



RURAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 95026 • LINCOLN, NE 68509-5026 • PHONE (402) 471-2337 • FAX (402) 471-0180

MEETING NOTICE & AGENDA RURAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMISSION (RHAC)

**Wednesday, June 5, 2024
1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Crowne Plaza & Younes Conference Center North
Silver Room #3 – 1st Floor
707 W. Talmadge Street
Kearney, Nebraska**

Guests can attend virtually via:

<https://sonvideo.webex.com/sonvideo/j.php?MTID=m4994dad4fde8eada18341331b133348>

Access handouts at:

<http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Rural-Health-Advisory-Commission.aspx> (under “Documents”)

1. Call Meeting to Order; Open Meetings Act & Agenda Posted; Adopt Agenda; Approve Minutes of February 23, 2024, Meeting; Introduce Members and Guests
2. Administrative Items
 - Current Members Status Updates
 - Other Announcements
3. Walk to Unlock/National Rural Health Day
4. Office of Rural Health Update
 - Summer Marketing Trip
5. RHAC Strategic Planning Session Follow-Up
 - Marketing update from subcommittee
6. Rural Health Systems and Professional Incentive Act Programs
 - Shortage Area Requests
 - Budget Update

- continued on next page -

NOTE: All items known at time of distribution are listed; a current agenda is available at the Nebraska Office of Rural Health during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. CST, Monday through Friday, except holidays), or on the DHHS web site, along with any public handouts. <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Rural-Health-Advisory-Commission.aspx> (under “Documents”)

If auxiliary aids or reasonable accommodations are needed for attending the meeting, please call 402-471-2337. Persons with hearing impairments may call DHHS at 402-471-9570 (voice & TDD) or the Nebraska Relay System at 711 or 800-833-7352 (TDD). Advance notice is needed when requesting an interpreter.

7. Review Current Federal & State Legislative Activities Impacting Rural Health
8. Public Comment
9. CLOSED SESSION
 - Review Loan Repayment Applications
 - Accounts Receivable
10. OPEN SESSION
 - Motion(s) on Closed Session Discussion
11. Adjourn

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NEBRASKA OPEN MEETINGS ACT

84-1407. Act, how cited.

Sections 84-1407 to 84-1414 shall be known and may be cited as the Open Meetings Act.

Source: Laws 2004, LB 821, § 34.

84-1408. Declaration of intent; meetings open to public.

It is hereby declared to be the policy of this state that the formation of public policy is public business and may not be conducted in secret.

Every meeting of a public body shall be open to the public in order that citizens may exercise their democratic privilege of attending and speaking at meetings of public bodies, except as otherwise provided by the Constitution of Nebraska, federal statutes, and the Open Meetings Act.

Source: Laws 1975, LB 325, § 1; Laws 1996, LB 900, § 1071; Laws 2004, LB 821, § 35.

Annotations

- Nebraska's public meetings laws do not apply to school board deliberations pertaining solely to disputed adjudicative facts. *McQuinn v. Douglas Cty. Sch. Dist. No. 66*, 259 Neb. 720, 612 N.W.2d 198 (2000).
- The primary purpose of the public meetings law is to ensure that public policy is formulated at open meetings. *Marks v. Judicial Nominating Comm.*, 236 Neb. 429, 461 N.W.2d 551 (1990).
- The public meetings law is broadly interpreted and liberally construed to obtain the objective of openness in favor of the public, and provisions permitting closed sessions must be narrowly and strictly construed. *Grein v. Board of Education of Fremont*, 216 Neb. 158, 343 N.W.2d 718 (1984).
- A county board of equalization is a public body whose meetings shall be open to the public. *Wolf v. Grubbs*, 17 Neb. App. 292, 759 N.W.2d 499 (2009).

84-1409. Terms, defined.

