

**PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
July 14, 2023**

ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Physician Assistant Committee was called to order at 2:03 p.m. by Tami Dolphens, PA-C, Vice-Chairperson in the Husker Conference Room, of the Hampton Inn & Suites, located at 7343 Husker Circle, Lincoln, Nebraska 68504. The meeting was held In-Person and by WebEx. The following members answered the initial roll call:

Nicole Schwensow, PA-C, Chairperson via WebEx
Tamara Dolphens, PA-C, Vice-Chairperson
Merle Henkenius, Secretary
Corrigan McBride, MD via WebEx
Rachel Blake, MD

Absent: None

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened. Present from the Department was Jesse Cushman, Program Manager and Jan Gadeken-Harris, Health Licensing Coordinator; T.J. O'Neill, Assistant Attorney General; Jennifer Miralles, Department Attorney, Suzanna Glover-Ettrich, Department Attorney, via WebEx and Mark Meyerson, Investigator with the Investigation Unit.

Dolphens announced that there is a copy of all the public documents being reviewed at this meeting available in the meeting room pursuant to the Open Meetings Act.

In accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411 of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, copies of the agenda were e-mailed to the Committee members and other interested parties, posted on the DHHS web site at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>, and posted in the Licensure Unit on June 30, 2023.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

McBride moved, seconded by Henkenius, to adopt the agenda as presented. Voting aye: Blake, Dolphens, Henkenius, McBride and Schwensow. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Blake moved, seconded by Henkenius to approve the meeting minutes of March 31, 2023, as written. Voting aye: Blake, Dolphens, Henkenius, McBride and Schwensow. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

2023 LEGISLATION UPDATES

The following legislative bills were presented that may be of interest to the PA Committee:

LB574 Adopt the Let Them Grow Act
Referred to Health and Human Services Committee
The NMA opposes this bill as written
There has been a lot of activity and amendments with this bill
Provisions/portions of [LB626](#) amended into [LB574](#) by [AM1658](#)
Passed on final reading and presented to the Governor May 19, 2023
Approved by the Governor on May 22, 2023
Slip Law: <https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/108/PDF/Slip/LB574.pdf>
To learn more about LB574 go to:
<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/108/PDF/Intro/LB574.pdf>

LB626 Adopt the Nebraska Heartbeat Act
Referred to Health and Human Services Committee
The NMA opposes this bill as written
Multiple Amendments filed
Provisions/portions of [LB626](#) amended into [LB574](#) by [AM1658](#)
LB 574 Approved by the Governor May 22, 2023
Slip Law: <https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/108/PDF/Slip/LB574.pdf>
To learn more about LB626 go to:
<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/108/PDF/Intro/LB626.pdf>

REGULATIONS UPDATE

There were no updates for discussion currently.

INVESTIGATIONAL REPORTS – CLOSED SESSION

Henkenius moved, seconded by McBride to go into closed session at 2:07 p.m. for the purpose of review and discussion of investigative reports, licensure applications, and other confidential information, and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of the individuals. Voting aye: Blake, Dolphens, Henkenius, McBride and Schwensow. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

The committee members returned to Open Session at 2:47 p.m.

APPLICATION(S) REVIEW – OPEN SESSION

VANDER WAL, HANNAH, PA - application for Initial license to practice medicine and surgery as a Physician Assistant. Henkenius moved, seconded by McBride, to recommend approval of the application to practice medicine and surgery as a Physician Assistant. Voting aye: Dolphens, Henkenius, McBride and Schwensow. Voting nay: None. Abstain: Blake. Absent: None. Motion carried.

PRACTICE QUESTION(S)

Are Physician Assistants permitted to administer minimal sedation?
If so, must a supervising physician be present for that minimal sedation administration?

It is the opinion of the PA Committee that the procedure for the administration of minimal sedation is to be determined by the collaborative agreement with the physician or the facility policies or credentialing.

COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

The next Physician Assistant Committee meeting is scheduled September 29, 2023 @ 2:00 p.m.

The schedule for 2023 is listed on the DHHS website:
<https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business Schwensow, Chairperson, adjourned the meeting at 3:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

signature available upon request

Merle Henkenius, Secretary
Physician Assistant Committee