

**These minutes have not been approved by the Board**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF FUNERAL DIRECTING AND EMBALMING**

October 26, 2023

**1. ROLL CALL**

The meeting of the Board of Funeral Directing and Embalming was called to order by Leo Seger, Chair, at 8:30 a.m., in the Lower Level Goldenrod Room, Nebraska State Office Building, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska. In accordance with § 84-1411 of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, copies of the agenda were 1) emailed to the Board members and other interested parties, and 2) posted on the DHHS web site at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx> and on the bulletin board in the Licensure Unit Lobby on 10.13.2023.

The following members answered roll call:

**Members Present (4):**

Steven Brunken, Member  
Arvid Wiest, Secretary  
Leo Seger, Chairperson

**Members Absent (0):**

Lawrence Battaglia, Vice Chair

**Others Present (7):**

TJ O'Neill, Assistant Attorney General  
Abigail Hoy Nissen, Assistant Attorney General  
Dina Mekic, Program Manager, Licensure Unit  
Carrie Oldehoeft, Health Licensing Board Coordinator  
Danielle Sund, DHHS Attorney  
Sarah Bohnenkamp-Vital Records  
Sean Loving-Vital Records

Public (vis WebEx and in room)

A quorum was present and the meeting convened.

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Brunken moved, seconded by Wiest, to adopt the agenda. A voice vote was taken. Voting aye: Brunken, Wiest, Seger(3). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Battaglia (1). Motion carried.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Arvid moved, seconded by Brunken, to approve the minutes of 7.27.2023. A voice vote was taken. Voting aye: Brunken, Wiest, Seger(3). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Battaglia (1). Motion carried.

**4. Vital Statistics/online death certifications**

Board discussion with vital records staff regarding the online death certificate system and paper filing for fetal death certificates. Vital Records reported that they are working towards an updated system, which will change the fetal death certificate filing system.

8:47 am public exited room

8:49 am public entered room

8:54 am Nissen exited room

9:11 am Vital Records exited room

9:11 am O'Neill exited room

9:13 am O'Neill entered room

## **5. UPDATES AND REPORTS**

### Updates and Reports

- a. Nebraska Funeral Directing Association (NEFDA) <http://www.nefda.org>  
No representation at the meeting. Seger reported they did have a scholarship meeting, there were 3 scholarship applications and all 3 were given, no additional reports.  
Discussion on death certification forms, transit permits and electronic verses handwrote records moving toward online forms, licensee applicant will complete electronic form print and mail in for the exam.

10:20 am public exited

- b. International Conference of Funeral Service Examination Board, Inc. (ICFSEB) <http://www.theconferenceonline.org>  
Exam candidate portal launched (see attached information)

**MOTION:** Brunken moved, seconded by Seger, to approve Board to cover 1 person to attend conference. Wiest will be option with Brunken as a secondary. A voice vote was taken. Voting aye: Brunken, Wiest, Seger(3). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Battaglia (1). Motion carried

- c. Disciplinary and Non-Disciplinary Action Reports, Renewal, License and Examination Statistics (attached)

## **6. CANA Crematory Operations Certification Program (online version)**

Board discussion that they will accept the online version.

## **7. Disinterring Cremated remains**

Board discussion on determining date of death when a patient is kept alive by machine. Determined it should be date of death not date taken off support. Board discussion with Vital Records regarding need for disinterment to move cremains.

## **8. Public comments**

Public expressed concern regarding the amount of time that applications are taking to be processed. Mekić explained that the Department is working on the situation.

## **9. INVESTIGATIONAL REPORTS & OTHER CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION – CLOSED SESSION**

**MOTION:** Brunken moved, seconded by Weist, to enter into closed session at 10:26 a.m. to hear discussions of an investigative/confidential nature, and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of the individuals. Seger repeated the motion purpose. A voice vote was taken. Voting aye: Brunken, Wiest, Seger(3). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Battaglia (1). Motion carried

Public moved to lobby of WebEx and exited the room

Board agreed to move to open session at 10:31 am

## **5. REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS – OPEN SESSION**

No applications for review

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting is scheduled for 1.29.2024. There being no further business, the chair declared the meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

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Arvid Wiest, Secretary  
Board of Funeral Directing and Embalming

Summarized by: Carrie Oldehoeft, Health Licensing Coordinator, Licensure Unit