

**PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
August 28, 2020**

**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 meeting was held by WebEx. 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  
Kathleen Tonkin, PA-C, Vice-Chairperson  
Merle Henkenius, Secretary  
Corrigan McBride, MD  
John Massey, MD

Absent: None

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened. Present from the Department was Jesse Cushman, Program Manager and Jan Gadeken-Harris, Health Licensing Coordinator; Mindy Lester, Assistant Attorney General, Kathleen Kruger, Investigator with the Investigation Unit and Anna Harrison, Compliance Monitor, from Licensing and Investigations.

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**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Massey moved, seconded by Tonkin, to approve the meeting minutes of July 24, 2020 as written. Voting aye: Dolphens, Henkenius, Massey, McBride and Tonkin. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

**2020 LEGISLATION UPDATES**

The 106th Legislature, 2nd Session, has now adjourned with no appointed date for resumption.

The following is a list of some of the legislative bills that were being followed by the Physician Assistant Committee:

LB772 - Change the scope of practice for physician assistants  
Current Status: Provisions/portions of LB772 were amended into LB755 by AM2480  
To see the Final Reading/Slip Law of LB755 please visit:  
<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/106/PDF/Slip/LB755.pdf>

LB922 - Require electronic issuance of prescriptions for controlled substances as prescribed  
Current Status: Indefinitely postponed.  
For recent updates and to learn more about LB922, please visit:  
<https://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/106/PDF/Intro/LB922.pdf>

**REGULATIONS UPDATE**

A Public Hearing has been scheduled for Title 172 Chapter 90, proposed amendments to the Licensure and Supervision of Physician Assistants for October 5, 2020 at 10:00a.m. in the Nebraska State Office Building, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE.

For updates on the schedule for Public Hearing Notices for Draft Regulations, please visit the Secretary of State website link listed below:

<https://www.nebraska.gov/nesos/rules-and-regs/regtrack/index.cgi>

**INVESTIGATIONAL REPORTS – CLOSED SESSION**

Massey moved, seconded by Henkenius, to go into closed session at 2:18 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: Dolphens, Henkenius, Massey, McBride and Tonkin. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Tonkin moved, seconded by Henkenius, to open the session at 2:25 p.m. Voting aye: Dolphens, Henkenius, Massey, McBride and Tonkin. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

**APPLICATION(S) REVIEW – OPEN SESSION**

GOPALDAS, BHAVINI, PA - application for an Initial Physician Assistant License: Massey moved, seconded by Henkenius to recommend issuing a license to practice as a Physician Assistant. Voting aye: Dolphens, Henkenius, Massey, McBride and Tonkin. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

**EMAIL BALLOTS SINCE LAST MEETING**

Since their last meeting, the Committee voted via e-mail ballots:

CARTHEL, JASON, PA – application for an Initial license. The Committee recommended approval to issue a license to practice as a Physician Assistant.

**COVID-19 DISCUSSION**

There was no discussion by the Committee.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business Tonkin moved, seconded by McBride to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 p.m. Voting aye: Dolphens, Henkenius, Massey, McBride and Tonkin. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

\*signature available upon request\*

Merle Henkenius, Secretary  
Physician Assistant Committee