothing scheduled). Extending current classes, should wrap up by 2nd week in June. Need to put together itinerary for how to schedule essential skills. No internships this Summer. Will do in Fall and graduate in December. Suppose to move into new facility in Rosemount this Summer, starting building a month ago. 60 new students this Fall, 40 new students last Fall; this year graduate 30-32 students.
    b) Rochester Community and Technical College (Dr. Kimberly Rowley)
        i) Lab skills are postponed; finish essential skills before Fall; nothing scheduled. Put together itinerary for how to schedule these essential skills. Push back from higher ups to get these essential skills completed in a timely manner because there is no support from outside agency that these students need to be out in the workforce right away. 29 1st year students moving into 2nd year. 48 students applied; 36 actual students starting in the Fall. This year graduate 15 students.
    c) Vermillion Community College (Dr. Peter Hughes)
        i) Run a 5-semester program, no summer classes. No graduates in May, so will figure out a way to finish essential skills. 52 students applied, 32 students accepted. 16 students graduating this year.
    d) Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College
        i) No update
    e) Ridgewater College (Dr. Al Balay)
        i) Hired new veterinarian to start in July. Director roles split between 3 faculty instructors. Postpone internship to June 15, labs to finish essential skills start 1st week in June (max 7 students including faculty and lab assistant, wear PPE, social distance). Graduate 45 students this year.

4) VTNE Pass Rates
    a) 126 candidates in Minnesota. 82 passed for 1st time test-takers which is 65%. CVTEA put out mandatory criteria to now start in September 2021 that each school must have passing rate for first-time VTNE candidates of 50%. Since credentialing is not mandatory in Minnesota, it is not required for students to take the VTNE.
5) Practice Act
    a) Do we move this practice act forward or wait until Veterinary Nurse Initiative? Feel like there are always reasons why this can't move forward:
        i) Lack of understanding from Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians, will increase veterinary technician renewal fee to keep license, veterinarian will need to pay technician more, veterinarian's feel it is not necessary, human nurse pushback, worry of opening practice act.
    b) Last update with Practice Act from May2019 veterinary technician committee meeting
        i) Kim stated representatives were supposed to meet with MVMA board but was postponed due to budget nature of meeting, has not been rescheduled.
    c) Action Steps
        i) Get Veterinarians on board. Al Balay to write up a newsletter article that can go in MVMA newsletter.
        ii) Touch base with Julie Wilson and meet with their board.
        iii) Arrange a meeting with MVMA board in October (July meeting is fiscal planning) and then present to Governmental Affairs committee in November. Put together a priority list of what goes to lobbyists.
        iv) To take into consideration that Hennepin Technical College started a veterinary assisting program. Need clear definition of roles!
6) Update from Credentialing Subcommittee
    a) A one-time extension was granted for 2020 certification renewals to allow submissions until September 30th, 2020, instead of June 30th, 2020, with no penalty.
7) Mis-use of CVT credentials
    a) Maria has noticed a lot of CVT's using the credentials CVT, when they are either lapsed or have never applied for certification through the MVMA. They are assuming because they pass the VTNE, that makes them automatically certified. Proposed MVMA could post a list on website of current certified veterinary technicians. Some concerns were if someone was left off, would this cause problems with employer? Would need to submit disclaimer and update list weekly.
        i) **MOTION: To support MVMA posting a list of active Certified Veterinary Technicians on MVMA website. Seconded and approved.**
    b) This will be subject to board approval. Dan and Maria to forward to board electronically.

8) New Grads Becoming Credentialed
    a) Discussed ways to improve communication with new graduates regarding the importance of being credentialed (especially in other states that are licensed), and the proper steps to become credentialed. VT Schools stated they have it in their student handbook, discussed during first semester classes, handouts during their last class in the program. Need to bring more awareness to the veterinary profession.
        i) Meeting set up for next week, Tuesday, May 19th 7-8pm, optional to committee members to discuss "Identifying Action Steps to Improve Understanding Regarding Credentialing".
9) MVMA Updates
    a) New CVT Chronicles newsletter gets sent out electronically…currently sent out 2nd issue. Currently only available to CVT's. Also started CVT webinars that have been over the lunch hour and free of charge. Just had Cassie Panning, CVT, VTS (nutrition) lecture on "How to Sort Through a Jungle of Pet Foods".
10) Other Agenda
    a) U of M veterinary technology program is still on the table, but nothing has developed. Working with College of Food and Animal Nutrition (CFAN) department.
11) Meeting Adjourned at 8:37pm.
    a) Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 15th at 6:30pm via ZOOM.