

# *Report of the Nebraska State Board of Health For 2014*

**Mission Statement:** The Board of Health promotes and protects the health and safety of all people in Nebraska by providing expertise and advice on health issues, with input from health care providers and the public, to the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and others regarding:

- Regulatory and legislative issues
- Professional boards
- Educational health programs
- Public health assessment, policy development, and assurance
- Communication/coordination

**Vision:** Healthy people in a healthy Nebraska.

**Staffed by the  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Public Health**

[http://dhhs.ne.gov/pages/reg\\_bdhealth.aspx](http://dhhs.ne.gov/pages/reg_bdhealth.aspx)

## ***2014 BOARD OF HEALTH FACT SHEET***

### ***STATUTORY AUTHORITY:***

- N.R.S. 71-2601 through 71-2611 (Revised July 1, 2007).

### ***MEMBERSHIP and MEETINGS:***

- 17 members appointed by the Governor for five year terms. Three new members were appointed in 2014 due to term expirations or resignations: Shane Fleming, RN, MSN, was reappointed; Joshua Vest, DPM; Kevin Borchert, Pharm D; and Teresa Konda, PE.
- Officers are elected annually in November: Chair Wayne Stuberg, PT; Vice Chair Paul Salansky, OD; and Secretary Diane Jackson, APRN were appointed in Nov 2014.
- Meetings are held the third Monday of odd months, except fourth Monday in January.
- September 2014 the Board met in Wayne as guests of Providence Medical Center. As a cost saving measure, the May and July meetings were consolidated into one meeting held in June.
- 2015 meeting dates: January 26, March 23, June 22, September 21, and November 16.

### ***PROFESSIONAL BOARD APPOINTMENTS:***

- In 2014 there were 103 applicants; 64 interviews conducted; and 54 members appointed or reappointed to 23 different professional boards. Currently there are seven vacant positions.

### ***RULES AND REGULATIONS:***

- Ten sets were approved; and five sets were reviewed in 2014. Work continues on UCA updates.

### ***CREDENTIALING REVIEWS:***

- 2014 reviews on Radiologic Practitioner Assistants; Certified Nurse Midwives; Dental Auxiliaries; Psychology Prescribing; and Surgical First Assistants.

### ***PUBLIC HEALTH, EDUCATION & LEGISLATION:***

- Researched initiatives to develop position statements and prepare news articles.
- Received regular presentations by Bryson Bartels, DHHS Legislative Liaison.
- Received presentation on HIV and Aids Prevention; Meaningful Use Date; and from the Northeast Nebraska Public Health Department.
- Recognized Health 360 Project Access in Lancaster County; and Blasts Off for Healthy Kids in Seward County.

### ***REVIEW PANEL:***

- There is an ad hoc committee to address the potential removal of professional board members for cause, in accordance with 184 NAC Ch. 6. There were no activities in 2014.

### ***CONTACT INFORMATION:***

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*Chair's Report*  
*Nebraska State Board of Health - 2014*  
*Dale Michels, M.D.*

The Board of Health has worked actively in 2014 to support the mission of "Healthy People in a Healthy Nebraska." The work is ongoing and covers a wide variety of activities as noted in the following paragraphs. The work of the Board of Health, the Professional Boards and the public health infrastructure created by the Legislature have all been important parts of dealing with the health challenges for Nebraskans. This year saw the retirement of Helen Meeks and the appointment of Becky Wisell to lead the Licensing Division. Although this is a major change (Helen is the only person to have signed my license for the last 40 years) we are confident that these and other changes will continue to provide the good service that Nebraskan's professionals expect.

- *Regulatory and legislative issues*
  - The Rules and Regulations Committee reviews regulations that are slated for either approval or review by the BOH. The committee has been working to streamline the review process to improve the efficiency of the BOH regulation discussions. There is a lot of work underway to meet the requirements for new and revised regulations due to the Uniform Credentialing Act.
  - The Credentialing Review Committee, which reviews credentialing or scope of practice proposals, has been challenged this year by several impressive assignments.
  - The Public Health, Education and Legislation (PHEL) Committee provides a forum for the discussion of legislative issues.
    - At most Board of Health meetings, a DHHS representative updates the members about legislative issues.
    - Members share their profession's views of legislative issues and work collectively to craft positions that the entire board can support.
  - These Board of Health members testify in person or send letters of testimony on behalf of the Board of Health to convey our concerns on proposed legislation. This year Board of Health members testified or wrote letters about two introduced bills, while tracking an additional two introduced bills.
  
- *Professional Boards*
  - The Professional Boards Committee has been working diligently to meet the goals established in January 2014.
  - Each Board member serves as a liaison to specific professional boards and provides information to the rest of the committee and Board.
  - We have refined a screening process for the professional board applications out of respect for the time of both the applicant and the Board of Health members.
  - We processed 95% of the applications electronically, saving resources.

