



Veronica Morris, PhD

Elaine Malkin

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Chanda Hagen
Linden Gue

Heather Walker

Bradley W. Morris, MA, CPhil

1651 SANDPIPER DRIVE
ROCK HILL SC 29732
USA
(805) 876-4256
info@psych.dog
www.psychdogpartners.org

PSDP Board of Directors Minutes
6/8/18, 12:00 p.m. PT/3:00 p.m. ET

Attendees

Veronica, Elaine, Brad, Chanda, & Rob

Agenda

- Next regular meeting
- List rules and moderator protocol review
- Social media protocol
- Website
 - Media coverage
 - GreatNonprofits badge
 - Easy advocacy how-to
 - Laws FAQ
 - Ask an Expert
 - Pictures
 - Relationship article
- Fundraising
 - Grant Committee
- Advocacy
 - New airline policies
 - Data for DOT
 - Interim enforcement priorities
 - ANPRM
 - Flowcharts for airline employees
 - Burr bill
- Housing clarification
- Revision of emergency card
- 2015 FAQ flyer translation
- Community Spotlight addition
- 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
Friday, July 6th at noon PT/3:00 ET. Today's meeting is semi-open for broader PSDP leadership.
- List rules and moderator protocol review
We completed our semi-annual review of list rules and moderator protocol by PSDP leadership June 3rd–7th. The rules and protocols seem to be functioning well to keep our Peer Guidance Group healthy, so we only made a minor change to implement an overlooked previous update to our welcome document.
- Social media protocol
We decided that unless there are exigent circumstances, we will limit our engagement with "hater"-style social media replies to our posts to no more than two responses (if any are worthwhile at all). A third, matter-of-fact reply may be given to note something like:

Our protocols prohibit us from further engaging with this type of discussion. PSDP is run by people with disabilities who have limited energy; we're obligated to constructively use the remainder for other priorities. Visit psych.dog to request assistance.

This message and reasonable variations may be discretionarily used at any point the situation warrants. The message below may be used when others are having a discussion on one of our posts, when that discussion has devolved:

We're happy to facilitate an intelligent exchange in the marketplace of ideas. Personal attacks/insults don't help the exchange. Please focus on conveying ideas constructively & with respect so we have a chance to improve each others' thinking & become more united however we can.

•Website

-Media coverage

The LA Times recently featured a quotation from Brad at the end of the article. The article is linked to on our Media Coverage page, but we haven't publicized the article.

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/resources/media-coverage-of-psdp>

A excerpt from one of Veronica's articles was recently excerpted in a college newspaper article, but this did not merit a Media Coverage entry.

-GreatNonprofits badge

Thanks to our community and Heather's encouragement, we have now earned our 2018 GreatNonprofits badge! We have also updated our GuideStar profile and earned our 2018 Platinum status. These awards are on the bottom of each page on our site.

-Easy advocacy how-to

We're continuing work on our micro-advocacy development, making it easier for everyone to help out. This project takes a general approach, designed in part with step-by-step instructions for a menu of expandable options. We hope this will make it easy for community members to find their advocacy niche.

Linden and Brad have been making steady progress on this long-term project, taking breaks for other projects as needed. It is nearing completion, but will now incorporate ideas from the recent convention session on advocacy.

-Laws FAQ

Brad is still drafting an entry for the Laws FAQ on religious entities, private clubs, and the ADA, since the ADA service dog regulations generally don't apply to places operated by religious entities.

-Ask an Expert

We have a couple of "Ask an Expert" entries in the works. We started soliciting questions from the list to then curate and pass along to the experts in particular fields. We're focusing now on the dog trainer questions.

-Pictures

We are still in the process of curating pictures for our 2017 Community Photos page, so the other photo library idea is on hold until this is complete.

Concurrently, we have convention photos and videos in the queue.

On hold:

We are working toward building a library of quality PSDP photos for future use. This library would include pictures of teams in specific situations or locations, rather than generic pictures. For instance, we might request that folks send in team pictures from their dog training class or their doctor's office. We might also request a staged photo, such as of a service dog working on a computer or "driving" a car.

We will ask submitters to include a text description of the photo. This way, it will be easier for us to make our online pictures accessible to people who are blind (or low-vision) and use screenreaders to know what's going on.

We are now working on refining our initially brainstormed list of ideas.

