

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**NEBRASKA BOARD OF**  
**ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES**  
**JANUARY 29, 2016**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Nebraska Board of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses was called to order by Becky Wisell, Licensure Unit Administrator, at 1:10 p.m., January 29, 2016, at Staybridge Inn & Suites, 2701 Fletcher Avenue, Lincoln, Nebraska. Copies of the agenda were mailed in advance to the Board members, emailed to interested parties, posted outside the Licensure Unit within the Nebraska State Office Building, and posted on the Department of Health & Human Services website. Wisell announced the location of a current copy of the Open Meetings Act within the room.

**ROLL CALL**

The following board members were present to answer roll call:

- Sheila Ellis, MD
- Jenna Fiala, MD
- Timothy Glidden, APRN-CRNA
- Diane Hansmeyer, Public Member
- Stephen Jackson, Public Member
- Michelle Knolla, MD

The following Board members were absent:

- Barbara Foss, APRN-NP
- Alice Kindschuh, APRN-CNS
- Marilyn Lowe, APRN-CNM

The following staff members from the Department and the Attorney General's Office were also present:

- Becky Wisell, *Licensure Unit Administrator*
- Laura Weber, RN, *Interim Practice Consultant*
- Sherri Joyner, *Health Licensing Coordinator*
- Anna Harrison, RN, *Compliance Monitor*
- Christopher "C. J." Roberts, *Attorney*
- Teresa Hampton, *Attorney*
- Lisa Anderson, *Assistant Attorney General*
- Peggy Persell, *Investigations Unit Program Manager*
- Patricia Lemke, RN, *Investigator*
- Mendy Mahar-Clark, RN, *Investigator*

A quorum was present and the meeting convened.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Knolla made the motion, seconded by Jackson, for the Board to adopt the agenda.

**Voting Yes:** Ellis, Fiala, Glidden, Hansmeyer, Jackson, and Knolla.

**Voting No:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Foss, Kindschuh, and Lowe. **Motion carried.**

These minutes have been approved by  
the APRN Board on March 25, 2016.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Only three of the six Board members present had attended the October 2, 2015, APRN Board meeting.

**MOTION:** Hansmeyer made the motion, seconded by Knolla, for the Board to table approval of the minutes of the October 2, 2015, APRN Board Meeting.

**Voting Yes:** Ellis, Fiala, Glidden, Hansmeyer, Jackson, and Knolla.

**Voting No:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Foss, Kindschuh, and Lowe. **Motion carried.**

**CLOSED SESSION**

**MOTION:** Hansmeyer made the motion, seconded by Jackson, for the Board to go into closed session for the purpose of reviewing investigative reports, licensure applications, and other confidential information, and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of individuals.

**Voting Yes:** Ellis, Fiala, Glidden, Hansmeyer, Jackson, and Knolla.

**Voting No:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Foss, Kindschuh, and Lowe. **Motion carried.**

1:25 p.m.      *The Board went into closed session.*

1:25 p.m.      *Anderson left the meeting.*

1:35 p.m.      *Hampton and Roberts left the meeting. Anderson returned to the meeting.*

2:20 p.m.      *The Board came out of closed session. Hampton and Roberts returned to meeting.*

**LICENSURE RECOMMENDATIONS****TIMOTHY D. MILLER, APRN-NP**

**MOTION:** Knolla made the motion, seconded by Jackson, for the Board to deny Miller's request to remove the limitation on his license due to insufficient time having passed since the limitation was imposed.

**Voting Yes:** Ellis, Fiala, Glidden, Hansmeyer, Jackson, and Knolla.

**Voting No:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Foss, Kindschuh, and Lowe. **Motion carried.**

**JASON M. GILLESPIE, APRN-NP**

**MOTION:** Knolla made the motion, seconded by Glidden, to issue Gillespie an unrestricted APRN-Nurse Practitioner license.

**Voting Yes:** Ellis, Fiala, Glidden, Hansmeyer, Jackson, and Knolla.

**Voting No:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Foss, Kindschuh, and Lowe. **Motion carried.**



**AMBER D. RAMIG, APRN-NP**

**MOTION:** Hansmeyer made the motion, seconded by Ellis, to issue Ramig an unrestricted APRN-Nurse Practitioner license.

**Voting Yes:** Ellis, Glidden, Hansmeyer, Jackson, and Knolla.

**Voting No:** Fiala. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Foss, Kindschuh, and Lowe. **Motion carried.**

**RE-ENTRY PLANS****Approval of Re-Entry Plan – Rebecca C. McKenzie, aka Rebecca C. Elliott**

**MOTION:** Knolla made the motion, seconded by Hansmeyer, to approve the amended re-entry plan of Rebecca C. McKenzie.

**Voting Yes:** Ellis, Fiala, Glidden, Hansmeyer, Jackson, and Knolla.

**Voting No:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Foss, Kindschuh, and Lowe. **Motion carried.**

**MOTION:** Hansmeyer made the motion, seconded by Ellis, to extend the length of McKenzie's Temporary APRN license for one year.