- *Educational health programs*
  - Besides providing a legislative discussion forum, the Public Health, Education and Legislation (PHEL) Committee offers a mechanism for ongoing board member development by scheduling presentations over topics related to public health assessment, policy development, and public health assurance.
  - The PHEL committee recognizes public health programs and providers who offer exemplary service via the Community Public Health Recognition program. This year the Board recognized Health 360 Project Access in Lancaster County; and Blasts Off for Healthy Kids in Seward County.
  - The Board of Health is very interested in helping educate the public about pertinent health issues that exist in this multi-faceted state.
  
- *Public health assessment, policy development, and assurance*
  - Besides participating in the work of the standing committees, several members serve as members of an ad hoc Review Panel that investigates when an issue concerning a board arises. When presented to the Board of Health, the Review Panel becomes “prosecutors” and the rest of the BOH becomes “jurors”.
  - The Board of Health is grateful to the DHHS staff members who continue to educate the members about the intricacies of public health.
  - Recognizing the important work done around the state by various organizations and entities is a priority for the Board of Health.
  
- *Communication/coordination*
  - In January, the BOH invited key senators and legislative staff to a luncheon at the Nebraska State Capitol Building. The exchange of information and collegiality at these luncheons continue to surpass expectations. We appreciate the opportunity to communicate with the senators about Board of Health concerns and to provide them with advice on health care issues.
  - The BOH plans to continue to build communication bridges with professional boards and chairs. Several incumbent professional board members shared concerns about investigative timelines and decisions.

This completes my second and final year as Chair. It has been a privilege to serve the Board of Health and the people of Nebraska. The work done by the board, through its very dedicated members, continues to provide an important service to all Nebraskans. I have appreciated the opportunity to serve as Chair and also the staff of DHHS whose support makes this job much easier.

## NEBRASKA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH – MEMBERSHIP LIST

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Current Vacancies:  
Chiropractor  
Dentist  
Public Member

Staff:  
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[http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/reg\\_bdhealth.aspx](http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/reg_bdhealth.aspx)  
Dates indicate expiration of terms  
Updated: 1-6-15

## STATE BOARD OF HEALTH – COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2015

<b>Professional Boards</b>	<b>PHEL</b>	<b>Rules and Regs</b>	<b>Credentialing Review</b>
Dale Michels (Chair)	Roger Reamer (Chair)	Kevin Borchert (Chair)	Debra Parsow(Chair)
Russ Hopp (Vice Chair)	Shane Fleming (VC)	Jeromy Warner (VC)	Travis Teetor (Vice)
Teresa Konda	Kevin Borchert	Russell Hopp	Shane Fleming
Tony Moravec	Teresa Konda	Debra Parsow	Tony Moravec
Travis Teetor	Dale Michels	Roger Reamer	Joshua Vest
(new dentist)	Jeromy Warner	Joshua Vest	(new Chiropractor)
(new Public)		(new dentist)	(new Public)
Ex Officio:	Chair: Wayne Stuberg	Vice Chair: Paul Salansky	Secretary: Diane Jackson
Staff: Monica Gissler	Monica Gissler	Kay Pinkley	Ron Briel
Review Panel:		Wayne Stuberg	Jeromy Warner

### 2015 Committee Objectives

#### **Professional Boards Committee**

- ✓ Continue the process of inviting professional board chairs to meet with the Committee.
- ✓ Utilize the prescreening process again to make the best use of our interview times.
- ✓ Continue to build and utilize the database of applicants who were excellent candidates.
- ✓ Continue to work with the professional organizations to increase the pool of applicants.
- ✓ Utilize the recently implemented peer evaluation process for incumbents for the 2010 interviews and develop a method of obtaining feedback from board members and staff about the process.
- ✓ Further define the role of the committee in mediating difficulties among professional board members.
- ✓ Improve upon and continue to use more efficient electronic means of processing application forms.

#### **Public Health, Education, and Legislation Committee**

- ✓ Provide information and education about selected health programs in Nebraska that promote public health and the prevention of health and behavioral health problems.
- ✓ Develop BOH position statements directed toward public health issues that affect Nebraskans.
- ✓ Review, select, prioritize and advocate for proposed legislation that enhances health of Nebraskan's citizens.
- ✓ Advocate and support legislative efforts to enhance opportunities for the education and development of health care professionals in Nebraska, especially in underserved areas.
- ✓ Help plan retreats and provide program content for special meetings of the Board of Health.
- ✓ Promote cooperative efforts with district health departments and other public health entities
- ✓ Honor those public health programs that have worked to improve the lives of Nebraskans

#### **Rules and Regulations Committee**

- ✓ Consider all regulations of the Division of Public Health prior to their presentation to the full Board.
- ✓ Review and recommend to the Board on approval of professional licensing regulations.
- ✓ Review and forward to the Board all other regulations of the Division.

