

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
NEBRASKA BOARD OF NURSING**

**ISSUES FORUM
APRIL 8, 2015**

CALL TO ORDER

The Issues Forum meeting of the Nebraska Board of Nursing was called to order by Maxine Guy, Board President, at 3:00 p.m., April 8, 2015, in Lower Level D of the Nebraska State Office Building, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE 68508. 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. Guy announced the location of an available copy of the Open Meetings Act.

ROLL CALL

The following Board members were present to answer roll call:

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| • Janet Andrew, LPN | • Kathleen Pepin, RN |
| • Maxine Guy, LPN, <i>President</i> | • Kristene Perrin, RN |
| • Wendy Kallhoff, RN | • Dawn Straub, RN |
| • Anthony LaRiche, <i>Public Member, Secretary</i> | • Rita Thalken, <i>Public Member</i> |
| • Linda Lazure, RN | • Karen Weidner, RN |

The following Board members were absent during roll call:

- Jane Carmody RN (arrived at 3:49 p.m.)
- Kelley Hasenauer, APRN-NP, *Vice President* (arrived at 3:07 p.m.)

A quorum was declared and the meeting convened.

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

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| • Karen Bowen, RN, <i>Executive Director</i> | • Matt Gelvin, <i>Program Manager</i> |
| • Teresa Roddy, RN, <i>Education Consultant</i> | • Peggy Persell, <i>Program Manager</i> |
| • Nancy "Niki" Eisenmann, RN, <i>Practice Consultant</i> | • Jessica Bowman, RN, <i>Investigator</i> |
| • Shane Bailey, <i>Health Licensing Coordinator</i> | • Mendy Mahar-Clark, RN, <i>Investigator</i> |
| • Bryson Bartels, <i>Legislative Coordinator</i>
(arrived at 3:55 p.m.) | • Anna Harrison, RN, <i>Compliance Monitor</i> |

Persell, Program Manager, Professions and Occupations Investigations Unit, introduced the board members to the two new registered nurse (RN) investigators, Bowman and Mahar-Clark. Introductions were made among board and staff members.

PRESENTATION: CREDENTIALING REVIEW (407) PROGRAM

Bowen introduced Gelvin, Program Manager, Policy and Research, to the Board. Gelvin oversees the credentialing review process which used to be known as the 407 Review. Gelvin provided the Board with the history of the Credentialing Review program which had been created as a result to ease the burden of the senators who were inundated with legislative bills related to healthcare. Senator Don Wesley and staff members from the State Department of Health created a process where the groundwork for a credentialing review could be conducted—research and gathering professional advice—before it went to the legislative committee.

3:07 p.m. *Hasenauer arrived to the meeting.*

These minutes have been approved
by the Board of Nursing.

The Credentialing Review program is advisory in nature. It advises lawmakers regarding proposals on either a new healthcare credential or a change in an existing healthcare professional's scope of practice. The proposals come from an applicant group which is usually a group of healthcare professionals.

Gelvin covered the purpose and philosophy of the program, and explained the roles of the Technical Review Committee, State Board of Health, and Director of the Division of Public Health in reviewing the proposals. Gelvin explained that committee meetings are open to the public and adhere to the Open Meetings Act. There are no closed sessions of the committee meetings. The public must be allowed to speak during at least one meeting of a series of meetings in the program. Department staff members provide administrative support to the Credentialing Review program and must maintain neutrality on all issues under review.

Gelvin encouraged board members to look at the Department's Credentialing Review website to learn more about the program. Currently, a proposal on Surgical First Assistants is going through the review process. A review meeting was held that afternoon and the next meeting will be on May 27, 2015, in the lower level of the Nebraska State Office Building—Lincoln.

The Board thanked Gelvin for his presentation. Guy called for the meeting to take a short recess to allow the next presenter time to arrive.

3:49 p.m. Carmody arrived to the meeting.
 3:49 p.m. The meeting recessed and Gelvin left for the remainder of the meeting.
 3:59 p.m. The meeting reconvened with Bartels being present and Pepin being absent.
 4:03 p.m. Pepin returned to the meeting.

PRESENTATION: LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

Bowen introduced Bartels, Legislative Coordinator for the Department, Division of Public Health. Bartels provided a brief overview of the legislative process. The Legislature will have a sixty day session, known as the short session, and a ninety day session, known as the long session. Every other year is the long session. 2015 is the long session. Therefore the Legislature's last day will be in early June. The Legislature starts up every January on the first Wednesday following the New Year holiday. New legislative bills can only be introduced within the first ten days the Legislature meet. January through March tend to be very busy months. Typically, all hearings on new legislative bills have concluded by the end of April. Bartels explained the general process of legislative bill introduction, approval, and updating regulations and statutes. Several of the healthcare-related legislative bills introduced this session were discussed.

4:18 p.m. Carmody left the meeting.
 4:21 p.m. Carmody returned to the meeting.

The Board thanked Bartels for his presentation.

4:30 p.m. Bartels left for the remainder of the meeting.

Lazure spoke on how the DHHS Legislative Committee had previously asked about criminal background checks conducted upon nurse aides (sometimes referred to as *nursing assistants*.) Bowen and Harrison explained that nurse aides are not part of the Uniform Credentialing Act. The Board of Nursing does not regulate nurse aides or medication aides.

Board and staff members discussed the roles of nurse aides and medication aides. It was explained that nurse aides and medication aides, although they are not under the Uniform Credentialing Act, they hold a credential and are placed on their own registries. Bowen suggested the possibility of having Connie Wagner, RN, Program Manager of Nursing Support, speak to the Board in the future on the topic of nurse

aides, medication aides, their regulations and registries. Board members expressed interest in having Wagner speak to them.

LaRiche inquired on when LB 107 and LB 129 would go into effect now that they have been approved by the Governor. Bowen explained that the bills will go into effect ninety days after the Legislature has ended. The regulations will need to be rewritten. Bowen stated that she will be revising the regulations but they do not need to be approved *prior* to the legislative bills going into effect.

4:48 p.m. *Thalken left the meeting for the remainder of the meeting.*

The Board discussed the need to establish communication and timelines, guidelines with nursing schools regarding LB 129 which will require criminal background checks to be conducted upon all initial LPN and RN applicants. Information will be communicated at the June 2015 meeting of The Nebraska Assembly of Nursing Deans and Directors. LB 129 will go into effect in early September.

CONCLUSION AND ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shane Bailey
Health Licensing Coordinator