



Veronica Morris, PhD

Elaine Malkin

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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

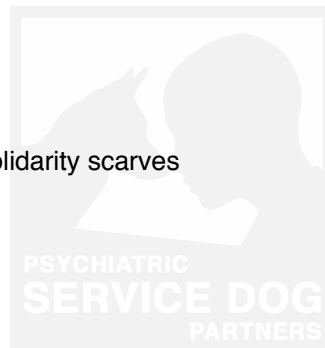
PSDP Board of Directors Minutes
4/26/19, 12:00 p.m. PT/3:00 p.m. ET

Attendees

Veronica, Brad, Elaine, and Linden

Agenda

- Next regular meeting
- Leadership
- Phone use and driving
- Fundraising
 - Expert witness for MA case
 - Petco Foundation grant
- Website
 - Community Spotlight
 - SD POC, etc.
 - Ask an expert
 - Convention pictures & 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
- Manners evaluation
- 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, May 24th at noon PT/3:00 ET.
- Leadership
After a valued tenure since PSDP's founding, Chanda has now retired as a board member. She continues to help others on the Peer Guidance Group and its moderator team.

For the time being and for official purposes, PSDP's board now has five membership slots. We will consider others for leadership positions in non-board and board-adjacent positions.
- Phone use and driving
PSDP's official policy regarding phone calls is 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 has now been distributed to our volunteers.

- Fundraising

- Expert witness for MA case

- The Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination called us for background to help with their service dog case. Later, they called back to invite us to be an expert witness over the phone for the upcoming hearing.

- This is not a large fundraising activity, but it is certainly an opportunity to disseminate accurate, well-reasoned information.

- Petco Foundation grant

- We submitted a grant proposal to the Petco Foundation. We hope to partner with them so we have funding for convention scholarships and local meetups among different types of service dog users.

- Website

- We have a tentative plan to update our site's organization. Given that we want any major update to work well for a long time, we are not in a hurry and are waiting on design feedback from a community member.

- Community Spotlight addition

- We are no longer working on another entry in our Community Spotlight section. Engagement did not sustain this section, so we plan to lower its prominence the next time we reorganize our site.

- 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 pictures & videos

- In addition to a convention promo video, we have now published the rest of the 2018 convention videos.

- https://youtu.be/-NwP_eM5Llk

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

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

- We are working on videos and pictures based on 2019 convention footage, with a testing compilation video to be distributed to the list in the near future (for the PSDP community only).

- Advocacy/outreach

- Conference presentations and solidarity scarves

- After Brad, Veronica, and Hestia presented in January at the Top Dog guide dog conference in Charleston, South Carolina, they were invited to present at the Rochester, New York convention of Guide Dog Users, Inc. A major donation pledge is making this trip possible and will enable PSDP to spread the message of service dog community solidarity to even more community members!

- We may have more of the green silk solidarity scarves in tow as we make the two-day (each way) train ride up to Rochester for this event. Our activities and good will ambassadorship go far beyond just the presentation itself, as we work hard in the surrounding days to get to know our peers in the disability

community.

In addition to the GDUI convention, we have been invited to meet with DOT in DC in mid-May to discuss accessibility issues in air travel. This is an important opportunity to ensure DOT does not rest easy thinking air travel is somehow in good shape for service dog users—especially for those with psychiatric service dogs, those who are suffering the maze of new burdens that have popped up across different airlines since DOT made it clear they will not stop the airlines from making travel even harder for people with disabilities.

If we can find the funding, we will attend and represent these frustrations and remind DOT of the solutions we have handed them in the past.

-Waggin' Trail dog walk

On April 27th, we plan to have a vendor space at a Rock Hill dog walk event to increase in-person community outreach.

-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.

The first and third have been released:

<https://youtu.be/1uZnPVnqCL8>

<https://youtu.be/YKAF7WibNW0>

-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>

- 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 received many positive reviews so far. The beta-testing period included administering the evaluation at the convention, with the feedback period ending April 10th.

We are very grateful for the community input and are now processing the feedback to see what we can incorporate for the final version.

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

- Conventions

We discussed the nature and location(s) of future PSDP conventions and related activities, the survey results from the most recent convention, and emphasizing in the registration form (not just the scholarship application) that picture/video consent is the default.

- Treasury report

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