#### **Credentialing Review Committee**

- ✓ Advise the Board regarding proposals for either change in scope of practice or new credentialing.
- ✓ Continue to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Credentialing Review Program.
- ✓ Screen and advise the BOH regarding members of upcoming technical review committees, and advise on which Board of Health members would be appropriate as chairpersons.

The BOH Chair (Gary Westerman, DDS), Vice-Chair (Daryl Wills, DC) and Secretary (Dale Michels, MD) are voting members on all standing committees. All members of the BOH are encouraged to attend interviews whenever possible. All members of the BOH may attend any committee meeting at any time, but only those assigned to the particular committee may vote unless the committee chair states otherwise.

mcg 1/5/15

**State Board of Health**  
**Rules and Regulations Committee**

**Annual Report for 2014**

The State Board of Health is required by law to consider all rules and regulations of the DHHS Division of Public Health. Professional and occupational credentialing regulations must be adopted (or “approved”) by the Board. Other regulations of the Division of Public Health must be advised upon (or “reviewed”) by the Board.

To enhance discussion and improve efficiency of Board meetings, all Public Health regulations come before the Board’s Rules and Regulations Committee prior to the meeting of the full Board.

For most of 2014, Rules and Regulations Committee members were:

Rich Robinson, PE (Chair)  
Jeromy Warner, PsyD, LP (Vice Chair)  
Russell Hopp, DO  
Ken Kester, PharmD, JD  
Debra Parsow (Public member)  
Joshua Vest, DPM  
Gary Westerman, DDS

Staff support for the Rules and Regulations Committee is provided by Kay Pinkley, Regulation Coordinator, DHHS Legal Services.

*Information in italics provides the current status of each regulation.*

**January 27, 2014 Meeting.** The Committee reviewed the following:

177 NAC 1            Determination of the Alcohol Content in Blood or Breath. *These regulations were approved by the Attorney General and the Governor and became effective May 4, 2014.*

The Committee approved the following:

172 NAC 69            Licensure of Crematories. *These new regulations were approved by the Attorney General and the Governor and became effective May 4, 2014.*

172 NAC 91            Licensure of Perfusionists. *These new regulations were approved by the Attorney General and the Governor and became effective April 29, 2014.*

172 NAC 120            Licensure of Optometrists. *These regulations were approved by the Attorney General and the Governor and became effective May 4, 2014.*

## Rules and Regulations Committee

### Activities in 2014

**March 24, 2014 Meeting.** The Committee approved the following:

172 NAC 182        Licensure of Animal Therapists. *These new regulations were later returned unapproved by the Attorney General for a non-substantial correction. A second Board review took place June 16, 2014.*

**June 16, 2014 Meeting.** The Committee reviewed the following:

178 NAC 12        Water Well Construction, Pump Installation, and Water Well Decommissioning Standards. *These regulations were approved by the Attorney General and the Governor and became effective August 26, 2014.*

181 NAC 2         Newborn Screening for Metabolic Disease – Added Severe Combined Immune Deficiencies. *These regulations were approved by the Attorney General and the Governor and became effective August 20, 2014, with an operative date 45 days later.*

181 NAC 10        Newborn Screening for Critical Congenital Heart Disease. *These new regulations were approved by the Attorney General and the Governor and became effective August 20, 2014.*

The Committee approved the following:

172 NAC 182        Licensure of Animal Therapists. *This was a second review; the first was at the March 2014 meeting. The Attorney General had returned the regulations for a non-substantial change, which was approved by the Committee and the Board of Health. The regulations were then approved by the Attorney General and the Governor and became effective August 26, 2014.*

**September 22, 2014 Meeting.** The Committee approved the following:

172 NAC 67        Licensure of Funeral Directors and Embalmers. *These regulations were submitted to the Attorney General on October 10, 2014.*

172 NAC 68        Licensure of Funeral Establishments and Branch Establishments. *These regulations were submitted to the Attorney General on October 10, 2014.*

172 NAC 92        Licensure of Genetic Counselors. *These new regulations were submitted to the Attorney General on October 10, 2014.*



## Rules and Regulations Committee

### Activities in 2014 (continued)

172 NAC 94            Licensure of Independent Mental Health Practitioners, Mental Health Practitioners, Marriage and Family Therapists, Professional Counselors, and Social Workers. *These regulations were revised by the Board of Mental Health Practice after the September 18, 2014 public hearing to add back gender identity as a category protected against discrimination by mental health professionals. The Committee and the Board of Health approved the regulations as revised. Dr. Acierno is considering this change to the regulations.*

The Committee reviewed and recommended a change to the following:

172 NAC 4            Credentialing Review Program. *The Board of Health did not approve the regulations and returned them to the Department for reconsideration.*

**November 17, 2014 Meeting.** The Committee approved the following:

172 NAC 4            Credentialing Review Program. *The Committee and the Board revised these regulations and approved them as revised. The regulations were submitted to the Attorney General for a second review on December 19, 2014.*

## Rules and Regulations Committee

### Goals for 2015

The Rules and Regulations Committee will continue to consider all regulations of the DHHS Division of Public Health prior to their presentation to the Board of Health.