For purposes of the Open Meetings Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1)(a) Public body means (i) governing bodies of all political subdivisions of the State of Nebraska, (ii) governing bodies of all agencies, created by the Constitution of Nebraska, statute, or otherwise pursuant to law, of the executive department of the State of Nebraska, (iii) all independent boards, commissions, bureaus, committees, councils, subunits, or any other bodies created by the Constitution of Nebraska, statute, or otherwise pursuant to law, (iv) all study or

advisory committees of the executive department of the State of Nebraska whether having continuing existence or appointed as special committees with limited existence, (v) advisory committees of the bodies referred to in subdivisions (i), (ii), and (iii) of this subdivision, and (vi) instrumentalities exercising essentially public functions; and

(b) Public body does not include (i) subcommittees of such bodies unless a quorum of the public body attends a subcommittee meeting or unless such subcommittees are holding hearings, making policy, or taking formal action on behalf of their parent body, except that all meetings of any subcommittee established under section 81-15,175 are subject to the Open Meetings Act, and (ii) entities conducting judicial proceedings unless a court or other judicial body is exercising rulemaking authority, deliberating, or deciding upon the issuance of administrative orders;

(2) Meeting means all regular, special, or called meetings, formal or informal, of any public body for the purposes of briefing, discussion of public business, formation of tentative policy, or the taking of any action of the public body; and

(3) Videoconferencing means conducting a meeting involving participants at two or more locations through the use of audio-video equipment which allows participants at each location to hear and see each meeting participant at each other location, including public input. Interaction between meeting participants shall be possible at all meeting locations.

Source: Laws 1975, LB 325, § 2; Laws 1983, LB 43, § 1; Laws 1989, LB 429, § 42; Laws 1989, LB 311, § 14; Laws 1992, LB 1019, § 124; Laws 1993, LB 635, § 1; Laws 1996, LB 1044, § 978; Laws 1997, LB 798, § 37; Laws 2004, LB 821, § 36; Laws 2007, LB296, § 810; Laws 2011, LB366, § 2.

Annotations

- A township is a political subdivision, and as such, a township board is subject to the provisions of the public meetings laws. *Steenblock v. Elkhorn Township Bd.*, 245 Neb. 722, 515 N.W.2d 128 (1994).
- A county agricultural society is a public body to which the provisions of the Nebraska public meetings law are applicable. *Nixon v. Madison Co. Ag. Soc'y*, 217 Neb. 37, 348 N.W.2d 119 (1984).
- Failure by a public governing body, as defined under section 84-1409, R.R.S.1943, to take and record a roll call vote on an action, as required by section 84-1413(2), R.S.Supp.,1980, grants any citizen the right to sue for the purpose of having the action declared void. In this case such failure could not be later corrected by a nunc pro tunc order because there was no showing that a roll call vote on the disputed action was actually taken, and even if it was the record showed it was not recorded until over a year later. Sections 23-1301, R.R.S.1943, and 23-1302, R.R.S.1943, make it the duty of the county clerk to record proceedings of the board of county commissioners. *State ex rel. Schuler v. Dunbar*, 208 Neb. 69, 302 N.W.2d 674 (1981).

- As an administrative agency of the county, a county board of equalization is a public body. *Wolf v. Grubbs*, 17 Neb. App. 292, 759 N.W.2d 499 (2009).
- The electors of a township at their annual meeting are a public body under the Open Meetings Act. *State ex rel. Newman v. Columbus Township Bd.*, 15 Neb. App. 656, 735 N.W.2d 399 (2007).
- The meeting at issue in this case was a "meeting" within the parameters of subsection (2) of this section because it involved the discussion of public business, the formation of tentative policy, or the taking of any action of the public power district. *Hansmeyer v. Nebraska Pub. Power Dist.*, 6 Neb. App. 889, 578 N.W.2d 476 (1998).
- Informational sessions in which the governmental body hears reports are briefings. *Johnson v. Nebraska Environmental Control Council*, 2 Neb. App. 263, 509 N.W.2d 21 (1993).

84-1410. Closed session; when; purpose; reasons listed; procedure; right to challenge; prohibited acts; chance meetings, conventions, or workshops.

