

**PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
January 19, 2024**

**ROLL CALL**

The meeting of the Physician Assistant Committee was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Nicole Schwensow, PA-C, 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 via WebEx  
Merle Henkenius, Secretary  
Rachel Blake, MD  
Corrigan McBride, MD via WebEx

Absent: None

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened. Present from the Department was Vonda Apking, Program Manager and Jan Gadeken-Harris, Health Licensing Coordinator; T.J. O'Neill, Assistant Attorney General via WebEx; Suzanna Glover-Etrich, Department Attorney via WebEx and Dennis Scott, Investigator with the Investigation Unit via WebEx.

Schwensow 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 on the Bulletin Board at the entrance to the Nebraska State Office Building on January 8, 2024.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Dolphens 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**

Dolphens moved, seconded by Henkenius to approve the meeting minutes of November 17, 2023, as presented. Voting aye: Blake, Dolphens, Henkenius, McBride and Schwensow. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

**2024 LEGISLATION UPDATES**

The following are Legislature Bills that have been introduced for the 2024 session that the PA Committee will be following:

**LB823** - Adopt the Physician Assistant (PA) Licensure Compact and change provisions relating to criminal background checks. To learn more about the Bill go to:  
<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/108/PDF/Intro/LB823.pdf>

**LB833** - Adopt the Prescription Drug Affordability Act. To learn more about the Bill go to:  
<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/108/PDF/Intro/LB833.pdf>

**LB972** - Prohibit kratom as a controlled substance. To learn more about the Bill go to:  
<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/108/PDF/Intro/LB972.pdf>

**LB1035** - Adopt the Prescription Drug Donation Act. To learn more about the Bill go to:  
<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/108/PDF/Intro/LB1035.pdf>

**LB1138** - Provide an exemption from requirements for prescribers issuing prescriptions for controlled substances. To learn more about the Bill go to:  
<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/108/PDF/Intro/LB1138.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 2:15 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 2:39 p.m.

### **APPLICATION(S) REVIEW – OPEN SESSION**

SIMONSEN, BRITTANIE, PA - application for Reinstatement after Suspension to practice medicine and surgery as a Physician Assistant. Dolphens moved, seconded by McBride, to recommend denial of the Reinstatement after Suspension application to practice medicine and surgery as a Physician Assistant. Basis for the Denial is lack of sufficient evidence to support a return to practice safely. Voting aye: Dolphens, Henkenius, McBride and Schwensow. Voting nay: None. Abstain: Blake. Absent: None. Motion carried.

### **DESIGNATION OF THE METHOD BY WHICH THIS BODY WILL GIVE PUBLIC NOTICE OF ITS MEETINGS**

Jan Gadeken-Harris explained that the Committee needs to inform the public each year of the method by which the Committee will provide notice of their meetings. In the past, the Committee had chosen to post meeting agendas on the Bulletin Board at the Nebraska State Office Building, to e-mail agendas to the interested parties list, and to post agendas on the Department's website. McBride moved, seconded by Blake, to continue the same method that the Department has been using to provide public notice of this Committee's meetings by posting meeting agendas at the Nebraska State Office Building, by e-mailing agendas to the interested parties list, and by posting agendas on the Department's website. Voting aye: Blake, Dolphens, Henkenius, McBride and Schwensow. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

McBride moved, seconded by Blake to elect new officers for 2024 as follows:  
Chairperson: Nicole Schwensow, PA-C  
Vice Chairperson: Tamara A. Dolphens, PA-C  
Secretary: Merle J. Henkenius  
Voting aye: Blake, Dolphens, Henkenius, McBride and Schwensow. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

### **COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE**

The next Physician Assistant Committee meeting is scheduled March 29, 2024 @ 2:00 p.m.

The projected schedule for 2024 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 2:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

\*signature available upon request\*

Merle Henkenius, Secretary  
Physician Assistant Committee