This will include consideration for approval of additional professional and occupational credentialing regulations under the Uniform Credentialing Act (UCA). Of 59 total chapters of UCA regulations, 28 are complete and 31 remain to be revised and converted to the new format for licensing regulations. The new format was introduced to the Board in late 2013. It removes statutory language and process-related material (application details, documentation requirements, internal procedures, etc.) from the licensing regulations. That information will be communicated to applicants and licensees in a separate guide. At this writing, the first three chapters in the new format are in review by the Attorney General.

The Committee will also continue to review all other regulations of the Division of Public Health. This will include program regulations of the following units of the Division:

- Community and Rural Health Planning
- Epidemiology and Informatics
- Environmental Health
- Health Promotion
- Lifespan Health Services

To: Members of the Nebraska State Board of Health  
From: Debra Parsow, Chairperson of the Credentialing Review Committee  
Subject: 2014 Annual Report of the Credentialing Review Committee of the Nebraska State Board of Health  
Date: November 17, 2014

***Committee Duties and Responsibilities:***

*The 2013 assignment was to continue to work toward improving the efficiency of the Credentialing Review Program, to assist the full Board with any new credentialing reviews that arise, to assist the full Board generate its advice in the appointment of new technical review committees, and to assist the full Board appoint new members to the two credentialing review pools.*

***Current Committee Members:***

Deb Parsow; Wayne Stuberger, PhD., PT (Vice Chair); Janet Coleman; Roger Reamer, MBA; Travis Teetor, MD; Shane Fleming, RN; Anthony Moravec, DVM;

***Staff:*** Ron Briel

***Goals for 2014 were as follows:***

- 1) Advise the full Board regarding proposals for either change in scope of practice or new credentialing,
- 2) Continue to work towards improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Credentialing Review Program, and,
- 3) Advise the Board regarding members of upcoming technical review committees, and advise on which Board members would be appropriate as chairpersons. Advise the Board regarding members of the two credentialing review pools.

***Activities for 2014 were as follows:***

During the January 9, 2014 special meeting of the Credentialing Review Committee recommendations were generated on the Dental Anesthesia proposal. The Committee members advised the full Board to recommend in favor of this proposal. The members of the full Board of Health generated their recommendations on this proposal during the afternoon session of their bimonthly meeting on January 27, 2014.

During the bimonthly morning meeting on January 27, 2014 the Committee members advised the full Board regarding the appointment of the Certified Nurse Midwifery Technical Review Committee. During the afternoon session the full Board approved the persons recommended for this Committee and forwarded them to Dr. Acierno for his consideration pursuant to his appointment of this Committee. Also during this afternoon session the members of the full Board approved their report of recommendations on the Optometry proposal for change in scope of practice that they generated during their previous bimonthly meeting.

During their March 24, 2014 bimonthly meeting the Committee members interviewed candidates for membership in the credentialing review pools. During the afternoon session the members of the full Board appointed those volunteers recommended to them by the members of the Committee. Also during this afternoon session the members of the full Board approved their report of

recommendations on the Dental Anesthesia proposal that they generated at the previous bimonthly meeting.

During their June 16, 2014 bimonthly meeting the Committee members advised the full Board on the appointment of the members of the Surgical First Assistants' Technical Review Committee. The names of those recommended for this Committee were then forwarded to Dr. Acierno for his consideration pursuant to his appointment of this Committee. Also during this meeting the Committee members conducted interviews of candidates for membership on the credentialing review pools. During the afternoon session the members of the full Board appointed those volunteers recommended to them by the members of the Committee.

The Committee members held a special meeting on August 11, 2014 to review the Radiologic Practitioner Assistants' proposal to formulate advice the full Board regarding this proposal. The members of the full Board made their recommendations on this proposal during the afternoon session of their September 22, 2014 bimonthly meeting.

During the November 17, 2014 bimonthly meeting the members of the full Board approved their report on the Radiologic Practitioner Assistants' proposal and the Annual Report of the Credentialing Review Committee.

**Goals for 2015 are as follows:**

- 1) Advise the full Board regarding proposals for either change in scope of practice or new credentialing,
- 2) Continue to work towards improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Credentialing Review Program, and,
- 3) Advise the Board regarding members of upcoming technical review committees, and advise on which Board members would be appropriate as chairpersons. Advise the Board regarding members of the two credentialing review pools.

**Assignment for 2015 are as follows:**

The 2015 assignment is to continue to work toward improving the efficiency of the Credentialing Review Program, to assist the full Board with any new credentialing reviews that arise, to assist the full Board to generate its advice in the appointment of new technical review committees, and to assist the full Board to appoint new members to the two credentialing review pools.

