



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*

December 10, 2021

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

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
- Flyers
- Texas House Bill 801
- Michigan HB 4256
- Virtual meetups
- ISO/ANSI—now Canadian/SCC—Assistance Dog standard
- DOT meeting
- Meme contest
- Priorities survey
- Convention
- Treasury
- Presentations
- Video against standardization
- Community photos

• **Next regular meeting**

Friday, February 4th at 11:30 PT/2:30 ET.

Semi-open board meeting with advisors and PSDP leadership.

• **Site additions**

We are continuing to develop more ideas for expanding our site's new training section with useful articles.

Among these ideas is an article Linden drafted about learning to train at your dog's pace. "A personal lesson: paying attention to your dog to pace your training" is now posted in the training section.

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/resources/training/a-personal-lesson-paying-attention-to-your-dog-to-pace-your-training>

- **Flyers**

We now have a revised FAQ flyer in English.

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/PSDP-flyer-2021.pdf>

We are planning to similarly update our family & friends flyer and our handler needs space flyer, as we're able to.

- **Texas House Bill 801**

Fortunately, this bill seems to have died in committee. Its progress stopped in a previous legislative session and its subject does not appear in a search of the current session.

<https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=87R&Bill=HB801>

From earlier:

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.

- **Michigan HB 4256**

We sent our opposition to Michigan's HB 4256 to Michigan lawmakers and encouraged our community members to join us. This bill would unjustly give only those affiliated with ADI or IGDF access to no-pets places with a service dog in training.

A kind community member with experience working in a legislator's office gave us some great advice for future advocacy actions. We should more clearly write "I support bill [X]" or "I oppose bill [X]" so that when community messages are tallied, we're sure they're tallied in the manner we intend. "Support" and "oppose" should

not be attached to PSDP's message otherwise. For example, we should not ask community members to write something like "I support PSDP's opposition to HB 4256".

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

- **Virtual meetups**

Our community members are enjoying virtual (Zoom) meetups for Peer Guidance Group members every so often.

- **ISO/ANSI—now Canadian/SCC—Assistance Dog standard**

We defeated the IGDF attempt to impose an exclusionary/discriminatory international service dog standard on the world through ISO. Now the SCC (Standards Council of Canada) is trying to do the same thing, just like we stopped there a few years ago!

At that time, our alerting of Canadians to the issue (and our opposition) helped form a coalition there. Unfortunately, this coalition has become elitist, endorsing a hierarchy of disability by asking not that the standard-forming process cease, but only that guide dog users be exempt from any standard SCC creates!

We are appalled and incensed by this ableist behavior from our would-be coalition partners. In no uncertain terms, we told the Canadian guide dog coalition this, but they issued no response to defend their embarrassing position.

We have been working in opposition to this alongside our community members, and we will continue to do so.

- **DOT meeting**

Brad and Veronica met in late November with DOT, as part of their disability advocates advisory panel. They provided a lot of much-appreciated flying-related feedback from community members and posted updates from the meeting on the Peer Guidance Group and social media.

- **Meme contest**

We issued prize sets to four meme contest winners. It seems we recently received the winners' pictures, so we plan to post pictures of them (or their dogs) with their prizes. Better late than never!

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

- **Priorities survey**

We conducted this year's Priorities survey and reviewed the results over email. Thank you to our community members for participating.

- **Convention**

The webpage is now up and registration is now open for our Long Beach, California 2022 convention, April 29–May 2. Veronica was instrumental in getting this posted.

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/resources/convention/2022-convention>

The pictures and PAT video are available from the 2021 convention. The pictures include the studio portraits Brad created for participants.

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/resources/convention/2021-convention/pics1>

<https://youtu.be/lipPn1GIRv4>

- **Treasury**

Several generous community members donated on or around Giving Tuesday for a moderate boost to PSDP's ability to fund programming. We are very appreciative!

We will be producing a financial report and budget.

- **Presentations**

Brad and Veronica presented via Zoom to pre-veterinary students at Winthrop University.

Brad did an email interview with a "Cultivating Social Innovators" student at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Veronica may be on a popular dog-involving science podcast soon to talk about service dogs.

- **Video against stardardization**

A leading UK owner-trainer advocate asked us to aid them in their presentation to Parliament, in a fight to oppose making an organization's detailed standards into law. We created a short video they could use. In it, Brad and Veronica explain how "Service dog standards undermine their own goals". This video is on our advocacy page.

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

- **Community photos**

We will be accepting community photos from 2021 through the end of the year.

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

