

## Minutes of the August 3, 2023, Board of Respiratory Care Video Conference

### **1. ROLL CALL**

Rene Botts, Vice-Chairperson, called the meeting of the Board of Respiratory Care to order at 9:07a.m. on August 3, 2023, in the Goldenrod Conference Room at the Nebraska State Office Building located at 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska. 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 website at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>, and posted in the Licensure Unit on July 19, 2023.

Botts announced that this is an open meeting, and the Open Meetings Act is posted.

**Members Present:** The following members answered roll call:

Rene Botts, Vice-Chairperson  
Marcy Wyrens, Member  
Dr. Ryan Martin, Secretary (via Webex)

**Members Absent:**

Jill Sand, Chairperson

**Staff Present:**

Claire Covert-ByBee, DHHS Program Manager  
Amy Blinston, DHHS Health Licensing Coordinator  
Anna Harrison, DHHS Compliance Monitor (via Webex)  
Larry Wiehn DHHS Investigations  
T.J. O'Neill, Assistant Attorney General  
Abby Hoy-Nissen, Attorney General's Office  
Suzanna Glover-Ettrich, DHHS Legal- Hearing Officer (via Webex)  
Dina Mekic, DHHS Program Manager

### **2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Wyrens moved, seconded by Botts, to adopt the agenda. Voting aye: Wyrens, Martin, and Botts. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

### **3. REAFFIRMATION OF MAIL BALLOT**

Covert-ByBee indicated that this is the opportunity for the Department to read into the official minutes, the voting results of all mail ballots that occurred since the Board last met on April 12, 2023.

The following mail ballots were brought before the Board.

- 1) Approval of Board meeting minutes from April 12, 2023, meeting. Voting to approve: Martin, Sand, Wyrens. Not voting: Botts. Minutes approved April 17, 2023.
- 2) Recommendation on the application of Joshua Ian Knipp for a respiratory care practitioner license. The Board recommended that the Department of Health and Human Services issue an unrestricted respiratory care practitioner license to Joshua Knipp. Voting to approve: Botts, Sands, Wyrens. Not voting: Martin.

#### **4. INVESTIGATIONAL & CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION/REPORTS – CLOSED SESSION**

**MOTION:** Wyrens moved, seconded by Martin, to move into closed session at 9:11 a.m. to hear discussions regarding confidential information and to protect the reputation of individuals named or referenced in such discussions. Voting aye: Wyrens, Botts, and Martin. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

#### **5. BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS ON APPLICATIONS – OPEN SESSION**

The Board returned to open session at 9:45 a.m.

**MOTION:** Wyrens moved, seconded by Martin, to recommend denial of Shane Marik's application for reinstatement from discipline and early release from probation. The basis for the denial is that the full period of probation is necessary to ensure public safety. Voting aye: Wyrens, Botts, and Martin. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

#### **6. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Covert-ByBee presented the Board with information regarding the following legislative bills: LB16, LB256, LB271, LB291, LB513, LB637, LB521, and LB810. These bills may be viewed on the Nebraska Legislature website: <https://nebraskalegislature.gov>.

#### **7. UPDATE ON LICENSURE DATABASE**

Covert-ByBee advised that the Department entered an emergency contract to stabilize LIS. The kickoff of this project was June 15<sup>th</sup>. This phase is slated to be 100% operational by January 1, 2025. The Department is simultaneously working on an RFP to be put out later to solicit proposals for expansion of services for licensure.

#### **8. SCHEDULE MEETINGS FOR 2024**

Meetings were scheduled for March 7, 2024, and August 1, 2024.

#### **9. APPLICATION PROCESSING REPORT (APR)**

Blinston stated the APR was prepared for informational purposes only.

*These minutes were approved by the Board of Respiratory Care via mail ballot on 8.10.2023..*

## **10. TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Topics identified for the next meeting include RT Compact and Status of CRT and RRT for Entry Level, Application Processing Report, Legislative Update, New Licensure Database Update, Election of Officers, Per Diem Discussion, Notice of Meeting Publication Discussion, and Conviction Review Guidelines Discussion.

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Ryan Martin, Secretary