(1) Any public body may hold a closed session by the affirmative vote of a majority of its voting members if a closed session is clearly necessary for the protection of the public interest or for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual and if such individual has not requested a public meeting. The subject matter and the reason necessitating the closed session shall be identified in the motion to close. Closed sessions may be held for, but shall not be limited to, such reasons as:

- (a) Strategy sessions with respect to collective bargaining, real estate purchases, pending litigation, or litigation which is imminent as evidenced by communication of a claim or threat of litigation to or by the public body;
- (b) Discussion regarding deployment of security personnel or devices;
- (c) Investigative proceedings regarding allegations of criminal misconduct;
- (d) Evaluation of the job performance of a person when necessary to prevent needless injury to the reputation of a person and if such person has not requested a public meeting;
- (e) For the Community Trust created under section 81-1801.02, discussion regarding the amounts to be paid to individuals who have suffered from a tragedy of violence or natural disaster; or
- (f) For public hospitals, governing board peer review activities, professional review activities, review and discussion of medical staff investigations or disciplinary actions, and any strategy session concerning transactional negotiations with any referral source that is required by federal law to be conducted at arms length.

Nothing in this section shall permit a closed meeting for discussion of the appointment or election of a new member to any public body.

(2) The vote to hold a closed session shall be taken in open session. The entire motion, the vote of each member on the question of holding a closed session, and the time when the closed session commenced and concluded shall be recorded in the minutes. If the motion to close passes, then the presiding officer immediately prior to the closed session shall restate on the record the limitation of the subject matter of the closed session. The public body holding such a closed session shall restrict its consideration of matters during the closed portions to only those purposes set forth in the motion to close as the reason for the closed session. The meeting shall be reconvened in open session before any formal action may be taken. For purposes of this section, formal action shall mean a collective decision or a collective commitment or promise to make a decision on any question, motion, proposal, resolution, order, or ordinance or formation of a position or policy but shall not include negotiating guidance given by members of the public body to legal counsel or other negotiators in closed sessions authorized under subdivision (1)(a) of this section.

(3) Any member of any public body shall have the right to challenge the continuation of a closed session if the member determines that the session has exceeded the reason stated in the original motion to hold a closed session or if the member contends that the closed session is neither clearly necessary for (a) the protection of the public interest or (b) the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual. Such challenge shall be overruled only by a majority vote of the members of the public body. Such challenge and its disposition shall be recorded in the minutes.

(4) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require that any meeting be closed to the public. No person or public body shall fail to invite a portion of its members to a meeting, and no public body shall designate itself a subcommittee of the whole body for the purpose of circumventing the Open Meetings Act. No closed session, informal meeting, chance meeting, social gathering, email, fax, or other electronic communication shall be used for the purpose of circumventing the requirements of the act.

(5) The act does not apply to chance meetings or to attendance at or travel to conventions or workshops of members of a public body at which there is no meeting of the body then intentionally convened, if there is no vote or other action taken regarding any matter over which the public body has supervision, control, jurisdiction, or advisory power.

Source: Laws 1975, LB 325, § 3; Laws 1983, LB 43, § 2; Laws 1985, LB 117, § 1; Laws 1992, LB 1019, § 125; Laws 1994, LB 621, § 1; Laws 1996, LB 900, § 1072; Laws 2004, LB 821, § 37; Laws 2004, LB 1179, § 1; Laws 2006, LB 898, § 1; Laws 2011, LB390, § 29; Laws 2012, LB995, § 17.

