

These minutes have been approved by the Board 10.26.2023

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

July 27, 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 04.24.2023.

The following members answered roll call:

**Members Present (4):**

Steven Brunken, Member (in room)  
Arvid Wiest, Secretary (in room)  
Leo Seger, Chairperson (in room)  
Lawrence Battaglia, Vice Chair (in room)

**Members Absent (0):**

**Others Present (7):**

TJ O'Neill, Assistant Attorney General (in room)  
Ann Oertwich, Program Manager, Licensure Unit (in room)  
Dina Mekic, Program Manager, Licensure Unit (in room)  
Carrie Oldehoeft, Health Licensing Board Coordinator (in room)  
Danielle Sund, DHHS Attorney (in room)  
Anna Harrison, Compliance Monitor (in room)  
Larry Wiene, Investigations (in room)

Public (vis WebEx)

A quorum was present and the meeting convened.

Board introduction to welcome Dina Mekic to the board.

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Brunken moved, seconded by Arvid, to adopt the agenda. A voice vote was taken. Voting aye: Brunken, Wiest, Seger, Battaglia (4). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: None (0). Motion carried.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Arvid moved, seconded by Battaglia, to approve the minutes of 5.4.2023 with corrections. A voice vote was taken. Voting aye: Brunken, Wiest, Seger, Battaglia (4). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: None (0). Motion carried.

**4. INVESTIGATIONAL REPORTS & OTHER CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION – CLOSED SESSION**

**MOTION:** Brunken moved, seconded by Arvid, to enter into closed session at 8:39 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 roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Brunken, Seger, Wiest, Battaglia (4). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: None (0). Motion carried.

Public moved to lobby of WebEx

8:40 am Seger exited room

8:57 am Seger entered room

8:58 am Braddock exited room

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

Board agreed to move to open session at 9:08 am

9:08 am Harrison exited room

No applications for review

## **6. UPDATES AND REPORTS**

Updates and Reports

### **a. 2023 Legislation (LB 16, 261, other)**

LB 16: occupational reform and changes to preliminary conviction review

[https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=49705](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=49705)

- Oldehoeft updated, no moved could go to next session.

LB 261: Apprenticeship while attending mortuary school

[https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=50477](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=50477)

- To change provisions of the Funeral Directing and Embalming Practice Act relating to apprenticeship. This was added to LB 227 and passed.
- Update to application to allow apprenticeship while in school or option for out of school, effect September 2, 2023, no grandfather clause.

### **b. 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.

### **c. International Conference of Funeral Service Examination Board, Inc. (ICFSEB)**

<http://www.theconferenceonline.org>

Exam candidate portal launched (see attached information)

### **d. Disciplinary and Non-Disciplinary Action Reports, Renewal, License and Examination Statistics (attached)**

9:11 am Wiene exited room

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

**MOTION:** Battaglia moved, seconded by Wiest, defer to the next meeting for discussion. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Brunken, Seger, Wiest, Battaglia (4). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: None (0). Motion carried.

Discussion with board, CANA indicates that Nebraska is only state not accepting the initial education for Crematory we do accept for the renewal. Board will defer for answers from CANA and review of the regulations/statutes for Crematory operator license.

## **8. Military Funeral/Arlington Cemetery**

Discussion on how to handle the option of burial extensions due to a 90 day wait period for services and regulations allow for a 60 day hold. Receiving funeral home unable to accept body until week of service due to storage space.

Arvid will reach out to the Nebraska Association to review the statute.

### **9. Comments**

Dalene Paull, from The Conference (The International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards) gave a quick update as to a virtual leaning "A Look at Reciprocity, Endorsement, & Compacts," that is coming up.

Discussion with schools regarding curriculum being decreased and how it relates to the exam scores. They are sharing more information with candidates regarding missed questions for learning.

9:23 am Public exited room and phone call

9:25 am Board Break

9:40 am Board back from break into open session

### **10. CLOSED SESSION:** Jurisprudence Examination

**MOTION:** Brunken moved, seconded by Battaglia, to enter into closed session at 10:30 am to hear discussions of a confidential nature, and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of the individuals. Seger repeated the motion purpose. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Brunken, Seger, Wiest, Battaglia (4). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: None (0). Motion carried.

### **11. OPEN SESSION**

Board entered into open session at 10:31 am

### **12. ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting is scheduled for 10.26.2023. There being no further business, the chair declared the meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

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Arvid Wiest, Secretary  
Board of Funeral Directing and Embalming

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