

**PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 4, 2022**

**ROLL CALL**

The meeting of the Physician Assistant Committee was called to order at 2:02 p.m. by Tamara Dolphens, 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:

Tamara Dolphens, PA-C, Chairperson  
John Massey, MD – via WebEx  
Nicole Schwensow, PA-C - Vice Chairperson

Absent: Merle Henkenius, Secretary  
Corrigan McBride, MD

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened. Present from the Department was Jesse Cushman, Program Manager and Vonda Apking, Health Licensing Coordinator; Mindy Lester, Assistant Attorney General; Joe Neuhaus, Assistant Attorney General; and Kathleen Kruger, 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 February 22, 2022.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Schwensow moved, seconded by Massey, to approve the meeting minutes of January 7, 2022 as written. Voting aye: Dolphens and Schwensow. Voting nay: None. Absent: Henkenius and McBride. Non-Voting Member: Massey. Motion carried.

**PRESENTATION OF APPRECIATION TO KATHLEEN M. TONKIN, PA-C, FORMER MEMBER OF THE PA COMMITTEE**

Tamara Dolphens, PA-C, Chairperson, presented an appreciation award from the Committee and plaque from the Department to Ms. Tonkin. Ms. Dolphens also thanked Ms. Tonkin for her service to the Board.

## **2022 LEGISLATION UPDATES**

Jesse Cushman, Program Manager, provided an update. LB716 which will affect physician assistant had a hearing on February 24, 2022. All other bills only have an indirect effect on physician assistants.

## **REGULATIONS UPDATE**

Jesse Cushman noted that Title 172 Chapter 90 Licensure and Supervision of Physician Assistants, Revised Regulations were effective 12/14/2021. The Regulations will again be pulled for review to include the passing of LB390 and will be submitted for Public Hearing.

The current Regulations can be viewed here: [https://www.nebraska.gov/rules-and-regs/regsearch/Rules/Health\\_and\\_Human\\_Services\\_System/Title-172/Chapter-090.pdf](https://www.nebraska.gov/rules-and-regs/regsearch/Rules/Health_and_Human_Services_System/Title-172/Chapter-090.pdf)

## **INVESTIGATIONAL REPORTS – CLOSED SESSION**

Schwensow moved, seconded by Massey to go into closed session at 2:11 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: Dolphens and Schwensow. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Henkenius and McBride. Non-Voting Member: Massey. Motion carried.

The committee members returned to open the session at 2:33 p.m.

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

No applications were slated for review.

## **COVID-19 DISCUSSION(S):**

No COVID issues were discussed.

## **COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE**

The next Physician Assistant Committee meeting is scheduled May 6, 2022.

The schedule for 2022 is listed on the DHHS website:  
<https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business Dolphens, Chairperson, adjourned the meeting at 2:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

\*signature available upon request\*

Nicole Schwensow, PA-C, Vice Chairperson  
Physician Assistant Committee