Annotations

- There is no absolute discovery privilege for communications that occur during a closed session. *State ex rel. Upper Republican NRD v. District Judges*, 273 Neb. 148, 728 N.W.2d 275 (2007).
- If a person present at a meeting observes a public meetings law violation in the form of an improper closed session and fails to object, that person waives his or her right to object at a later date. *Wasikowski v. Nebraska Quality Jobs Bd.*, 264 Neb. 403, 648 N.W.2d 756 (2002).
- The public interest mentioned in this section is that shared by citizens in general and by the community at large concerning pecuniary or legal rights and liabilities. *Grein v. Board of Education*, 216 Neb. 158, 343 N.W.2d 718 (1984).
- Hearing in closed executive session was contrary to this section since there was no showing of necessity or reason under subdivision (1)(a), (b), or (c), but did not result in reversal of board decision. *Simonds v. Board of Examiners*, 213 Neb. 259, 329 N.W.2d 92 (1983).
- Negotiations for the purchase of land need not be conducted at an open meeting but the deliberations of a city council as to whether an offer to purchase real estate should be made should take place in an open meeting. *Pokorny v. City of Schuyler*, 202 Neb. 334, 275 N.W.2d 281 (1979).
- Public meeting law was not violated where the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska voted to hold a closed session to consider the university president's resignation, and also discussed the appointment of an interim president during such session. *Meyer v. Board of Regents*, 1 Neb. App. 893, 510 N.W.2d 450 (1993).

84-1411. Meetings of public body; notice; contents; when available; right to modify; duties concerning notice; videoconferencing or telephone conferencing authorized; emergency meeting without notice; appearance before public body.

(1)(a) Each public body shall give reasonable advance publicized notice of the time and place of each meeting as provided in this subsection. Such notice shall be transmitted to all members of the public body and to the public.

(b)(i) Except as provided in subdivision (1)(b)(ii) of this section, in the case of a public body described in subdivision (1)(a)(i) of section 84-1409 or such body's advisory committee, such notice shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction and, if available, on such newspaper's web site.

(ii) In the case of the governing body of a city of the second class or village or such body's advisory committee, such notice shall be published by:

(A) Publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction and, if available, on such newspaper's web site; or

(B) Posting written notice in three conspicuous public places in such city or village. Such notice shall be posted in the same three places for each meeting.

(iii) In the case of a public body not described in subdivision (1)(b)(i) or (ii) of this section, such notice shall be given by a method designated by the public body.

(c) In addition to a method of notice required by subdivision (1)(b)(i) or (ii) of this section, such notice may also be provided by any other appropriate method designated by such public body or such advisory committee.

(d) Each public body shall record the methods and dates of such notice in its minutes.

(e) Such notice shall contain an agenda of subjects known at the time of the publicized notice or a statement that the agenda, which shall be kept continually current, shall be readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the public body during normal business hours. Agenda items shall be sufficiently descriptive to give the public reasonable notice of the matters to be considered at the meeting. Except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda shall not be altered later than (i) twenty-four hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting or (ii) forty-eight hours before the scheduled commencement of a meeting of a city council or village board scheduled outside the corporate limits of the municipality. The public body shall have the right to modify the agenda to include items of an emergency nature only at such public meeting.

(2) A meeting of a state agency, state board, state commission, state council, or state committee, of an advisory committee of any such state entity, of an organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act, the Joint Public Agency Act, or the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, of the governing body of a public power district having a chartered territory of more than one county in this state, of the governing body of a public power and irrigation district having a chartered territory of more than one county in this state, of a board of an educational service unit, of the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council, of the governing body of a risk management pool or its advisory committees organized in accordance with the Intergovernmental Risk Management Act, or of a community college board of governors may be held by means of videoconferencing or, in the case of the Judicial Resources Commission in those cases specified in section 24-1204, by telephone conference, if:

(a) Reasonable advance publicized notice is given as provided in subsection (1) of this section;

(b) Reasonable arrangements are made to accommodate the public's right to attend, hear, and speak at the meeting, including seating, recordation by audio or visual recording devices, and a reasonable opportunity for input such as public comment or questions to at least the same extent as would be provided if videoconferencing or telephone conferencing was not used;

(c) At least one copy of all documents being considered is available to the public at each site of the videoconference or telephone conference;

