

AMENDMENT TO MINUTES
North Dakota Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
Tuesday November 9, 2021
Lecture Room B, North Dakota Heritage Center

The board reviewed a complaint against Dr. Shelley Lenz by Ms. Katharine Novotny. Motion by Dr. Weiland-Ness to dismiss the complaint with second by Ms. Morman. Dr. Woodruff expressed concern that there have been previous complaints against Dr. Lenz of a similar nature that were dismissed due to lack of evidence. Discussion included a lack of any documentation of previous abuse or concerns regarding the Novotny's in the medical record and two witnesses that corroborate Ms. Novotny's statement. Concerns were expressed that the behavior by Dr. Lenz was not appropriate for the given situation. Mr. Job was concerned that if the client had a known disability there should have been some accommodation made to communicate effectively with the client. Mr. Schaibley cautioned the board against using the pattern of behavior to decide the case today. Motion failed unanimously. The board discussed whether there was need to gather additional information including statements under oath and a psychological examination. The majority of board members did not feel that a psychological evaluation was appropriate. Motion by Ms. Morman that it is the Board's assertion that Dr. Lenz was in violation of 87-05-02-01.10 with second by Dr. Behm. Motion passed unanimously. Motion by Dr. Weiland-Ness to attempt to resolve the matter by offering a settlement agreement to Dr. Lenz that would place her license on probationary status for a period of at least 6 months pending completion of 6 hours of continuing education pre-approved by the board through the Executive Secretary on the topics of client communication, professionalism, and conflict resolution. Second by Dr. Behm. Motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by Sara Lyons, DVM
NDBVME Executive Secretary