



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
3/1/19, 12:00 p.m. PT/3:00 p.m. ET

Attendees

Veronica, Brad, Elaine, and Chanda

Agenda

- Next regular meeting
- Leadership feedback
- Phone use and driving
- Fundraising
 - DOJ consulting
- Manners evaluation
- Website
 - SD POC, etc.
 - Ask an expert
 - Convention videos
- Advocacy/outreach
 - Conference presentations and solidarity scarves
 - Waggin' Trail dog walk
 - Media backdrop
 - DC/NYC videos
 - Flowcharts for airline employees
 - AKC PAT
 - Manhattan court case
- Revision of emergency card
- 2015 FAQ flyer translation
- Community Spotlight addition
- Board elections
- 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, March 29th at noon PT/3:00 ET.

For the purpose of making decisions and forming a quorum in line with our constitution, board members who are on some form of leave and not present at a meeting or voting on an issue do not count toward the total number of board members with respect to that meeting or issue.

This policy is circulated among all board members.

- Leadership feedback
PSDP leaders gave regularly requested feedback about what could improve and what is working well. The general tone was that most everything is going well with what is getting done and the progress that's being made.
- Phone use and driving

PSDP's official policy regarding phone calls is now the following: PSDP volunteers are not allowed to conduct any PSDP-related business on an electronic device while driving. If a PSDP volunteer, while conducting PSDP-related business, learns that another person is on such a device while driving, that volunteer is obligated to cease engaging in that business with the other person until the other person is no longer driving.

Having this policy in place is intended to increase safety, decrease liability, and provide volunteers an external excuse for getting off the phone when another person is driving.

This policy is now being distributed to our volunteers.

•Fundraising

-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 were 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.

Fortunately, in spite of the government shutdown delay, PSDP did eventually (very recently) receive payment for our December consulting activities.

•Manners evaluation

We are working on an evaluation to help mark progress with early service dog training. It is more tailored to service dog training and would be used as we've roughly used non-tailored AKC tests in the past.

We released a beta version for feedback and received many positive reviews so far. The beta-testing period will include the convention.

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/resources/public-access/manners-evaluation>

•Website

-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

After our dog trainer interview, we have another "Ask an expert" entry in the works. After finding a willing expert, we solicit questions from the list to then curate and pass along to the expert.

-Convention videos

We have not yet published all the 2018 convention videos to come, but we have published an enjoyable convention promo video.

https://youtu.be/-NwP_eM5Llk

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

•Advocacy/outreach

-Conference presentations and solidarity scarves

Brad, Veronica, and Hestia presented at the recent Top Dog guide dog conference in Charleston, South Carolina. The presentation and multiple informal conversations were well-received, explicitly gaining new members of the service dog solidarity movement.

Our success in spreading the word at this 150-person conference may lead to further presentations at similar (and larger) events.

Jenine helped us popularize the green silk solidarity scarves at Top Dog. The idea is to have a tangible symbol, like a bracelet, of solidarity within the service dog user community—a willingness to respect and

support the rights and responsibilities of service dog users regardless of disability type, dog breed, etc.

Penny Reeder of GDUI is helping us broadcast the idea by sharing our session recording on Youtube with an agreeable statement in GDUI's latest announcement.

<https://youtu.be/p44LxYEVf80>

<https://guidedogusersinc.org>

We also issued a press release, which IAADP is going to help distribute and which is linked to in GDUI's February 25th announcement.

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/press-releases/service-dog-users-band-together>

-Waggin' Trail dog walk

On April 27th, we plan to have a vendor space at a Rock Hill dog walk event.

-Media backdrop

We are looking into getting a step-and-repeat banner for media interviews, our convention photos, outreach events, and prospective tele-conference presentations. Funding is an issue at the present.

We are considering design options in case we have the funding in the future.

-DC/NYC videos

Based on footage recorded in Washington, DC and New York City in August 2018, Brad and Veronica have created three promo/outreach videos: "Service dog group keeps fighting for civil rights", "Service dog information for veterans and first responders", and "Hopeful psychiatric service dog resources from PSDP". These will have a staggered release this year.

-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 1,800 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. We are not hopeful they will respect the disability rights perspective, though we may try one last time.

-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.

We have clearance to publish from our report without redaction.

- 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 and are double-checking it before entering it into the flyer for a final 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 and are exploring other options, too.

- Board elections

We normally hold elections during a February board meeting, but our February meeting was postponed until March 1st. We drafted and approved a new annual agreement for board members. Picking an option from this agreement in writing/email will now be a prerequisite to participating in board elections.

The agreement options message is below, to be sent out by the Secretary to candidate board members in advance of board elections. Board members' recent agreements/option selections are below the message.

There are five options. Please respond either to me or this list with which option you agree to within one week (by ____). This is required for participation in our annual board elections.

(1) Full engagement (one-year tenure)

I request to be a fully engaged director unless/until I specifically request and am granted another status by the rest of the board of directors (or until my term expires). I am fully committed to PSDP's mission.

I agree to participate in all of the clearly major and essential discussions and decisions and in at least most of the rest, participating in at least two thirds of the decisions overall. I commit to participating in a constructive way and to focus on serving the PSDP mission.

(2) Partial leave (temporary)

I request to be a director on partial leave until I specifically request and am granted another status by the rest of the board of directors (or until my term expires). I am fully committed to PSDP's mission.

I do not believe I can fully engage, but I do believe I can participate in some decisions or discussions. I agree to participate in some of the discussions and decisions—especially the clearly major and essential ones—as I am able. I also commit to doing so in a constructive way and to focus on serving the PSDP mission.

I understand that being on partial leave means I can have a vote in any unsettled board decision. However, I also understand that a decision may be considered settled if those who are not on any kind of leave have all voted and I have not.

(3) Full leave (temporary)

I request to be a director on full leave until I specifically request and am granted another status by the rest of the board of directors (or until my term expires). I am fully committed to PSDP's mission, but I believe my ability to engage in board decisions or discussions at this time is zero or close to it.

I understand that being on full leave means I can have a vote in any unsettled board decision. However, I also understand that a decision may be considered settled if those who are not on any kind of leave have all voted and I have not.

If I participate in any of the discussions or decisions, I commit to doing so in a constructive way and to focus on serving the PSDP mission.

(4) Other options (not board member)

I request to be considered for special committees, positions, or other functions, but not to be a director for this term. I am committed to PSDP's mission and if I volunteer for PSDP, I commit to doing so in a constructive way and to focus on serving the PSDP mission.

(5) Non-engagement/non-renewal

I'm not prepared at this time to agree to one of the above options and I will not be a director for this tenure cycle or volunteer for PSDP.

Option 1 (full engagement): Brad, Veronica, Elaine, Chanda

Option 2 (partial leave): Linden

Option 3 (full leave): Heather

Option 4 (other options):

Option 5 (non-engagement/non-renewal):

Approved by the board.

•Treasury report

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