(d) At least one member of the state entity, advisory committee, board, council, or governing body is present at each site of the videoconference or telephone conference, except that a

member of an organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act that sells electricity or natural gas at wholesale on a multistate basis, an organization created under the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, or a governing body of a risk management pool or an advisory committee of such organization or pool may designate a nonvoting designee, who shall not be included as part of the quorum, to be present at any site; and

(e)(i) Except as provided in subdivision (2)(e)(ii) of this section, no more than one-half of the state entity's, advisory committee's, board's, council's, or governing body's meetings in a calendar year are held by videoconference or telephone conference; or

(ii) In the case of an organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act that sells electricity or natural gas at wholesale on a multistate basis or an organization created under the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, such organization holds at least one meeting each calendar year that is not by videoconferencing or telephone conferencing.

Videoconferencing, telephone conferencing, or conferencing by other electronic communication shall not be used to circumvent any of the public government purposes established in the Open Meetings Act.

(3) A meeting of a board of an educational service unit, of the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council, of the governing body of an entity formed under the Interlocal Cooperation Act, the Joint Public Agency Act, or the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, of the governing body of a risk management pool or its advisory committees organized in accordance with the Intergovernmental Risk Management Act, of a community college board of governors, of the governing body of a public power district, of the governing body of a public power and irrigation district, or of the Nebraska Brand Committee may be held by telephone conference call if:

(a) The territory represented by the educational service unit, member educational service units, community college board of governors, public power district, public power and irrigation district, Nebraska Brand Committee, or member public agencies of the entity or pool covers more than one county;

(b) Reasonable advance publicized notice is given as provided in subsection (1) of this section which identifies each telephone conference location at which there will be present: (i) A member of the educational service unit board, council, community college board of governors, governing body of a public power district, governing body of a public power and irrigation district, Nebraska Brand Committee, or entity's or pool's governing body; or (ii) a nonvoting designee designated under subdivision (3)(f) of this section;

(c) All telephone conference meeting sites identified in the notice are located within public buildings used by members of the educational service unit board, council, community college board of governors, governing body of the public power district, governing body of the public power and irrigation district, Nebraska Brand Committee, or entity or pool or at a place which will accommodate the anticipated audience;

(d) Reasonable arrangements are made to accommodate the public's right to attend, hear, and speak at the meeting, including seating, recordation by audio recording devices, and a reasonable opportunity for input such as public comment or questions to at least the same extent as would be provided if a telephone conference call was not used;

(e) At least one copy of all documents being considered is available to the public at each site of the telephone conference call;

(f) At least one member of the educational service unit board, council, community college board of governors, governing body of the public power district, governing body of the public power and irrigation district, Nebraska Brand Committee, or governing body of the entity or pool is present at each site of the telephone conference call identified in the public notice, except that a member of an organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act that sells electricity or natural gas at wholesale on a multistate basis, an organization created under the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, or a governing body of a risk management pool or an advisory committee of such organization or pool may designate a nonvoting designee, who shall not be included as part of the quorum, to be present at any site;

(g) The telephone conference call lasts no more than five hours; and

(h) No more than one-half of the board's, council's, governing body's, committee's, entity's, or pool's meetings in a calendar year are held by telephone conference call, except that:

(i) The governing body of a risk management pool that meets at least quarterly and the advisory committees of the governing body may each hold more than one-half of its meetings by telephone conference call if the governing body's quarterly meetings are not held by telephone conference call or videoconferencing; and

(ii) An organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act that sells electricity or natural gas at wholesale on a multistate basis or an organization created under the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act may hold more than one-half of its meetings by telephone conference call if the organization holds at least one meeting each calendar year that is not by videoconferencing or telephone conference call.

Nothing in this subsection shall prevent the participation of consultants, members of the press, and other nonmembers of the governing body at sites not identified in the public notice. Telephone conference calls, emails, faxes, or other electronic communication shall not be used to circumvent any of the public government purposes established in the Open Meetings Act.

(4) The secretary or other designee of each public body shall maintain a list of the news media requesting notification of meetings and shall make reasonable efforts to provide advance notification to them of the time and place of each meeting and the subjects to be discussed at that meeting.

