



APPROVED MINUTES

Practice Task Force
Monday, February 8, 2010
1625 N. Market Blvd., Trinity Room (S-307)
Sacramento, CA 95834

Task Force Members

Chuck Jordan (GDA)
Kathy Kelly (GDB)
Bob Wendler (GDD)

Executive Officer

Antonette Sorrick

Board Staff

Cenne Jackson

Legal Counsel

Laura Freedman Eidson

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Roll Call - (A. Sorrick)

Executive Officer Sorrick welcomed all participants to the conference and began called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m. All three Task Force Members were present and a quorum was established.

2. Task Force Leadership Election

Task Force Member Jordan nominated Task Force Member Kelly to be Chair of the Practice Task Force. Task Force Member Wendler seconded the motion.

Task Force Vote: Motion passed.

3. Approval of Practice Task Force Minutes August 31, 2009

Task Force Member Wendler motioned to approve the August 31, 2009 minutes as written. Task Force Member Jordan seconded the motion.

Task Force Vote: Motion passed.

4. Regulatory Discussion to Develop Recommendations for Board Action

- a. Section 2260 (Completion of Requirements for License as Instructor) – (All)
Section 2260 currently reads:

§ 2260. Completion of Requirements for License as Instructor.

(a) If an applicant for an instructor's license verifies training of 22 person-dog units but cannot show the required three years' experience, additional experience in kennel work or dog training only may be credited, provided it is as an apprentice in a guide dog school under a qualified instructor meeting standards equivalent to schools and instructors licensed by the board.

(b) If license as an instructor is issued under the "equivalent" provision of Section 7209, the licensee will be required to make up the lacking experience factor within one year, and thus meet the specified requirement for both years of experience and handling person/dog units. Otherwise, the license will be revoked.

Task Force Member Jordan motioned to amend Section 2260 as follows:

§ 2260. Completion of Requirements for License as Instructor.

a) An applicant for an instructor's license must have had three years of full time experience, including training at least 22 guide dog teams that have successfully completed instruction.

b) The experience shall be obtained while under the supervision of an instructor that meets standards equivalent to those licensed by the Board.

c) The experience shall include training dogs in all aspects required by Sections 2266 and 2282.1.

d) "Full time" means an average of 32 hours per week.

e) A third party must verify that the applicant's experience meets the requirements of this section to the Board.

Task Force Member Wendler seconded the motion.

Task Force Vote: Motion passed.

b. Section 2266 (Apprentice Standards) – (All)

Section 2266 currently reads:

§ 2266. Apprentice Standards; Minimum Instruction.

(a) A school shall not employ or retain in its employ an apprentice who:

(1) Is not suited temperamentally and otherwise to work with blind persons in the use of guide dogs.

(2) Has not had at least one year's actual experience in working with the training of dogs.

(b) Each guide dog school licensed by the board shall require every apprentice to undergo a systematic organized program of instruction which has been approved by the board. Such organized program of instruction shall be under a licensed instructor and shall include the following subjects:

(1) Care and selection of dogs;

(2) Obedience training of dogs;

(3) Training of dogs preparatory to becoming guides for blind people;

(4) Required reading on blindness and its effects;

(5) Course of instruction in the California Guide Dogs for the Blind Act and the regulations of the board;

(6) Basic principles of travel and mobility training for blind people.

(c) No apprentice shall be permitted to train any guide dog except under the direct and immediate supervision of a licensed instructor and until he has completed not less than twenty hours of such instruction a week for a period of not less than one year.

The Task Force discussed eliminating (2) "Has not had at least one year's actual experience in working with the training of dogs." Additionally, an amendment to (c) was made to replace "train" with "instruct," to include "team" after "guide dog" to eliminate "and" between "instructor" and "until" and to delete "a week for a period of not less than one year." There was also a suggestion to define "guide dog team" in Section 2252. There was no final recommendation on this section.

c. Section 2276 (Instruction Period) - Amendment decreasing the number of hours required for first time and repeat guide dog students (update)
Executive Officer Sorrick updated the Task Force on the status of the regulatory process for this section. A hearing would take place the same day as the Task Force Meeting.

d. Section 2282 (Preliminary Training of Dogs) – (All)
Section 2282 currently reads:

§ 2282. Preliminary Training of Dogs.

Within the six months immediately preceding the assignment of a guide dog to a blind person the dog shall have received a minimum of ninety (90) days of preliminary training satisfactory to the Board.

The Practice Task Force discussed amending section 2282 to read:

Before a dog may be assigned to a client within the prior 60-day period, an instructor shall have verified that the dog meets the requirements as set forth by 2282.1.

No further action was taken on this section.

e. Section 2282.1 (Required Training for Guide Dogs) - (All)

* Review Side-by-Side Comparison with International Guide Dog Federation

* Review practices in California

A brief discussion ensued regarding the Guide Dogs for the Blind, Inc. training requirements, versus the International Guide Dog Federation requirements. It was agreed that Executive Officer Sorrick would compose a side-by-side comparison of the Board's current regulation (2282.1), the International Guide Dog Federation standards, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Inc. standards for a guide dog, and the Practice Task Force recommendations from the August 31, 2009 meeting. The discussion was planned to continue at the next Task Force Meeting.

5. Statutory Discussion - Business and Professions Code Section 7210.7 (In-Home Training)

a. Update on Status of Statutory Change

Executive Officer Sorrick notified the Task Force that the in-home training legislation had not been introduced.

6. Agenda Items for the Next Meeting - (All)

The Task Force did not have any additional items for the next meeting.

7. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

There were no comments.

8. Adjournment

Task Force Member Jordan moved to adjourn at 12:16 p.m.