

**PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT COMMITTEE
CONFERENCE CALL MEETING MINUTES**

April 20, 2018

ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Physician Assistant Committee was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Tamara Dolphens, PA-C, Chairperson, in Lower Level B Meeting Room of the Nebraska State Office Building, located at 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska. The Agenda was sent to the Board members and other interested parties and was posted on the bulletin board on the 1st floor of the NSOB prior to the meeting. The following members answered the initial roll call:

Tamara Dolphens, PA-C, Chairman
Tom Bassett, Secretary
Michael Bittles, MD
Kathleen Tonkin, PA-C

Absent: David Hoelting, MD, Vice-Chair

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened. Present from the Department was Kathie Lueke, Program Manager; Jan Gadeken-Harris, Health Licensing Coordinator; Anna Harrison, Compliance Monitor; Mindy Lester, Assistant Attorney General; Kathleen Krueger, Investigator, Department of Investigations.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Hoelting moved, seconded by Bassett, to adopt the agenda as presented. Voting aye: Bassett, Dolphens, Tonkin and Bittles. Voting nay: none. Absent: Hoelting. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tonkin moved, seconded by Bassett, to approve the meeting minutes of January 12, 2018 as written. Voting aye: Bassett, Tonkin, Bittles and Dolphens. Voting nay: none. Absent: Hoelting. Motion carried.

2:02 p.m. David Hoelting, MD joined the meeting and answered the roll call at that time.

INVESTIGATIONAL REPORTS – CLOSED SESSION

Bittles moved, seconded by Bassett, to go into closed session at 2:03 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: Hoelting, Bassett, Tonkin, Bittles and Dolphens. Voting nay: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.

Tonkin moved, seconded by Bittles to return to open session at 2:25 p.m. Voting aye: Hoelting, Bassett, Tonkin, Bittles and Dolphens. Voting nay: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.

2018 LEGISLATION – OPEN SESSION

Updates of the different legislative bills that are being followed by the Physician Assistant Committee were discussed.

The following list of bills were available for review by the committee prior to the meeting:

LB 701 - Provide for telehealth practice by physicians and physician assistants

Current Status: **Approved by the Governor on April 11, 2018**

LB703 - Provide a licensure exemption for visiting athletic team physicians as prescribed

Current Status: Incorporated as an amendment to LB1034, which was presented to the Governor on April 18, 2018

LB704 - Change provisions relating to foreign medical graduates

Current Status: Incorporated as an amendment to LB1034, which was presented to the Governor on April 18, 2018

LB731- Requires continuing education regarding the prescribing of opiates and changes provisions relating to the dispensing of controlled substances

Current Status: **Approved by the Governor on April 19, 2018**

38-145 (6) Beginning with the first license renewal period which begins on or after October 1, 2018, the continuing competency requirements for a nurse midwife, dentist, physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, podiatrist, and veterinarian who prescribes controlled substances shall include at least three hours of continuing education biennially regarding prescribing opiates as defined in section 28-401. The continuing education may include, but is not limited to, education regarding prescribing and administering opiates, the risks and indicators regarding development of addiction to opiates, and emergency opiate situations. One-half hour of the three hours of continuing education shall cover the prescription drug monitoring program described in sections 71-2454 to 71-2456. This subsection terminates on January 1, 2029.

LB 788 - Require continuing education for health care professionals regarding opiate prescriptions

Current Status: Incorporated as an amendment to LB731. **Approved by the Governor on April 19, 2018**

LB 834 – Provide for waiver of certain occupational and licensing fees as prescribed

Current Status: Indefinitely postponed by the legislature as of April 18, 2018

LB 836 – Provide for minors' consent to certain mental health services as prescribed

Current Status: Indefinitely postponed by the legislature as of April 18, 2018

LB 897 – Change medical providers' duties under offense of failure to report injury or violence

Current Status: Placed on General File with AM2342 March 12, 2018

LB 931 – Provide requirements for opiate prescriptions

Current Status: **Approved by the Governor on April 4, 2018**

LB 933 - Provide prescription requirements for certain controlled substances

Current Status: Incorporated as an amendment to LB931. **Approved by the Governor on April 4, 2018**

LB 934 - Require identification prior to receipt of dispensed opiates

Current Status: Incorporated as an amendment to LB931. **Approved by the Governor on April 4, 2018**

LB 979 – Authorize physician assistants and nurse practitioners to render expert opinions

Current Status: Indefinitely postponed by the legislature as of April 18, 2018

NEBRASKA ACADEMY OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS (NAPA) SPRING MEETING

Kathleen Tonkin, PA-C attended the meeting held April 4-7, 2018 in Kearney, NE. Tonkin's noted that the 2018 Legislation bills concerning Opioids were discussed. No other comments were noted.

ADJOURNMENT

Hoelting moved, seconded by Bittles to adjourn the meeting at 2:32 p.m. Voting aye: Hoelting, Bassett, Tonkin, Bittles and Dolphens. Voting nay: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

signature available upon request

Tom Bassett, Secretary
Physician Assistant Committee