



Veronica Morris, PhD

Elaine Malkin

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chanda Hagen

Bradley W. Morris, MA

1651 SANDPIPER DRIVE  
ROCK HILL SC 29732  
USA  
(510) 367-4267  
psdpinfo@gmail.com  
www.psychdogpartners.org

PSDP Board of Directors Minutes  
3/16/16, 10:00 a.m. PT/1:00 p.m. ET

### Attendees

Veronica, Elaine, Chanda, & Brad

### Agenda

- Next regular meeting
- WIOA regulation update
- ACAA regulation update
- State legislative advocacy
- PSDP in the media
- Revision of emergency card
- Website
  - General
  - 2015 Community Photos
  - 2015 FAQ flyer translation
- GreatNonprofits reviews
- Convention
- Doctor's note recommendation
- Treasury Report



This regular meeting was called by verbal agreement during the prior meeting, or by intermediate written reasonable notification made in good faith and agreed to by a majority of board members through email or phone, and was held through videoconferencing.

- Next regular meeting  
Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 PT/1:30 ET.
- WIOA regulation update  
The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) regulations are being updated, including references to service animal access in places federally funded through WIOA. We submitted a comment and have notified the community about this feedback opportunity. The submission deadline is March 28th.  
<http://www.psychdogpartners.org/board-of-directors/board-activities/advocacy/wioa-comment>
- ACAA regulation update  
We have posted a proposal detailing a system for the ACAA update. The proposal contains a form to be required for service dog accommodation in flight and a guidance brief explaining access in airports and airplanes.

Brad was invited to present our proposal to a dozen other national disability advocacy groups in DC. *Thanks to the financial support we've received from our community*, he was able to travel to DC for this important collaboration. We gained some key insights through the meeting and individual talks there, and we'll be moving into the next phase with those in mind.

In preparation for his DC meeting, Brad wrote a guide for regulators and stakeholders that explains the reasoning behind and justification for our proposal. This "design challenges and solutions" guide is

available on our ACAA proposal survey page.

<http://www.psychdogpartners.org/board-of-directors/board-activities/surveys/aca-a-proposal-survey>

With continued support from our community, we'll keep working to represent service dog users' interests, building consensus around our proposal and honoring the reasonable concerns of all stakeholders.

- State legislative advocacy

Elaine is consulting with political affiliates to stay on top of current developments in Maine service animal laws. It seems that like Michigan recently, Maine will need some expert advice we might provide.

As our small staff of volunteers is able, we will continue to do our best to address developments in other states, such as New York and possibly Hawaii. Since it is difficult for our small group of volunteer board members to follow what goes on in every state, we encourage community members to follow what goes on in their own states so they can help alert us when bills are proposed that deal with service animals.

Sites such as govtrack.us are very useful for this, though that one is for the U.S. Congress. Each state tends to have its own official legislative assembly site where you can learn about what's happening where you live.

- PSDP in the media

We are still in the process of drafting a reply in "Dogs&Jobs" magazine to advise them about some inaccurate information in a recent issue. We would not normally seek to correct every point of misinformation in the world regarding service dogs, but they specifically requested our input.

- Revision of emergency card

We are considering revising our emergency card. This will be discussed more in the future, but is low priority in light of more pressing, time-sensitive agenda items.

- Website

- General

We are still exploring the logistics of expanding the number of domain names that direct to our website, making it easier for people to find us.

41,910 pageviews in February (29 days), up from 38,155 in January: a 9.8% increase

- 2015 Community Photos

We received some wonderful submissions for our 2015 Community Photos page. Thank you! We've curated and enhanced these great pictures, and we have a new favorite page!

<http://www.psychdogpartners.org/resources/community-photos/service-dog-pics-2015>

When we are able to, we would like to release a photo every Monday with a creative message, now that our community's memes are exhausted. We are trying to find time to put creative energy into this!

- 2015 FAQ flyer translation

We have finally and proudly completed a Spanish version of our 2015 FAQ flyer. It will soon be posted, and we will consider the costs and rewards of completing versions in other languages in the future.

In our work toward translating the 2015 "Answers to Common Questions" flyer text into at least one other language in a multi-step process, we have had an initial translation reviewed and are submitting it for further review and revision. This is still in process.

- GreatNonprofits reviews

With the turn of the new year, we have an opportunity to galvanize our community to review what we do and earn us a 2016 Top-Rated award from GreatNonprofits. This sort of recognition helps us reach more people and have more of an impact in people's lives, so we really appreciate the time and effort a review can take.

Since we need seven more reviews to earn the 2016 award, we'll be sending out another call for reviews when we're able, but you can get there on your own any time through the badge at the bottom of our site!

- Convention

The 2016 convention will return us to Solvang, CA in two weeks! April 1st–3rd we'll come together in the Legion Wing of the Veterans Memorial Building. More information and is available through our website:

<http://www.psychdogpartners.org/resources/convention/2016-convention>

The registration and payment deadline was March 2nd, so it's time to start saving for next year's trip!

- Doctor's note recommendation

We are clarifying the language in our "Steps to Become a Service Dog User" article, ensuring that it is more difficult for readers to think a doctor's note is required for normal public access.

- Treasury Report

We discussed changes to and progress in the categories of: income, expenses, current funds, the budget, earmarked funds, and fundraising.

