



## **APPROVED MINUTES**

Practice Task Force  
Thursday, May 20, 2010  
1625 N. Market Blvd., Sacramento Room (S-306)  
Sacramento, CA 95834

### **Teleconference**

Task Force Members

*Kathy Kelly (GDB), Chair*  
*Chuck Jordan (GDA)*  
*Bob Wendler (GDD)*

Guests

*Frank Welte (CCB)*

Executive Officer

*Antonette Sorrick*

Board Staff

*Cenne Jackson*

Legal Counsel

*Michael Santiago*

### **AGENDA**

1. Welcome and Roll Call - (K. Kelly)

Task Force Chair Kelly welcomed all participants to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. All three Task Force Members were present and a quorum was established.

2. Approval of Practice Task Force Minutes February 8, 2010

Task Force Member Wendler motioned to approve the February 8, 2010 minutes as written. Task Force Member Jordan seconded the motion.

Task Force Vote: Motion passed.

3. 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.

Practice Task Force recommended language from 2/8/10 reads 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.*

Executive Officer Sorrick reported that at the Board meeting on February 22, 2010, Board Counsel Freedman Edison recommended the Board consider adding " As determined by the Board" in (b). The Board requested that the language be referred back to the Practice Task Force for consideration.

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, as determined 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) The applicant must submit verification to the Board that his experience meets the requirements of this section. The verification must come from an individual in a supervisory position from the guide dog school where the experience was obtained. The verification must meet the requirements as specified in subsection (a).*

Task Force Chair Kelly seconded the motion.

Legal Counsel Santiago suggested that (e) be amended to read:

(e) The verification must state that the applicant has met the requirements as specified in section (a)

Task Force Member Jordan withdrew his motion

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, as determined 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) The applicant must submit verification to the Board that his experience meets the requirements of this section. The verification must come from an individual in a supervisory position from the guide dog school where the experience was obtained. The verification must state that the applicant has met the requirements as specified in section (a).*

Task Force Chair Kelly 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 amending the language on 2/8/10 to read as follows:

*§ 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.*

*(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 instruct any guide dog team except under the direct and immediate supervision of a licensed instructor until he has completed not less than twenty hours of such instruction.*

Task Force Chair Kelly motioned to approve the February 8, 2010 language. Task Force member Jordan seconded the motion

Task Force Vote: Motion passed.

c. Section 2276 (Instruction Period) - Amendment decreasing the number of hours required for first time and repeat guide dog students (update)

Executive Officer Sorrick stated that the regulatory amendment to section 2276 is under review and will be approved or denied by early August, 2010.

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.*

Task Force Chair Kelly motioned to amend section 2282 as follows:

*§ 2282. Preliminary Training of Dogs.*

*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.*

Guide Dog Users, Inc. (GDUI) sent an email to the Board for the Task Force to take under consideration during the regulatory discussion.

GDUI recommended that the administrative regulations receive amendment to reflect, before a dog is approved for class with the end handler: the dog must be evaluated and tested by a licensed or apprentice trainer under blindfold, or by a blind, licensed or apprentice trainer.

Without having a representative from GDUI at the meeting, the Task Force was unable to have a dialogue regarding the group's concerns.

Task Force Chair Kelly withdrew motion and amended the motion to add the word "section" before 2282.1. Task Force member Jordan seconded that the amended motion.

Task Force Vote: Motion passed.  
GDUI letter to the Practice Task Force attached.

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

- \* Review Side-by-Side Comparison with International Guide Dog Federation
- \* Review practices in California

Section 2282.1 currently reads as:

Guide dogs shall be trained to:

- (a) Stop at the end of each block.
- (b) Stop at curbs, doors, stairs, sharp descents or rises, or other obstacles.
- (c) Obey commands.
- (d) Cross streets or alleys straight to the other side.
- (e) Clear all obstacles and persons.
- (f) Stop for approaching vehicles.
- (g) Pass other dogs, cats, or birds without undue distraction, and not be unduly distracted by noises.
- (h) Guide a person to a bus or streetcar and ride with the person.

Task Force Member Jordan motioned to amend section 2282.1 as follows:

*§ 2282.1 Required Training*

*Guide dogs shall be trained to:*

- (a) Acknowledge the beginning and end of a block, regardless of curb type.*
- (b) Stop or pause at notable changes of elevation in walking surfaces.*
- (c) Respond appropriately to basic directional guide work and obedience commands.*

- (d) Work sidewalkless and rounded corner areas and appropriately acknowledge intersecting streets.*
- (e) Move the handler away from obstacles, or stop when there is insufficient room for clearance.*
- (f) Maintain a safe distance or buffer from potentially threatening vehicles. Target the appropriate upcurb location.*
- (g) Refocus when directed on its working task when distracted by certain stimulants such as persons, animals or food.*
- (h) Under direction of a handler, negotiate public transportation and ride appropriately.*
- (i) Work at a consistent steady pace, providing safe, effective and fluid movement appropriate to its handler and travel conditions.*
- (j) Behave appropriately in all locations both in and out of harness.*
- (k) Effectively work in buildings, find doors on command, and negotiate stairs, ramps, and elevators as needed.*
- (l) Display suitable house manners; free of destructive habits, excessive barking and indiscriminate relieving. Be handled easily by client for general care and management. Demonstrate the ability to behave properly when left alone for a reasonable period of time.*

Task Force chair Kelly seconded the motion.

Task Force Vote: Motion passed.

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 was introduced on May 10, 2010 and moved to the Assembly floor to be read again and voted on in the near future.

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 Chair Kelly moved to adjourn at 11:30 a.m.