To: Members of the Nebraska State Board of Health  
From: Diane Jackson, APRN, Chair, Professional Boards Committee  
Subject: 2014 Annual Report of the Professional Boards Committee of the  
Nebraska State Board of Health  
Date: November 17, 2014

**Committee Members:**

Diane Jackson, APRN (Chair); Russ Hopp, DO (Vice Chair); Janet Coleman, Public Member; Tony Moravec, DVM; Rich Robinson, PE; Joshua Vest, DPM; and Gary Westerman, DDS.

*Officers Ex-Officio Members:* Chair Dale Michels, MC; Vice Chair Daryl Wills, DC; and Secretary Paul Salansky, OD.

*Staff:* Monica Gissler

**Committee Duties and Responsibilities:**

In November 2013, the current Committee Chair and members established the following goals for this committee in 2014:

- ✓ Continue the process of inviting professional board chairs to meet with the Committee.
- ✓ Utilize the prescreening process again to make the best use of our interview times.
- ✓ Continue to build and utilize the database of applicants who were excellent candidates.
- ✓ Continue to work with the professional organizations to increase the pool of applicants.
- ✓ Utilize the recently implemented peer evaluation process for incumbents and develop a method of obtaining feedback from board members and staff about the process.
- ✓ Further define the role of the committee in mediating difficulties among professional board members.
- ✓ Improve upon and continue to use more efficient electronic means of processing application forms.

**Activities for 2014:**

***January:***

Committee members conducted 3 interviews this morning; one had been cancelled yesterday.

1. Nursing Entities – Karen Bowen, RN. Main topics included how various nursing entities overlap in their scope, and publications of non-disciplinary actions.
2. The committed was scheduled to conduct one interview for the current vacancy on the Board of Nursing, but the applicant withdrew earlier this morning. We had no applicants for the Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists and Board of Registered Environmental Health Specialists vacancies.
3. 2014 Vacancy Schedule – revised format. The 2014 vacancy list is long, but includes many incumbents who are eligible for reappointment.

**March:**

Committee members conducted five interviews this morning.

- *Board of Nursing:* Staff Nurse Member, partial term through 11/30/2015  
Wendy Kallhoff, RN, of Columbus, Congressional District 3 working in Acute Care.
- *Board of Nursing, Nursing Service Administrator:*  
Dawn Straub, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, of Omaha, Congressional District 2, working in Acute Care

*Board of Registered Environmental Health Specialists:* No applicants

*Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists:* No applicants

Rene Tiedt, Program Manager for the Rehab and Community Services Section of the Licensure Unit, attended the morning meeting to provide an overview of the boards her area is responsible for. She addressed the current difficulty in recruiting applicants for the Board of Registered Environmental Health Specialists and the Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists.

**June:**

Committee members conducted 17 interviews this morning.

*Board of Medical Nutrition Therapy:* Appoint Jean Guest, PhD, RD, LMNT of Lincoln to fill a partial term of June 17, 2014 to November 30, 2015

*Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists:* Appoint Misti Chmiel, BC-HIS of Lincoln to fill a partial term of June 17, 2014 to November 30, 2018.

Ms. Jackson reviewed the application and appointment dates for the current professional boards recruiting cycle. There are over 50 positions with terms expiring in November. Interviews will be conducted on September 21<sup>st</sup> in Wayne and on October 5<sup>th</sup> in Lincoln.

**August:**

Committee members prescreened applicants. A total of 76 individuals applied and 6 were scheduled for interviews in Wayne. October 5<sup>th</sup> was added to conduct interviews in Lincoln. In an effort to save printing and postage costs, applications were scanned into PDF files and sent electronically to committee members. There are several vacancies for which there were no applicants. This year had the lowest amount of applicants per position in at least 15 years, and the highest number of incumbents who were eligible for reappointment, but chose not to seek it. Many stated the requirement to commit to remaining in active practice for the next five years as the reason, as several are approaching retirement.

**September:**

Committee members conducted five interviews and reviewed applications for appointments to 23 professional boards on the Sunday before the regular Board of Health meeting held in Wayne.

*Board of Advance Practice Registered Nurses*

Appoint Barb Foss, APRN (FNP-C) of Elwood to the term of 12/1/2014-11/30/2019.

*Board of Athletic Training:*

Reappoint Lisa Moore, ATC of Omaha for the term of 12/1/2014-11/30/2019.

*Board of Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology*

Audiologist: Reappoint Craig Foss, AuD of Grand Island for the term of 12/1/2014-11/30/2019  
Speech-Language Pathologist: Reappoint Jana Green, MS, CCC-SLP of Minden for the term of 12/1/2014-11/30/2019.

*Board of Cosmetology, Electrology, Esthetics, Nail Technology, and Body Art:*

Reappoint Becky Pettigrew of Valentine to the Nail Technician Member term of 12/1/2014-11/30/2019.

