

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATION**  
January 13, 2015

These minutes were  
approved by the Board  
on April 14, 2015

**1. ROLL CALL**

The meeting of the Board of Nursing Home Administration was called to order by Kevin Moriarty, Chair, at 1:06 p.m., at the Nebraska State Office Building, Lower Level Room B, Lincoln, Nebraska. Copies of the agenda were mailed to the Board Members and other interested parties in accordance with the Open Meetings Law.

The following members answered roll call:

Members Present:	Scott Bahe	-	Vice-Chair
	Amy Fish	-	Member
	Renea Gernant	-	Member
	Kathryn Hajj	-	Member
	Karen Jones	-	Member
	Kevin Moriarty	-	Chair
	Debra Sutton	-	Secretary
	Alexander Willford	-	Member
Members Absent:	C. Dean Schmid	-	Member
Others Present:	Kris Chiles	-	Program Manager, Licensure Unit
	Nancy Herdman	-	Health Licensing Coordinator, Licensure

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Motion:** Fish moved, seconded by Willford, to adopt the agenda. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Bahe, Fish, Gernant, Hajj, Jones, Moriarty, Sutton, Willford (8). Voting nay: none (0). Absent: Schmid (1). Motion Carried.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (10-14-14)**

**Motion:** Fish moved, seconded by Bahe, to approve the 10-14-14 meeting minutes. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Bahe, Fish, Gernant, Hajj, Jones, Moriarty, Sutton, Willford (8). Voting nay: none (0). Absent: Schmid (1). Abstain: None (0). Motion Carried.

**4. INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS & OTHER CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION - CLOSED SESSION**

**MOTION:** Willford moved, seconded by Sutton, to enter into closed session at 1:10 p.m. to hear discussions of investigative reports, and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of the individuals. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Bahe, Fish, Gernant, Hajj, Jones, Moriarty, Sutton, Willford (8). Voting Nay: None (0). Absent: Schmid (1). Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Fish moved, seconded by Gernant, to enter into open session at 1:36 p.m. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Bahe, Fish, Gernant, Hajj, Jones, Moriarty, Sutton, Willford (8). Voting Nay: None. (0). Absent: Schmid (1). Motion carried.

**5. APPLICATION REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION – OPEN SESSION**

**a. Convictions / Practice Prior to Application / Education / Reinstatements**

Walter Gibson – conviction review

**MOTION:** Bahe moved, seconded by Jones, to recommend issuance of the license given the applicant's conviction had no relevance to the practice. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Bahe, Fish, Gernant, Hajj, Jones, Moriarty, Sutton, Willford (8). Voting Nay: None. (0). Absent: Schmid (1). Motion carried.

Julie Hennessy – AIT

**MOTION:** Willford moved, seconded by Gernant, that the AIT hours earned prior to holding an AIT license will not count towards the NHA license and notification of this decision be sent to the preceptor and Ms. Hennessy. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Bahe, Fish, Gernant, Hajj, Jones, Moriarty, Sutton, Willford (8). Voting Nay: None. (0). Absent: Schmid (1). Motion carried.

## **6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **a. Education Committee Report Relating to Proposed Legislative Changes to Statutes and Regulation Revisions (educational requirements)**

**Legislative Proposal:** *Amend the Nursing Home Administrator Practice Act to change the educational requirements to require a baccalaureate degree for individuals seeking licensure after October 2017.*

Gernant and Fish distributed a copy of the document they developed and provided to senators (attached to these minutes). Fish said she met with a NHCA representative and they suggested talking with Senator Campbell. Senator Campbell asked for an updated education survey which was completed by NHCA which showed similar results to the first survey. Campbell agreed to carry the bill but asked that other senators be contacted and Senators Boles and Howard were contacted. The bill was drafted in December. Gernant commented that she got the impression that Campbell was surprised a degree was not required. Fish stated the NHCA would be having a government relations meeting on 1-24-15 and this proposal would be discussed at that time. The members discussed that if the association could not support the bill that it was hoped they would take a neutral position. Moriarty expressed some concern that the Committee did not work with the associations before drafting a bill. Sutton agreed to take the document to Leading Age Nebraska and ask for their support or at least a neutral position.

