

DRAFT MINUTES

Task Force on Transparency in Publicly Funded Animal Testing Facilities

October 11, 2024

The all-virtual meeting of the Task Force on Transparency in Publicly Funded Animal Testing Facilities (Task Force) convened at approximately 10:10 a.m. on October 11, 2024. The meeting was held using Cisco WebEx, with electronic access made available to the public via the Virginia Commonwealth Calendar website. Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services Guthrie called the meeting to order.

PRESENT

Joseph Guthrie

Dr. Paul Smith

Suzanne Griffin

Dr. Annette Hildabrand

Dr. Robert Corley, III

Daphna Nachminovitch

Sharon Adams

Will Lowrey

Dr. D. Josh Cohen

Dr. Raphael Malbrue

Megan Rhyne

Corrine Loudon

Hon. Jennifer Boysko

Hon. Hillary Pugh Kent

Hon. Shelly Simonds

REPRESENTING

Chair, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS)

Vice Chair, State Council of Higher Education in Virginia (SCHEV)

R1 University, Virginia Tech

R2 University, James Madison University

Historically black colleges and universities replacing R3 University, Virginia State University

Animal Welfare, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

Animal Welfare, Virginia Alliance for Animal Shelters

Animal Welfare, Animal Partisan

Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee Member, Virginia Commonwealth University

American College of Laboratory Animal Testing Facility Veterinarian, University of Virginia

Virginia Coalition for Open Government

Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council

Senate of Virginia, Senate District 38

Virginia House of Delegates, House District 67

Virginia House of Delegates, House District 70

ABSENT

Steve Weddle

Hon. William Stanley, Jr.

REPRESENTING

Virginia Press Association

Senate of Virginia, Senate District 7

STAFF PRESENT

Kevin Schmidt, Director, Office of Policy, Planning, and Research, VDACS

Isaac Joseph, Policy Analyst, VDACS

INTRODUCTION

The Task Force began its meeting by reviewing the minutes from the previous meeting. Ms. Adams asked that the minutes be changed to reflect a question and subsequent clarification regarding Dr. Broadus's presentation on VDACS Office of Veterinary Services. Senator Boysko moved that the minutes be approved, pending verification of Ms. Adams' recommended

revision. Dr. Corley seconded the motion. The Task Force voted unanimously to adopt the minutes.

DRAFT REPORT DISCUSSION

Commissioner Guthrie moderated the Task Force's discussion of the draft report disbursed to all members three days prior to the meeting. Commissioner Guthrie also noted that all comments would be taken into consideration, but final decisions on the wording and text of the report would be his as the author. He also asked members to frame their comments around assessing the completeness and accuracy of the report. Commissioner Guthrie asked for comments from the three legislators present before opening discussion to all other members of the Task Force. The discussion covered several topics brought forward by members of the Task Force. Some members asked to be able to provide written suggestions for revisions. Commissioner Guthrie provided that such suggestions could be submitted until the close of business on October 17. The discussion continued until all Task Force members who asked for an opportunity to speak were able to do so.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Guthrie provided the members of the Task Force the opportunity to voice any further comments and reminded members that staff would generate the final version of the report that may or may not include specific recommendations brought forward in this meeting or those provided in written comment. He also voiced his gratitude to the dedication and participation of the Task Force, complimenting the professionalism from each member throughout this process.

Dr. Smith echoed these sentiments, appreciating the work and professionalism of the Task Force, which is reflected in the progress made in identifying problems and working towards consensus on this topic in a short amount of time.

Senator Boysko moved that the meeting of the Task Force adjourn. Ms. Nachminovitch seconded the motion. The Task Force adjourned at approximately 11:20 a.m.