



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.psych.dog

## Board of Directors *Meeting Minutes*

May 28, 2021

Attendees: Veronica, Brad, Elaine, Linden, Heather, and Christi

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.

---

### **Agenda**

- Next regular meeting
- Site additions
- Housing page
- Article: Preparing for no-pets places
- Article: Exposures checklist
- Article: Service dogs in first responder situations
- Texas House Bill 801
- Virtual meetups
- ISO/ANSI Assistance Dog standard
- Meme contest
- Mask design contest
- Reporting award
- Convention

---

### **• Next regular meeting**

Friday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> at noon PT/3:00 ET.

### **• Site additions**

We are developing ideas for expanding our site's new training section with useful articles.

### **• Housing page**

Brad created a page with housing resources. It contains overviews of the basic ideas in housing, but the highlights are flowcharts and survey-based tools to (1) check whether a situation is exempt from most Fair Housing Act requirements and (2) see

what the accommodation procedure is. We believe these tools have an enormous capacity to help assistance animal users and those in the housing industry.

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/housing>

- **Article: Preparing for no-pets places**

Community member and Peer Guidance Group moderator Katie Jesseph drafted an article to help people make transitions in their public access training. We have edited the final text and it's now posted with pictures and video from the community.

We are very grateful for Katie's and our other fellow volunteers' contributions to PSDP. We expect this article to help a lot of people.

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/resources/training/preparing-for-no-pets-places>

- **Article: Exposures checklist**

With some excellent community contributions, Veronica drafted and Brad edited an article and exposures checklist. These twin website entries are now posted.

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/resources/training/exposure-checklist>

- **Article: Service dogs in first responder situations**

Brad is contemplating fleshing out an article based on his recent response to an inquiry. He was consulted about what a municipality's service dog policies should be when the service dog can't accompany their disabled user in a first responder situation (either emergent or non-emergent). This article would be in the "For professionals" section of our site, likely under a "first responders" heading, but would also be helpful for service dog users.

- **Texas House Bill 801**

We plan to write to Texas legislators to oppose Texas House Bill 801. It is unnecessary in the context of federal law and onerously burdensome to disabled people.

This bill would set up bureaucratic and financial hurdles for those with assistance animals other than service dogs (including service miniature horses and ESAs, and by extension, service dogs in training). This seems to have been written without the benefit of a disabled or disability rights perspective, or a non-rich-person perspective.

The certification requirement contains an obedience class requirement that may end up stopping disabled people from being able to get an animal as an ESA or SDIT. It also seems to ignore that ESAs can be non-canine species. It's hard to imagine a goldfish, snake, or cat in an approved obedience class. But for a housing-based disability accommodation, an obedience class requirement seems excessive from the start, since not everyone can afford classes or the time, energy, and transportation needed to attend them.

In addition to paying for an obedience class and veterinary checkup, each year those subject to the law would have to obtain and pay for the Texas certificate. They would also have to be part of a publicly available registry.

- **Virtual meetups**

A list member organized a virtual (chat) meetup for Peer Guidance Group members. This may progress to a video/audio-optional chat.

## • ISO/ANSI Assistance Dog standard

We received word from ANSI that the proposal for an international (ISO) assistance dog standard was defeated. Thank you so much to our individual community members and USAUSA coalition participants who joined our opposition effort. It takes a community effort to safeguard human rights! Previous details are below.

The ISO develops international standards for things like consumer electronics. A member group in the Netherlands proposed that the ISO develop standards for service dog breeding, feeding, training, etc.

ANSI is the US member of ISO. ANSI got US stakeholders together in case the Netherlands proposal is approved. ANSI would then need to have a committee to contribute to the international standard.

The proposal is written from a program's perspective, as we expected, with owner-training apparently tacked on as an afterthought. This proposal does not center disabled people or disability rights and it mentions IDs too much for our comfort.

ISO and ANSI are not even the kinds of organizations that should be setting service dog standards. We plan to be involved, because lawmakers may use any ISO/ANSI standard to craft harmful legislation.

PSDP organized a group of 18 international and US organizations through USAUSA coalition. These organizations signed on with our statement against the proposal. AAPD (the American Association of People with Disabilities) posted it on their site to spread the word.

ANSI drafted a detailed statement to ISO against the proposal, taking a lot of our points on board. We also sent our message to 163 of the ISO member organizations around the world. A few have gotten back to us with neutral responses: Singapore, Cypress, Australia, and Mauritania. However, some have replied to us with an intended "no" vote on the proposal, including Belgium and the UK.

We were surprised to learn that Assistance Dogs International (ADI) opposes the proposal, strongly encouraging its member organizations and individuals to write in their opposition. We were aware that ADI's fellow accreditation agency, the International Guide Dog Federation (IGDF), was responsible for the proposal. However, we did not know that IGDF did not collaborate with ADI as much as ADI wanted, and ADI does not necessarily want the expense of an ISO standard or its creation, especially since there's currently a European service dog standard in development that this would disrupt.

We credit our community members and coalition partners for giving our human-rights-based voice the volume it needed to reach ANSI and other ISO member organizations. We are hopeful the proposal will not have the votes it needs to pass. If it does, we will stay on it to ensure the interests of disabled people are not ignored.

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

## • Meme contest

We issued prize sets to four meme contest winners. If we are able to, we will post pictures of them with their prizes. We are still waiting to receive one of the winner's picture.

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/board-of-directors/board-activities/advocacy/service-dog-memes/2020-submissions>

- **Mask design contest**

We ran a mask design contest in December. Due to supply/cost logistics, the winning design will likely be featured on a t-shirt, mug, and travel mug instead of on a mask. Pup'parel will sell the design.

Pup'parel is now selling a textless PSDP logo mask.

[https://pupparel.com/contents/en-us/p867\\_PSDP-Face-Masks.html](https://pupparel.com/contents/en-us/p867_PSDP-Face-Masks.html)

- **Reporting award**

PSDP is now offering an award for the best reporting in English that is related to service dogs and in traditional media. The publish deadline for this "Award for Excellence in Service Dog Reporting" is May 31<sup>st</sup> and the submission deadline is June 5<sup>th</sup>.

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/press-releases/award-for-service-dog-reporting>

- **Convention**

We discussed logistics regarding the 2022 convention, including date and location.

---