(5) When it is necessary to hold an emergency meeting without reasonable advance public notice, the nature of the emergency shall be stated in the minutes and any formal action taken in such meeting shall pertain only to the emergency. Such emergency meetings may be held by

means of electronic or telecommunication equipment. The provisions of subsection (4) of this section shall be complied with in conducting emergency meetings. Complete minutes of such emergency meetings specifying the nature of the emergency and any formal action taken at the meeting shall be made available to the public by no later than the end of the next regular business day.

(6) A public body may allow a member of the public or any other witness other than a member of the public body to appear before the public body by means of video or telecommunications equipment.

Source: Laws 1975, LB 325, § 4; Laws 1983, LB 43, § 3; Laws 1987, LB 663, § 25; Laws 1993, LB 635, § 2; Laws 1996, LB 469, § 6; Laws 1996, LB 1161, § 1; Laws 1999, LB 47, § 2; Laws 1999, LB 87, § 100; Laws 1999, LB 461, § 1; Laws 2000, LB 968, § 85; Laws 2004, LB 821, § 38; Laws 2004, LB 1179, § 2; Laws 2006, LB 898, § 2; Laws 2007, LB199, § 9; Laws 2009, LB361, § 2; Laws 2012, LB735, § 1; Laws 2013, LB510, § 1; Laws 2017, LB318, § 1; Laws 2019, LB212, § 5; Laws 2020, LB148, § 3.

Cross References

- **Intergovernmental Risk Management Act**, see section 44-4301.
- **Interlocal Cooperation Act**, see section 13-801.
- **Joint Public Agency Act**, see section 13-2501.
- **Municipal Cooperative Financing Act**, see section 18-2401.

Annotations

- Under subsection (1) of this section, the Legislature has imposed only two conditions on the public body's notification method of a public meeting: (1) It must give reasonable advance publicized notice of the time and place of each meeting and (2) it must be recorded in the public body's minutes. *City of Elkhorn v. City of Omaha*, 272 Neb. 867, 725 N.W.2d 792 (2007).
- An emergency is "(a)ny event or occasional combination of circumstances which calls for immediate action or remedy; pressing necessity; exigency; a sudden or unexpected happening; an unforeseen occurrence or condition." *Steenblock v. Elkhorn Township Bd.*, 245 Neb. 722, 515 N.W.2d 128 (1994).
- An agenda which gives reasonable notice of the matters to be considered at a meeting of a city council complies with the requirements of this section. *Pokorny v. City of Schuyler*, 202 Neb. 334, 275 N.W.2d 281 (1979).
- When notice is required, a notice of a special meeting of a city council posted in three public places at 10:00 p.m. on the day preceding the meeting is not reasonable advance publicized notice of a meeting as is required by this section. *Pokorny v. City of Schuyler*, 202 Neb. 334, 275 N.W.2d 281 (1979).
- Teacher waived right to object to lack of public notice in board of education employment hearing by voluntary participation in the hearing without objection. *Alexander v. School Dist. No. 17*, 197 Neb. 251, 248 N.W.2d 335 (1976).

- A county board of commissioners and a county board of equalization are not required to give separate notices when the notice states only the time and place that the boards meet and directs a citizen to where the agendas for each board can be found. *Wolf v. Grubbs*, 17 Neb. App. 292, 759 N.W.2d 499 (2009).
- A county board of equalization is a public body which is required to give advanced publicized notice of its meetings. *Wolf v. Grubbs*, 17 Neb. App. 292, 759 N.W.2d 499 (2009).
- Notice of recessed and reconvened meetings must be given in the same fashion as the original meeting. *Wolf v. Grubbs*, 17 Neb. App. 292, 759 N.W.2d 499 (2009).
- True notice of a meeting is not given by burying such in the minutes of a prior board proceeding. *Wolf v. Grubbs*, 17 Neb. App. 292, 759 N.W.2d 499 (2009).
- An agenda notice which merely stated "work order reports" was an inadequate notice under this section because it did not give interested persons knowledge that plans for a 345 kv transmission line through the district was going to be discussed and voted upon at the meeting. Inadequate agenda notice under this section meant there was a substantial violation of the public meeting laws; however, later actions by the board of directors cured the defects in notice, and such actions were in substantial compliance with the statute. *Hansmeyer v. Nebraska Pub. Power Dist.*, 6 Neb. App. 889, 578 N.W.2d 476 (1998).