*Board of Medicine and Surgery:*

Reappoint Jeffrey Howorth of Lincoln to the Public Member term of 12/1/2014-11/30/2019.  
Reappoint Merle Henkenius of Lincoln to the Public Member term of 12/1/2014-11/30/2019.

*Board of Mental Health Practice:*

Reappoint Dale Battleson, PhD of Omaha to the Certified Marriage and Family Therapist Member term of 12/1/2014-11/30/2019.

*Board of Nursing:*

Reappoint Karen Weidner, RN, MSN, CPNP of Madison to the Associate Degree or Diploma Nurse Educator Member term of 12/1/2014-11/30/2019.

*Board of Nursing Home Administration:*

Appoint Kevin Moriarty, NHA of Holdrege to the Nonprofit Home Member term of 12/1/2014-11/30/2019.  
Reappoint Renea Gernant, PhD of Louisville to the College Faculty member term of 12/1/2014-11/30/2019.  
Reappoint Scott Bahe, NHA of Gothenburg to the Proprietary Home Member term of 12/1/2014-11/30/2019.

*Board of Optometry:*

Reappoint Robert Vandervort of Omaha to the Optometrist Member term of 12/1/2014-11/30/2019.  
Reappoint Michael O'Hara, JD, PhD of Omaha to the Public Member term of 12/1/2014-11/30/2019. *(He is running for political office, and will need to resign if elected on Nov 4.)*

*Board of Physical Therapy:*

Reappoint Thomas Victor of Omaha to the Public Member term of 12/1/2014-11/30/2019.

*Physician Assistant Committee:*

Reappoint David Hoelting, MD of Pender to the Supervising Physician Member term of 12/1/2014-11/30/2019.  
Reappoint Tom Bassett of Lincoln to the Public Member term of 12/1/2014-11/30/2019.

*Board of Podiatry:*

Reappoint Richard Raska, DPM of North Platte to the Podiatrist Member term of 12/1/2014-11/30/2019.

*Board of Psychology:*

Appoint Gregory Snyder, PhD of Omaha to the Psychologist Member term of 12/1/2014-11/30/2019.

Reappoint Christy Rentmeester, PhD of Omaha to the Public Member term of 12/1/2014-11/30/2019.

*Board of Registered Environmental Health Specialists:*

Reappoint Michael Gould, REHS of North Platte to the REHS member term of 12/1/2014-11/30/2019.

*Board of Respiratory Care:*

Reappoint William Johnson, MD of Lincoln to the Physician Member term of 12/1/2014-11/30/2019.

*Board of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery:*

Reappoint James Unwin, DVM of Oakland to the Public Member term of 12/1/2014-11/30/2019.

Appoint Linda Heiden of Bertrand to the Public Member term of 12/1/2014-11/30/2019.

**October:**

Conducted 20 interviews on October 5, 2014 in Lincoln, and formed Committee recommendations for those positions still under consideration. Five positions were reposted on the DHHS Vacancy Page website for continued recruitment.

**November:**

1. The following individuals were appointed, most with terms through November 30, 2019, unless indicated otherwise:

Committee members conducted 17 interviews this morning. Unless noted otherwise, terms are from December 1, 2014-November 30, 2019.

*Board of Alcohol and Drug Counseling:* Appoint two Alcohol and Drug Counselors:

Lori Cleveland, LADC of Grand Island

Jody Gilfillan, MAA, LADC of Lincoln

For Public Member, appoint Tomeka Johnson of Omaha

*Board of Chiropractic:* Appoint Jeremiah Rethwisch, DC of Lincoln

*Board of Cosmetology, Electrology, Esthetics, Nail Technology, and Body Art*

Instructor: Pamela Rowland of Omaha

*Board of Dentistry*

Dentists: Reappoint Charles Bauer, DDS of Hastings; and

appoint John Thomas, DMD, MPA of LaVista

Dental Hygienists: Reappoint Cynthia Gaskill, RDH, MAE of Aurora; and

appoint Lisa Kucera, RDH, BSG of Omaha

Public: Reappoint Mary Sneckenberg of Lincoln

*Board of Funeral Directing and Embalming*

Arvid Wiest of Beatrice

*Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists*

Edward Granger, HIS of Omaha

*Board of Medical Nutrition Therapy*

Nancy Bertolino, MS, RD, LMNT of Papillion; and

Crystal Zabka Belsky, MS, RD, CSSD, LMNT of Gretna

*Board of Medical Radiography*

Reappoint James Temme, RT(R) (QM) of Omaha

*Board of Medicine and Surgery*

Reappoint Michael Bittles, MD of West Point

*Board of Mental Health Practice*

Certified Master Social Worker: Terrance Moore, MSW, CMSW, LIMHP of Omaha

Public: Alan Green, MPA of Lincoln

*Board of Nursing*

Staff Nurse – Acute: Kristine Perrin, RN of Scottsbluff

Practical Nurse Educator: Kathleen Pepin, PhD, MSN, RN of Papillion

Public: Rita Thalken of Lincoln

*Board of Pharmacy*

Reappoint Patricia Gollner, PharmD, RP of Hastings

*Board of Physical Therapy*

Reappoint Rachel Reiman, PT, MSHCA of Omaha

*Physician Assistant Committee*

Physician Assistant: Appoint Tamara Dolphens, MPAS, PA-C of Omaha

Supervising Physician: Reappoint \*David Hoelting, MD of Pender

Public Member: Reappoint \*Tom Bassett of Lincoln

There are seven positions for which there were no applicants. These will roll over to 2015.

