

These minutes have been approved by the Board on 7-7-2023

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
Board of Mental Health Practice
May 5, 2023

1. ROLL CALL AND CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The Meeting of the Board of Mental Health Practice was called to order by the Chair, Susan Meyerle, at 9:01 a.m. at the at the Nebraska State Office Building, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lower Level, Goldenrod Room, 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 web 4.25.2023, and revised 4.27.2023.

Meyerle stated that there is a current copy of the Open Meetings Act posted on the door to the meeting room and available at the link listed below on the agenda.

The following members answered roll call:

Members Present (7):

Susan Meyerle, Chair
Dale Battleson, Secretary
Rebecca Czaja-Stevens, Member
Janeen Gill, Vice-Chair
Cassandra Dittmer, Member
Renea Gernant, Member
Sara Batter, Member
David Hof, Member

Members Absent (3):

Mychelle Martinez, Member
Paul Davies, Member

Others Present:

Carrie Oldehoeft, Health Licensing Coordinator, Licensure Unit
Teresa Hampton, DHHS Attorney (via WebEx)
Shanerika Fleming, DHHS Attorney (via WebEx)
Emily Ysias, DHHS Attorney (via WebEx)
Mindy Lester, Assistant Attorney General
Juliann Lanphier-Willson, DHHS Attorney (in room)
Public (on phone)

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION: Gill moved, seconded by Batter, to adopt the agenda. A voice vote was taken. Voting aye: Battleson, Batter, Gernant, Gill, Meyerle, Czaja-Stevens, Dittmer (7). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Davies, Martinez, Hof (3). Abstain: None (0). Motion carried.

9:03 am Davies entered room

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (3.3.2023 with corrections)

MOTION: Hof, moved, seconded by Czaja-Stevens, to adopt the minutes of 5.5.2023 with correction. A voice vote was taken. Voting aye: Battleson, Batter, Gernant, Gill, Meyerle, Czaja-Stevens, Dittmer (7). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Davies, Martinez, Hof (3). Abstain: None (0). Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (3.20.2023 with corrections)

MOTION: Dittmer, moved, seconded by Battleson, to adopt the minutes of 3.20.2023 with correction. A voice vote was taken. Voting aye: Battleson, Batter, Davies, Meyerle, Dittmer (5). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Martinez, Hof (2). Abstain: Gernant, Czaja-Stevens, Gill (3). Motion carried.

4. New Member Training Manual

Board discussion regarding what to include in the manual, rough draft (see attached) was reviewed.

5. UPDATES AND REPORTS:

a. 2023 Legislation

- LB 16 Occupational Reform and Preliminary Conviction Review
https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=49705

Amendments introduced by Senator Briese to strike section 1, no other updates.

- LB 123 Adopt the Behavioral Analyst Practice Act
https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=49987

Amendments introduced by Senator Fredrickson, no other updates.

- LB 179 Prohibit Conversion Therapy
https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=49819

Amendments introduced by Senator Fredrickson, no other updates.

- LB 337 Confidentiality
https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=49732

LB 337 has been placed on General file, no other updates.

- LB 605 Certified Art Therapists
https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=49777

LB 605 has been placed on General file, no other updates.

- LB 668 Emergency Custody
https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=50158

This was introduced by Senator Agula, hearing will be 3.9.2023; no other updates.

b. Association and Committee Updates:

- AASCB <http://www.aascb.org>
Hof not present for an update.
Meyerle updated board on Compac.
- Counseling Compact <https://counselingcompact.org/>
Meyerle updated there are currently 20 states involved. Other states have legislation pending.
- AMFTRB <http://www.amftrb.org>
Battleson will be attending the conference in September and requested funding from the board to attend as a delegate.

MOTION: Gill, moved, seconded by Czaja-Stevens, to approved funding for Battleson to attend the Annual meeting. A voice vote was taken. Voting aye: Batter, Davies, Gernant, Gill, Meyerle, Czaja-Stevens, Dittmer (7). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Martinez, Hof (2). Abstain: Battleson (1). Motion carried.

- ASWB <http://www.aswb.org>
Batter reports will attend the May 31, 2023, virtual board exchange meeting, Annual conference will be in November. No additional information to report
- Justice Behavioral Health Committee
Gill reports no updates or scheduled meetings currently.

c. Reports: Disciplinary and Non-Disciplinary Actions, Licensure Statistics, Examination Pass/Fail Report (see agenda for reports)

9:24 am Public exited phone call

6. CLOSED SESSION - CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

MOTION: Gill moved, seconded by Battleson, to enter into closed session at 9:26 a.m. to hear discussions of a confidential nature, and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of the individuals. A voice vote was taken. Voting aye: Battleson, Batter, Davies, Gernant, Gill, Meyerle, Czaja-Stevens, Dittmer (8). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Martinez, Hof (2). Abstain: None (0). Motion carried.

9:33 am Cue-investigations entered room
9:38 am Klaassen- investigations entered room
10:15 am Cue exited room
10:15 am Meyerle exited room
10:21 am Meyerle entered room
10:26 am Battleson exited room
10:46 am Battleson entered room
10:47 am Harrison exited room
10:49 am Harrison entered room

11:44 am Board Break
11:44 am Harrison exited room
11:44 am Lester exited room
11:50 am Meeting resumed closed session

11:55 am Verbal agreement from all board members to enter into open session.

7. OPEN SESSION

Application Reviews, Recommendations, and Report Out

Heather Obara - Provisional Mental Health Practitioner:

MOTION: Davies moved, seconded by Czaja-Stevens, to issue the license subject to a censure and a requirement for 6 hours of in person ethics and professional boundaries coursework, approved by the board. Based on statues 38-178(15) and 38-179(9). A voice vote was taken. Voting aye: Batter, Czaja-Stevens, Davies, Dittmer, Gill, Hof, Meyerle (7). Voting nay: Battleson (1). Absent: Gernant, Martinez (2). Abstain: None (0). Motion carried.

Vincent Mahon- Licensed Independent Mental Health Practitioner:

MOTION: Czaja-Stevens moved, seconded by Dittmer, to recommend denial of application. Based on failure to meet qualification for licensure. A voice vote was taken. Voting aye: Battleson, Batter, Davies, Gernant, Gill, Meyerle, Czaja-Stevens, Dittmer (8). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Martinez, Hof (2). Abstain: None (0). Motion carried.

Rachel Ritton- Licensed Independent Mental Health Practitioner and Certification as a Master Social Worker:

MOTION: Dittmer moved, seconded by Batter, to defer for more information. A voice vote was taken. Voting aye: Battleson, Batter, Davies, Gernant, Gill, Meyerle, Czaja-Stevens, Dittmer (8). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Martinez, Hof (2). Abstain: None (0). Motion carried.

8. ADJOURN

Meyerle declared the meeting adjourned at 11:55 am; the next meeting is scheduled for Jul 7, 2023.

Dale Battleson, Secretary
Board of Mental Health Practice
Summarized by: Licensure Unit