**Voting Yes:** Ellis, Fiala, Glidden, Hansmeyer, Jackson, and Knolla.

**Voting No:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Foss, Kindschuh, and Lowe. **Motion carried.**

**Proposed Application and Procedures for Re-Entry Plans**

Members reviewed a proposed application form and application instructions to be used by APRN Nurse Practitioners seeking approval of re-entry plans. Wisell and Weber explained that they would like Board's feedback on what should be included at the minimum in a reentry plan. Fiala and Glidden noted that the 2080 practice hour requirement for re-entry plans seemed excessive.

Members noted that only one APRN member was present at the meeting. Members requested that the discussion on the proposed re-entry plan be tabled in order to obtain input from the other APRNs on the Board. Knolla recommended that APRNs meet in a small group to work out a proposed re-entry plan and then present the plan to the full Board.

**Temporary License for Re-Entry Plan**

Members discussed an email from a person with a Temporary APRN license who reported difficulties in finding employment due to insurance companies' unwillingness to credential practitioners with temporary licenses. The APRN reported that this situation made it difficult to obtain the practice hours required to complete a re-entry plan. Members questioned whether this was a problem that the APRN Board should address. It did not seem appropriate to some members to change license types in order to accommodate insurance companies' practices regarding reimbursement. Knolla asked if it was a question that the Nebraska Department of Insurance could address. Hampton said it would require changing State insurance laws. Wisell suggested that nurse or APRN associations might be approached regarding the issue.



## **SCOPE OF PRACTICE - FNP IN PSYCH/MENTAL HEALTH SETTING**

Members reviewed a question that had been submitted to Weber concerning APRNs with Family Nurse Practitioner Certifications working in psychiatric or mental health settings. Due to the absence of three of the four APRNs on the Board, members requested that the discussion be tabled until the next Board meeting.

## **TEMPORARY LICENSE TIME LIMITS**

Members discussed a request to consider extending the length of temporary APRN licenses issued to persons who have not yet passed a certifying examination. The issue was proposed as a possible means of giving students in BSN to PhD programs an opportunity to practice under a temporary license while they were completing the last year or two of PhD coursework. Such students may have an opportunity to take a certifying exam after completing master's level coursework, but the actual certification is not awarded until the degree is conferred. Hampton noted that while a temporary license can be issued prior to passing the certifying exam, the Regulations Governing the Practice of Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners require that the applicant meets all other APRN licensure requirements, including the degree requirement. A temporary license, thus, cannot be issued to students in BSN to PhD programs unless the program issues a master's degree in route to the PhD. Jackson suggested that this might be an issue that can be addressed more effectively by academia rather than the Board.

## **LICENSURE APPLICATION GUIDELINES**

Members reviewed the APRN Licensure Application Guidelines. Wisell explained that the form is used by Department staff to help determine when an application should be forwarded to the APRN Board for a licensure recommendation. Members requested that 1) disturbing the peace convictions be classified as more serious than disorderly conduct convictions, and 2) any application with an indication of disciplinary action in another state be forwarded to the Board for review. Copies of the revised Guidelines will be distributed to Board members. Fiala and Knolla asked that the document be used for guidance only, and that if staff had concerns about a particular application, the application should be forwarded to the Board for review.

## **COMMUNICATION**

### **Election of Officers**

Wisell noted that elections will need to be held to fill the offices of Board President and Board Secretary, and that the election can be conducted by email ballots or during a regularly scheduled Board meeting. Members expressed a preference for holding officer elections during a Board meeting.

### **April 2016 Meeting**

Wisell announced that the meeting scheduled for April 29, 2016, will need to be rescheduled because that date is a state holiday. Joyner will email members to determine their availability for alternative dates.

## **Legislative Updates**

Wisell spoke about LB 859. If the proposed legislation becomes effective, the Department, rather than the Board, would issue cease and desist orders, although the Department would first obtain a Board recommendation. The bill was introduced largely in response to *North Carolina Board of Dentistry v. FTC*, which upheld the issuance of a citation to the North Carolina board for hindering free trade by issuing cease and desist orders to establishments that performed teeth-whitening services. Wisell said she is aware of no opposition to the bill.

Wisell also described proposed legislation to strengthen Nebraska's Prescription Monitoring Program. One of the proposed amendments to the bill would require practitioners to report all prescriptions rather than just controlled substances. Wisell noted that Nebraska had recently received a \$3,000,000 grant from the Centers for Disease Control to strengthen the State's Prescription Monitoring Program.

Wisell reported that the hiring process is still ongoing for the Program Manager position formerly held by Karen Bowen. Recruitment for the Practice Consultant and Education Consultant positions will begin after the Program Manager is hired so that the new Program Manager can help select the candidates for these positions.

Wisell also talked about the Nursing Section's involvement in the Department's Process Improvement Program. The Nursing Section has changed its work processes and tweaked license application materials with the goal of issuing licenses more efficiently. Knolla asked about the availability of online applications. Wisell said the renewal application is currently the only application that can be submitted online, but the consultants with the Process Improvement Program have encouraged the use of more online options in the future.

## **CONCLUSION AND ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sherri Joyner  
Health Licensing Coordinator