**Goals for 2015:**

1. Formalize and continue the process of inviting professional board chairpersons to meet with the Committee and discuss how their board functions and any concerns or issues they have that the Board of Health might address. Increase the number of board members maintaining contact with the assigned professional boards to enhance communication and clarify BOH members function at professional board meetings. Discuss possibilities for consolidation or mergers of boards.
2. Utilize the prescreening process again to make the best use of our interview times. If the Board of Health conducts a regular meeting in 2014 outside of Lincoln, interviews may also be offered at this location on the previous day for the convenience of applicants. The prescreening process will be continue to be evaluated and revised as necessary. There are 43 scheduled professional board vacancies in 2015.
3. Continue to work with professional organizations to increase the pool of qualified applicants for positions. Urge organizations to nominate at least three members for consideration.
4. Utilize the peer evaluation process for incumbents for the 2015 interviews and develop a method of obtaining feedback from board members and staff about the process.
5. Continue to build and utilize the data base of professional board applicants who were excellent candidates, but for various reasons were not appointed to the positions they were seeking. Continue to develop and use protocol for notification, content of the letter or to be handled on an individual basis based upon the Professional Board recommendations. These applicants should receive consideration for the Credentialing Review Pool or PREP.
6. Further define the role of the committee in mediating issues with professional board members.
7. Develop guidelines for the appointment of individuals who wish to serve concurrently on more a Professional Board as well as the Credentialing Review Pool.



## Public Health, Education and Legislation Committee

To: Members of the Nebraska State Board of Health  
From: Roger Reamer, Committee Chair  
Subject: 2014 Report of the Public Health, Education and Legislation Committee of the Nebraska State Board of Health  
Date: November 17, 2014

### ***Committee Members:***

Roger Reamer (Chair); Ken Kester, PharmD, JD (Vice Chair); Kevin Borchert, PharmD; Ed Discoe, MD; Shane Fleming, RN; Diane Jackson, APRN; Wayne Stuberg, PhD, PT; Travis Teeter, MD; and Jeromy Warner, EdD.

***Officers:*** Dale Michels, MD (Chair); Daryl Wills, DC (Vice Chair); and Paul Salansky, OD (Secretary).

***Staff:*** Monica Gissler

### ***Committee Duties and Responsibilities:***

The Public Health, Education, and Legislation (PHEL) Committee met in person five times and via conference call once during 2014 and worked toward the following committee objective: To identify and promote public education and legislation to enhance the health, mental health, and living environment of all residents of Nebraska.

### ***Committee Objectives for 2014:***

- ✓ Provide information and education about selected health programs in Nebraska that promote public health and the prevention of health and behavioral health problems.
- ✓ Develop BOH position statements directed toward public health issues that affect Nebraskans.
- ✓ Review, select, prioritize and advocate for proposed legislation that enhances health of Nebraskan's citizens.
- ✓ Advocate and support legislative efforts to enhance opportunities for the education and development of health care professionals in Nebraska, especially in underserved areas.
- ✓ Help plan retreats and provide program content for special meetings of the Board of Health.
- ✓ Promote cooperative efforts with district health departments and other public health entities
- ✓ Honor those public health programs that have worked to improve the lives of Nebraskans

### ***Activities in 2014:***

#### **January:**

Dr. Kester, Vice Chair of the Public Health, Education and Legislation Committee, listed bills of interest to his committee, as determined during a committee conference call held on January 23, 2014, and committee discussion held the morning of January 27<sup>th</sup>. Conference call participants included Mr. Reamer, Dr. Kester, Ms. Jackson, Dr. Michels, Dr. Warner, and staff Monica Gissler and Helen Meeks.

There are three categories that the Board of Health places legislative bills in:  
 Category 1: Take action on; 2: Monitor and take possible action on, and 3: monitor.

