

NEBRASKA BOARD OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY

MEETING MINUTES September 15, 2023

ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Board of Medicine and Surgery was called to order by Chairperson, Brian Keegan, MD, at 9:00 a.m. on September 15, 2023, at the Hampton Inn & Suites, 7343 Husker Circle, Lincoln, Nebraska 68504. The meeting was conducted In-Person and by WebEx. The following members answered the roll call:

Brian Keegan, MD, Chairperson
Rachel Blake, MD, Vice-Chairperson
Adam Kuenning, JD, LLM, Secretary – joined the meeting at 9:20 a.m.
Mark Goodman, MD
Jodanne Hedrick, DO via WebEx
Jeffrey Howorth
John Massey, MD
Maria Michaelis, MD – joined the meeting at 9:05 a.m.

Absent: None

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

Also present to participate in the meeting: Vonda Apking, Interim Program Manager, and Jan Gadeken-Harris, Health Licensing Coordinator, with the Licensure Unit; Mindy Lester, Assistant Attorney General; Abigail Nissen, Sr. Law Clerk with the Attorney General Office; Kathleen Krueger, Carla Cue, Trevor Klaassen and Mark Meyerson, Investigators with the Investigation Unit; Suzanna Glover-Ettrich, Department Attorney via WebEx and Anna Harrison, DHHS Compliance Monitor for Licensing and Investigations via WebEx.

Dr. Keegan 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 Board 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 September 6, 2023.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

Goodman moved, seconded by Howorth to approve adoption of the agenda with the Chair having the authority to rearrange agenda items as needed. Voting aye: Blake, Goodman, Hedrick, Howorth, Keegan and Massey. Voting nay: None. Absent: Kuenning and Michaelis. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

Additions, Modification, Reordering

The Board requested the following applications to be removed from the Application Review Consent Agenda:

Raja, Vekash, MBBS – Initial Application
Rupp, Timothy, MD – Initial Application
Clark, Jason, MD – Reinstatement after Discipline, Requesting Removal of the Limitation on his license

2023 LEGISLATION UPDATES

There were no updates currently.

REGULATIONS UPDATE

There were no updates currently.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Howorth moved, seconded by Goodman to approve the minutes for August 4, 2023, as presented. Voting aye: Blake, Goodman, Hedrick, Howorth, Keegan and Massey. Voting nay: None. Absent: Kuenning and Michaelis. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

INVESTIGATIONAL REPORTS, DISCIPLINARY REPORTS, APPLICATION REVIEW – CLOSED SESSION

Goodman moved, seconded by Blake, to go into closed session at 9:03 a.m. for the purpose of review and discussion of investigative reports, disciplinary reports, licensure applications, and other confidential information, and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of the individuals. Voting aye: Blake, Goodman, Hedrick, Howorth, Keegan and Massey. Voting nay: None. Absent: Kuenning and Michaelis. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

Dr. Massey Recused himself at 10:26 a.m.
Dr. Massey Returned at 10:29 a.m.

The Board members returned to Open Session at 11:06 a.m.

APPLICATION REVIEW – OPEN SESSION

BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS ON APPLICATIONS FOR LICENSURE AND REGISTRATION

Physician and Osteopathic Physician Initial Application(s) (2)

RAJA, VEKASH, MBBS - application for Initial license to practice medicine and surgery. Kuenning moved, seconded by Michaelis, to recommend approval of the application to practice medicine and surgery. Voting aye: Blake, Goodman, Hedrick, Howorth, Keegan, Kuenning, Massey and Michaelis. Voting nay: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

RUPP, TIMOTHY, MD - application for Initial license to practice medicine and surgery. Kuenning moved, seconded by Howorth, to recommend approval of the application to practice medicine and surgery. Voting aye: Blake, Goodman, Hedrick, Howorth, Keegan, Kuenning, Massey and Michaelis. Voting nay: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

Physician and Osteopathic Physician Reinstatement after Discipline Application(s) (1)

CLARK, JASON, MD – application for Reinstatement after Discipline, requesting removal of the limitation on his license to practice medicine and surgery. Kuenning moved, seconded by Michaelis, to recommend denial of the application for removal of the limitation to practice medicine and surgery. Basis for the denial is insufficient evidence to support removal of the agreed upon limitation. Voting aye: Blake, Goodman, Hedrick, Howorth, Keegan, Kuenning, Massey and Michaelis. Voting nay: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

BOARD DISCUSSION(S)

A. Composition of a Board of Medicine and Surgery Newsletter.

Dr. Hedrick presented the Board with a draft for the first edition of the proposed newsletter. Vonda Apking will prepare the draft of the newsletter for presentation. The Board will review and edit/approve the proposed draft at the next meeting in October. The Board approved draft will then be presented to the DHHS Legal Department prior to publishing.

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

The next meeting is scheduled for October 20, 2023, in the Husker Conference Room at the Hampton Inn & Suites. To see a complete list of the projected schedule for the balance of 2023 and for the projected schedule for 2024 schedule, visit the DHHS website:

<https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Keegan, Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

signature available upon request

Adam Kuenning, JD, LLM, Secretary
Board of Medicine and Surgery