-Relationship article

Thanks to our willing community members, we just produced an interview-based article with the title "How does a service dog affect romantic relationships?".

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/resources/lifestyle/romantic-relationships>

•Fundraising

-Grant Committee

We organized a grant committee in order to find and procure grant funding for PSDP. Members include: Veronica, Heather, Linden, Kyrie, and Brad.

The grant committee has applied for one grant and is seeking and evaluating others.

•Advocacy

-New airline policies

Delta, United, and Alaska have new service animal policies that discriminate on the basis of disability type even worse than before. These policies further violate human rights. JetBlue has recently joined the ranks of such airlines.

-Data for DOT

On April 4th, a DOT official replied to us with the following (excerpted): "With respect to whether the Department will be issuing guidance on basic economy seating programs, we traditionally decide whether or not to issue a guidance document when we receive a significant number of complaints about an issue or we have received data indicating that there is significant concern in the disability community about an airline policy or practice."

Since this is not the sort of thing we expect formal complaints about, it was incumbent on us to gather data that demonstrate to DOT the need for guidance. Under the USAUSA heading, we therefore initiated a survey of service animal users and ESA users on a variety of timely, flight-related issues:

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/usausa/flight-access-survey>

This survey was widely circulated and received 926 responses. We ran it between April 23rd and May 8th, 2018. The data we acquired is greatly assisting us in making our case to DOT about what needs to change, both with the current regulations and with how DOT is allowing airlines to further discriminate. We issued our 2018 Flight Access Survey Report to DOT, both in the interim enforcement priorities docket and in the ANPRM docket.

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/USAUSA-Flight-Access-Survey-Report-May-2018.pdf>

-Interim enforcement priorities

DOT will be changing the service animal flight regulations. This will take almost two years, and we do not know exactly when they will ultimately take effect. In the meantime, DOT is making decisions about how to enforce the current regulations. Our main concern is that DOT appears to want to allow airlines to increase the burdens on people with disabilities, when the point of the ACAA is to reduce burdens and enable access.

DOT solicited feedback on its Statement of Interim Enforcement Priorities Regarding Service Animals through June 7, 2018. We submitted our comment and encouraged our community to join in.

<https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=DOT-OST-2018-0067-0048>

-ANPRM

DOT issued an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) with a comment due date of July 9, 2018. DOT is seeking feedback on issues raised in the ANPRM in order to update the service animal flight regulations. We are currently drafting our comment. The ANPRM is linked below:

<https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=DOT-OST-2018-0068-1157>

-Flowcharts for airline employees

As a USAUSA project, we are looking into creating flowcharts for airline employees regarding animal behavior and what to do in different situations. We have been asked by an airline to assist with a similar

project that is specific to their policies, but ours would be a template to be used by any airline.

This project had to be put on hold right away due to the release of the above DOT items.

-Burr bill

The text of Senate bill 2738 was made public on May 4th. We are studying the bill and considering our response, but we are especially not keen to see section (3) become law. Its provisions appear to be an even worse incarnation of the standards development process that just failed in Canada due to Herculean consumer pushback.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/2738/text>

We had to push back this project to handle DOT's May releases above.

- Housing clarification

The interplay of laws affecting housing situations is complicated. We updated our single FAQ answer on the topic to reveal more of this situation, and we are working toward putting out an article to help housing providers and seekers better understand the rules in play.

When we are able to attend to it, work on the Caring Connections conference presentation should help move this longstanding project forward.

- Revision of emergency card

We are revising our emergency card to be additionally available as a fillable pdf. A draft is in progress based on board input and is being revised.

We are also drafting a first-responder refrigerator notice, and will be doing so based on the 2016 convention's first responder discussion.

- 2015 FAQ flyer translation

We are trying to create a French version of our flyer. We have a Spanish version.

<http://www.psychdogpartners.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/2015-PSDP-FAQ-flyer-Español.pdf>

- Community Spotlight addition

We are working on another entry in our fairly new Community Spotlight section. We have an email-based interview still in the works.

- Treasury report

The treasury report includes changes to and progress in the categories of: income, expenses, current funds, the budget, earmarked funds, and fundraising.

In particular, we have approved and posted our FY 2018–19 budget. It can be found with our other financial documents on the "Investing in PSDP" page:

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/donate/investing-in-psdp>

In July, we submit our federal tax documentation and file our state registration exemption paperwork.