There was a discussion about who would push back against the bill and it was stated that perhaps Southeast Community College as they provide associate degree coursework that currently meets the core educational areas or perhaps larger corporations who may have to pay higher salaries to administrators with advanced degrees. Bahe commented that there should be less objection from the western part of the state as education is now more available online. It was discussed that it was important to move forward with this even if the associations might not support it because the Board feels it is important. Moriarty suggested a stakeholder meeting in the future and Gernant suggested that could be when drafting the regulations.

Chiles asked about the 2 year implementation period. Gernant stated the intent was to give individuals who might be in the middle of the current educational process or those seeking the proposed new standards time to complete before the new proposed standards were implemented. Gernant commented that the public is more aware of aging and the care needs of the elderly and they want qualified providers.

### **b. Other**

There was no information to report.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Reports/Updates**

- **National Association of Long Term Care Administrator Boards (NAB)**

Fish stated she attended the meeting in November in San Francisco. She stated that the government committee discussed requiring an examination attestation form that all states should require applicants to review and sign prior to be approved to take the examination. Also, a survey will be coming out soon. Fish indicated that she attended the continuing education committee and they suggested that states look at their CEU policies.

Chiles reported the membership had been renewed and the fee was \$1500.

- **LeadingAge Nebraska**

Sutton reported that Leading Age Nebraska had not met; however, she had met with Julie (Executive Director) and they want to look at AIT and preceptorship.

- **Nebraska Health Care Association**

Bahe had no information to report. Fish said she participated on the government relations and Medicaid rate committees and there was some anxiety about VA contracts because of the minimum wage increase.

- **Disciplinary and Non-Disciplinary Actions Taken**

Chiles reported there have been no actions taken during 2014.

- **Statistics: AIT/Mentoring/ Examination / Licensure / Administrative Penalties**

Chiles reported 22 individuals passed the examination and 16 failed but some of the failures were repeat examinations by the same person. Members expressed concern about the number of failures and further discussed that there were examination prep materials such as practice examinations and written materials to study. Hajj suggested it might be helpful to provide those who fail some encouragement because many individuals do have test anxiety.

Chiles reported the following statistics:

NHA	369
Preceptor	75
Mentoring	8
AIT	5
Provisional NHA	32
Oversee more than 1 facility	16

The members discussed the number of those individuals overseeing more than 1 facility and expressed concern. Chiles responded that often they discontinue and do not advise the Department.

Sutton asked how long an individual could be provisional. Chiles responded 180 days, the provisional cannot be renewed, but once the license expires the applicant can apply for another provisional. Sutton asked if there was a limitation as to how many times this could occur and Chiles replied that the statutes would need to be amended.

**b. Confirmation of Method for Noticing Meetings**

**MOTION:** Bahe moved, seconded by Gernant, to recommend that meeting notices be posted on the Department website and bulletin board. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Bahe, Fish, Gernant, Hajj, Jones, Moriarty, Sutton, Willford (8). Voting Nay: None (0). Absent: Schmid (1). Motion carried.

**c. Other**

Chiles asked the applicants what percentage of renewal applications they wanted audited and the agreement was 10 percent.

2:45 p.m. - Gernant departed meeting  
2:47 p.m. - Gernant entered meeting

Bahe asked the members if they would be willing to consider changing the starting time of the meetings. A time of 10:00 a.m. was suggested beginning perhaps in 2016. The members agreed to discuss it further at their next meeting.

It was noted the agenda stated and the Board had approved the July meeting to be on July 13. However, July 14 is the Tuesday and they usually meet on Tuesday. The members agreed to change the date to July 14.

## **8. ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

### **a. Officers (election)**

**MOTION:** Gernant moved, seconded by Willford, to retain the same slate of officers for 2015. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Bahe, Fish, Gernant, Hajj, Jones, Moriarty, Sutton, Willford (8). Voting Nay: None (0). Absent: Schmid (1). Motion carried.

The officers are:

Chair:	Moriarty
Vice-Chair:	Bahe
Secretary:	Sutton

### **b. Investigative Consultant (appointment)**

Moriarty was appointed as investigative consultant.

### **c. Committee Membership (appointment)**

Gernant, Fish and Schmid were appointed to the Education Committee.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Sutton moved, seconded by Jones, to adjourn the meeting. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Bahe, Fish, Gernant, Hajj, Jones, Moriarty, Sutton, Willford (8). Voting Nay: None. (0). Absent: Schmid (1). Motion carried.

Chair Moriarty declared the meeting adjourned at 2:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Debra L. Sutton, Secretary  
Board of Nursing Home Administration

Summarized by: Nancy Herdman, Health Licensing Coordinator