



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
12/28/18, 12:00 p.m. PT/3:00 p.m. ET

Attendees

Veronica, Brad, Elaine, Linden, Robby Morris

Agenda

- Next regular meeting
- Fundraising
 - Awesome Foundation
 - DOJ consulting
 - Expert witness case
- Manners evaluation
- Website
 - Easy advocacy how-to
 - SD POC, etc.
 - Ask an expert
 - Pictures
- Advocacy
 - More Delta discrimination
 - Flowcharts for airline employees
 - AKC PAT
 - Manhattan court case
- Revision of emergency card
- 2015 FAQ flyer translation
- Community Spotlight addition
- Conventions
- 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, January 25th at noon PT/3:00 ET.

This meeting: Semi-open board meeting; leadership and advisors invited.

- Fundraising
 - Awesome Foundation
We altered our monthly application for this grant with a new project centered on funding meetups among service dog users. The goal would be to cultivate the service dog community by facilitating conversations and cultural exchange. This may be used as the basis for other grant applications.
 - DOJ consulting
DOJ asked the advice of a couple of board members about a case. Subsequently, DOJ invited those board members to act as consultants.

It seems likely our services rendered so far will be sufficient for the present case. DOJ handles a lot of service-animal-related cases and they found our analysis helpful, so we may be asked to contribute

again. We are hoping the government shutdown does not impede payment to PSDP for our December consulting activities—many federal consultants are impacted by this.

-Expert witness case

It looks like we might be able to help with another legal case.

•Manners evaluation

We are working on a test to help mark progress with early service dog training. This would be more tailored to service dog training and would be used as we've roughly used non-tailored AKC tests in the past. We have approved a beta version and will be releasing it for feedback soon. The beta-testing period will include the convention.

•Website

-Easy advocacy how-to

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. The Easy advocacy how-to is now available:

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/easy-advocacy>

We hope this set of resources will help folks direct their positive new-year energy toward productive ventures and outcomes.

-SD POC, etc.

We're interested in reaching out to people in groups that are underrepresented in our community, so that we can remove barriers and better serve any unique needs. Such groups might include people of color (POC) and racial/ethnic minorities, men, and veterans and first responders.

In order to connect in authentic ways, we are developing plans to engage volunteers from such groups in creating programs or processes to reach out to their underrepresented peers—respecting the "Nothing about us without us" principle. We will initiate this as we're able.

-Ask an expert

We have a couple of "Ask an expert" entries in the works. We started by soliciting questions from the list to then curate and pass along to the experts in particular fields. We first focused on the dog trainer questions and we now have a new "Ask a dog trainer" page!

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/resources/frequently-asked-questions/ask-an-expert/ask-a-dog-trainer>

-Pictures

We have not yet crafted the 2018 convention videos, but we have curated and published the photos.

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/resources/convention/2018-convention/pictures-video>

It's time for our annual community photos solicitation; we have received a small number of pictures so far. The due date is December 31st.

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/resources/community-photos/guidelines>

•Advocacy

-More Delta discrimination

Delta is yet again leading the way in policies that discriminate against certain service animal users. They will now be prohibiting psychiatric service animals on flights over eight hours (lumping them in with ESAs), while continuing to allow service animals for non-mental-health-related disabilities to travel on such flights. This not only clearly discriminates on the basis of disability—contrary to the fundamental directive of the Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA)—but it inexplicably restricts the travel of people with mental-health-related disabilities in a way not allowed for in DOT's ACAA regulations or guidance.

While Delta has at least asked our opinion before issuing previous discriminatory policies, Delta now appears unwilling to listen to the dissenting voices of those harmed by its plans. Since DOT is scheduled to propose new ACAA regulations in March 2019, we will not pick this battle to spend our limited advocacy energy on against this blameworthy corporate citizen.

Background: We alerted DOT to Delta's proposed ban on "pit bull type" service dogs and DOT

responded with a clear statement that this is not okay. Our page on this explains more and offers help:

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/board-of-directors/board-activities/advocacy/delta-pit-bull-service-animal-ban>

-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 Southwest 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 all the work required for DOT-related items and then other priorities.

-AKC PAT

AKC is misleadingly re-marketing its CGC Urban test as a "Public Access Test". We believe that no matter what disclaimer AKC uses, people will be confused about whether passing this test grants teams public access in the same manner as service dogs.

We have alerted AKC to this unnecessary and serious problem, suggesting an alternative of "Public Settings Test" if they need to rebrand. However, AKC has so far given us only an evasive response that is unsatisfactory.

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/board-of-directors/board-activities/advocacy/akc-pat>

We have since worked under the USAUSA coalition to create and market a petition on change.org. This petition now has over 1,600 signatures. We have alerted AKC to it and have not heard back. Plans are in the works to increase the pressure on AKC to do the right thing. Fortunately, it seems that other organizations and our community are behind us on this.

<https://www.change.org/p/mary-r-burch-ph-d-stop-akc-before-they-harm-service-dog-handlers>

As of December 2018, AKC has put the "Public Access Test" language into practice on its site, though the branding doesn't seem to have filtered down into physical products. The link below describes the Urban CGC test as a public access test, while the logo below the link appears on the main Urban CGC page. (It is AKC's graphic/logo, not ours.)

<https://www.akc.org/products-services/training-programs/canine-good-citizen/akc-urban-canine-good-citizen/about/>



-Manhattan court case

Two board members aided in a federal court case related to a service dog access denial at a hospital (one served as an expert witness and another assisted). This was a good opportunity to put clear information out in the world, but since the plaintiff was not successful, it is unlikely this will help in future access cases. However, we are hoping to publish a paper based on points made in the expert witness report.

•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. We have made significant progress on the French translation.

<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.

- Conventions

We plan to hold the 2020 convention in Rock Hill, SC, rather than on the West Coast.

We are trying hard to encourage scholarship applicants because we have resources available to help. Applications are due January 1st.

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/resources/convention/scholarship>

- Treasury report

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

We will be wrapping up the Giving Groups recognition program at the end of 2018. There was no apparent enthusiasm for it, most of our donations are coming from sources that don't mesh well with the program, we now have a sponsorship program that can provide recognition, and ending Giving Groups will make things slightly easier on Brad as Treasurer.

