

**PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
November 22, 2019**

**ROLL CALL**

The meeting of the Physician Assistant Committee was called to order at 2:05 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  
Kathleen Tonkin, PA-C

Absent: John Massey, MD

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

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Bassett moved, seconded by Hoelting, to approve the meeting minutes of September 27, 2019 as written. Voting aye: Bassett, Dolphens, Hoelting and Tonkin. Voting nay: None. Absent: Massey. Motion carried.

**INVESTIGATIONAL REPORTS – CLOSED SESSION**

Hoelting moved, seconded by Tonkin, to go into closed session at 2:07 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 and Tonkin. Voting nay: None. Absent: Massey. Motion carried.

Hoelting moved, seconded by Tonkin, to open the session at 2:21 p.m. Voting aye: Bassett, Dolphens, Hoelting and Tonkin. Voting nay: None. Absent: Massey. Motion carried.

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

CONROY, SEAN KEVIN STEPHEN, PA-C - application for Reinstatement of a Physician Assistant License: Hoelting moved, seconded by Bassett to recommend issuing a reinstatement license to practice as a Physician Assistant. Voting aye: Bassett, Dolphens, Hoelting and Tonkin. Voting nay: None. Absent: Massey. Motion carried.

## **2019 LEGISLATION UPDATES**

LB112 - Provides for waiver of certain occupational and licensing fees as prescribed

Current Status: Approved by Governor on March 21, 2019

LB112 will be effective January 1, 2020. It provides for a waiver of the initial licensure fee for low-income individuals, military families and young workers. It does not eliminate the Complete Background Check fingerprinting fee. To learn more about LB112, please visit:

[https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=36801](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=36801)

## **REGULATIONS UPDATE**

At this time a Public Hearing has not been scheduled for Title 172 Chapter 90, proposed amendments to the Licensure and Supervision of Physician Assistants.

For updates on the schedule for Public Hearing Notices for Draft Regulations, please visit the DHHS website link listed below.

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

## **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, June 24, 2019, August 12, 2019, September 30, 2019 and October 28, 2019. To review the (NAPA) Nebraska Academy of Physician Assistants Letter of Intent, the minutes from the meetings and the Revised Proposal and Summary to the Revised Proposal, please visit the DHHS website.

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

## **PRESENTATION OF SERVICE AWARDS**

David J. Hoelting, MD, the Supervising Physician Member of the Physician Assistant Committee, was presented with the "Admiralship Award with the Great Navy of the State of Nebraska" awarded by the Governor's office along with a Plaque from the Board and a Certificate of Appreciation from the Department. Dr. Hoelting has served the Physician Assistant Committee for ten years, from April 17, 2009 to November 30, 2019.

Tom E. Bassett, Public Member of the Physician Assistant Committee was also presented with the "Admiralship Award with the Great Navy of the State of Nebraska" awarded by the Governor's office along with a Plaque from the Board and a Certificate of Appreciation from the Department. Mr. Bassett also served the Physician Assistant Committee for ten years, from April 17, 2009 to November 30, 2019.

The Physician Assistant Committee and the Department of Health and Human Services extend their deepest appreciation to Dr. Hoelting and Mr. Bassett for their service to the State of Nebraska. Their presence at the Committee meetings will be greatly missed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business Tonkin moved, seconded by Bassett to adjourn the meeting at 2:35 p.m. Voting aye: Bassett, Dolphens, Hoelting and Tonkin. Voting nay: None. Absent: Massey. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

\*signature available upon request\*

Tom Bassett, Secretary  
Physician Assistant Committee