

**PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
August 2, 2019**

**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 the Licensure Unit LU 1 Meeting Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor of the Nebraska State Office Building, located at 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska. The Agenda was sent to the Committee members and other interested parties and was posted on the bulletin board on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the NSOB prior to the meeting. The following members answered the initial roll call:

Tamara Dolphens, PA-C, Chairperson  
David Hoelting, MD, Vice-Chair  
Tom Bassett, Secretary

Absent: John Massey, MD  
Kathleen Tonkin, PA-C

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened. Present from the Department was Jesse Cushman, Program Manager; Jan Gaden-Harris, Health Licensing Coordinator; Mindy Lester, Assistant Attorney General and Kathleen Krueger, 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.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Hoelting moved, seconded by Bassett, to approve the meeting minutes of May 31, 2019 as written. Voting aye: Bassett, Dolphens, Hoelting. Voting nay: None. Absent: Massey and Tonkin. Motion carried.

**INVESTIGATIONAL REPORTS – CLOSED SESSION**

Bassett moved, seconded by Hoelting, 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: Bassett, Dolphens, Hoelting. Voting nay: None. Absent: Massey and Tonkin. Motion carried.

Hoelting moved, seconded by Bassett, to open the session at 3:00 p.m. Voting aye: Bassett, Dolphens, Hoelting. Voting nay: None. Absent: Massey and Tonkin. Motion carried.

**2019 LEGISLATION UPDATES – 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:

LB25 - Provide for additional fees under the Uniform Credentialing Act and create the Patient Safety Cash Fund

Current Status: Approved by the Governor March 12, 2019  
Effective January 1, 2020 In addition to the fees established under section 38-155, each applicant for the initial issuance and renewal of a credential to practice as a

physician or an osteopathic physician under the Medicine and Surgery Practice Act shall pay a patient safety fee of fifty dollars and to practice as a physician assistant under the Medicine and Surgery Practice Act shall pay a patient safety fee of twenty dollars, which fee shall be collected biennially with the initial or renewal fee for the credential. Revenue from such fee shall be remitted to the State Treasurer for credit to the Patient Safety Cash Fund. The patient safety fee shall terminate on January 1, 2026, unless extended by the Legislature.

LB29 - Provide and eliminate telehealth provisions.

Current Status: Approved by the Governor March 21, 2019

LB37 - Change the Podiatry Practice Act to authorize a physician assistant to assist a podiatrist

Current Status: Indefinitely postponed

LB489 - Require registration for the prescription drug monitoring system

Current Status: No change

LB556 - Change provisions relating to prescriptions for controlled substances and the prescription drug monitoring program

Current Status: Approved by the Governor May 1, 2019

LB557 - Change provisions relating to prescriptions for controlled substances

Current Status: Provisions/portions of [LB557](#) amended into [LB556](#) by [AM383](#)

On May 31, 2019

The Committee had no further comments on the Legislation.

## **REGULATIONS UPDATE**

There are no updates at this time.

## **CREDENTIALING REVIEW (407) PROGRAM**

The Credentialing Review (407) Program was created to review proposals for changes in scope of practice or for new credentialing on the part of representatives of Nebraska health professions.

The Credentialing Review 407 Program announced the beginning of a Credentialing Review of a proposal from Nebraska's Physician Assistants to make changes in their current licensure statute.

Credentialing review is a three-stage process conducted by the following review bodies in the following order:

- 1.The technical review committee
- 2.The review of the State Board of Health
- 3.The review of the Director of the Division of Public Health

The Technical Review Committee meetings were held on May 30, 2019 and June 24, 2019. There is a third meeting scheduled for August 12, 2019. To review the (NAPA) Nebraska Academy of Physician Assistants Letter of Intent, the minutes from the meetings and the upcoming agenda, please visit the DHHS website.

<http://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Credentialing-Review-Physician-Assistant.aspx>

## **NCCPA CERTIFICATION MAINTENANCE PROCESS**

Certification through the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants was discussed. Maintaining your certification requires earning CME and passing either PANRE or the Pilot Alternative to PANRE.

### **TERM EXPIRATION FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Bassett and Hoelting's current term limits will be expiring on 11/30/2019. They both have served 10 year terms and are not eligible to renew. Contact the Board of Health if you or anyone you know may be interested in applying. Applications will be submitted to the Professional Boards Committee of the Board of Health for review. This Committee will screen applications in early August to determine who they want to interview.

### **EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT**

Jesse Cushman reminded the Committee that all state travel expenses must be submitted to the Department within 30 days of the final day of travel to meet the requirements of Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-1174.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business Bassett moved, seconded by Hoelting to adjourn the meeting at 3:24 p.m. Voting aye: Bassett, Dolphens, Hoelting. Voting nay: None. Absent: Massey and Tonkin. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

\*signature available upon request\*

Tom Bassett, Secretary  
Physician Assistant Committee