<b>BILL</b>	<b>INTRODUCER</b>	<b>BOARD OF HEALTH PRIORITIES 2014</b>
807	Harms	Change provisions relating to provisional operator's permits, interactive wireless communication devices, and occupant protection systems and update references to certain federal provisions. (Make primary offense.)
843	Johnson	Change provisions relating to membership on the Board of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery. (No two members work for same employer.)
916	Crawford, Hansen, Krist	Eliminate integrated practice agreements and change provisions regarding nurse practitioners.
1017	Krist	Change and transfer pharmacy, prescription, and drug provisions.
		<b>2013 CARRY OVER BOH PRIORITY BILLS</b>
187	Nelson	Appropriate funds to the Department of Health and Human Services to fund the Dental Health Director. Portions amended into LB195. ??
428	Haar	Change permitted practice provisions for certified nurse midwives.
526	Howard	Change optometry licensure and certification to perform minor surgery and use pharmaceutical agents.
527	Howard	Change optometry licensure and certification to use pharmaceutical agents.

Board of Health support means providing testimony or sending a letter stating any concerns. For each of the support and opposition bills listed above, the Board will send a letter and/or testify. To take a position on a legislative bill, a supermajority of 12 votes is required. Dr. Kester made a motion to approve these legislative bills as the official Board of Health bills of interest for 2014, with the exception of LB523. Motion carried.

Public Health Recognition – Health 360 Project Access. This program provides uninsured individuals and their families in Lancaster County, Nebraska access to medical care and medications on a sliding fee based on household income. There are three components: medical assistance started in 2003; access to specialty medical care started in 2007; and access to primary care started in 2012. They collaborate with many community agencies and connect with over 80 local human services agencies.

**March:**

Board members shared their observations regarding the pros and cons of the Legislative luncheon.

Mr. Reamer reviewed the current status of legislative bills that the Board of Health is tracking.

Public Health Recognition – There were no new nominations this month. Dr. Michels presented a certificate to the Lancaster County Medical Society for their Health 360 Project Access program.

Ann Chambers, BSDH, MS is the Public Education Coordinator for the DHHS program for HIV and AIDS Prevention. She provided some brochures for Board of Health members. We will request that she attend the June meeting to provide an overview to the whole Board of her program and current efforts.

## **June:**

Matt Gelvin, staff, reported that they reviewed the final list of legislative bills passed during the 2014 regular session, and the list of interim studies. Details of the September 22<sup>nd</sup> Board of Health meeting to be held at Providence Medical Center in Wayne were discussed. There were no Public Health Recognitions this month.

Ann Chambers, BSDH, MS, Public Education Coordinator for the DHHS program for HIV and AIDS Prevention, gave an informative presentation on this program.

## **September:**

Interim studies: A list of current interim studies was reviewed.

September is Emergency Preparedness Month. There are several resources on the DHHS website.

Mr. Reamer reminded members to nominate any worthy organizations for a public recognition. It was suggested that the nomination form be posted on the Board of Health website, along with information on programs recently recognized.

Mr. Gelvin presented information on potential DHHS programs for educational presentations to the Board of Health.

Legislative Luncheon – To be held on January 26, 2015 at the Nebraska State Capitol Building. There will be a PHEL Committee conference call on January 22 to review introduced legislative bills.

## **November:**

There will be a PHEL conference call on January 22, 2015 to discuss introduced bills. The legislative luncheon for January 26<sup>th</sup> was also discussed.

## **Blast Off For Healthy Kids.**

Memorial Health Care Systems developed this program as one way to fight back against childhood obesity. Statistics show that childhood obesity is a worsening trend that stands to threaten the health and wellness of our vulnerable children. In an effort to help combat this dangerous development, three years ago MHCS began a program working with elementary school students to provide important, relevant, easy-to-understand information about making healthy lifestyle choices.

The “5, 4, 3, 2, 1 BLAST OFF FOR HEALTHY KIDS!” campaign is targeted to young children in grades 1-4, and is based on five basic tenets that teach children about healthy nutrition and exercise choices. They impact and educate parents as well by sharing information through materials sent home with their child, and they work to keep the message alive through community presence of their seven foot ‘carrot’ found at parades and community events as a constant reminder. MHCS staff provide a 25-30 minute upbeat, educational ½ hour presentation to all Milford and Seward Elementary School students in grades 1 through 4, and this year they will add the Centennial (Utica, NE) elementary school.

The State Board of Health recognizes their success with a Public Health Recognition.

***Committee Objectives for 2015:***

Continue the work from 2014. There are many deserving public health programs taking place across the state. We would like to recognize more of these programs and share the news of their good work.

- ✓ Provide information and education about selected health programs in Nebraska that promote public health and the prevention of health and behavioral health problems.
- ✓ Develop BOH position statements directed toward public health issues that affect Nebraskans.
- ✓ Review, select, prioritize and advocate for proposed legislation that enhances health of Nebraskan's citizens.
- ✓ Advocate and support legislative efforts to enhance opportunities for the education and development of health care professionals in Nebraska, especially in underserved areas.
- ✓ Help plan retreats and provide program content for special meetings of the Board of Health.
- ✓ Promote cooperative efforts with district health departments and other public health entities
- ✓ Honor those public health programs that have worked to improve the lives of Nebraskans