84-1412. Meetings of public body; rights of public; public body; powers and duties.

(1) Subject to the Open Meetings Act, the public has the right to attend and the right to speak at meetings of public bodies, and all or any part of a meeting of a public body, except for closed sessions called pursuant to section 84-1410, may be videotaped, televised, photographed, broadcast, or recorded by any person in attendance by means of a tape recorder, camera, video equipment, or any other means of pictorial or sonic reproduction or in writing.

(2) It shall not be a violation of subsection (1) of this section for any public body to make and enforce reasonable rules and regulations regarding the conduct of persons attending, speaking at, videotaping, televising, photographing, broadcasting, or recording its meetings. A body may not be required to allow citizens to speak at each meeting, but it may not forbid public participation at all meetings.

(3) No public body shall require members of the public to identify themselves as a condition for admission to the meeting nor shall such body require that the name of any member of the public be placed on the agenda prior to such meeting in order to speak about items on the agenda. The body may require any member of the public desiring to address the body to identify himself or herself.

(4) No public body shall, for the purpose of circumventing the Open Meetings Act, hold a meeting in a place known by the body to be too small to accommodate the anticipated audience.

(5) No public body shall be deemed in violation of this section if it holds its meeting in its traditional meeting place which is located in this state.

(6) No public body shall be deemed in violation of this section if it holds a meeting outside of this state if, but only if:

(a) A member entity of the public body is located outside of this state and the meeting is in that member's jurisdiction;

(b) All out-of-state locations identified in the notice are located within public buildings used by members of the entity or at a place which will accommodate the anticipated audience;

(c) Reasonable arrangements are made to accommodate the public's right to attend, hear, and speak at the meeting, including making a telephone conference call available at an in-state location to members, the public, or the press, if requested twenty-four hours in advance;

(d) No more than twenty-five percent of the public body's meetings in a calendar year are held out-of-state;

(e) Out-of-state meetings are not used to circumvent any of the public government purposes established in the Open Meetings Act;

(f) Reasonable arrangements are made to provide viewing at other in-state locations for a videoconference meeting if requested fourteen days in advance and if economically and reasonably available in the area; and

(g) The public body publishes notice of the out-of-state meeting at least twenty-one days before the date of the meeting in a legal newspaper of statewide circulation.

(7) The public body shall, upon request, make a reasonable effort to accommodate the public's right to hear the discussion and testimony presented at the meeting.

(8) Public bodies shall make available at the meeting or the in-state location for a telephone conference call or videoconference, for examination and copying by members of the public, at least one copy of all reproducible written material to be discussed at an open meeting. Public bodies shall make available at least one current copy of the Open Meetings Act posted in the meeting room at a location accessible to members of the public. At the beginning of the meeting, the public shall be informed about the location of the posted information.

Source: Laws 1975, LB 325, § 5; Laws 1983, LB 43, § 4; Laws 1985, LB 117, § 2; Laws 1987, LB 324, § 5; Laws 1996, LB 900, § 1073; Laws 2001, LB 250, § 2; Laws 2004, LB 821, § 39; Laws 2006, LB 898, § 3; Laws 2008, LB962, § 1.

Annotations

- To preserve an objection that a public body failed to make documents available at a public meeting as required by subsection (8) of this section, a person who

attends a public meeting must not only object to the violation, but must make that objection to the public body or to a member of the public body. *Stoetzel & Sons v. City of Hastings*, 265 Neb. 637, 658 N.W.2d 636 (2003).

84-1413. Meetings; minutes; roll call vote; secret ballot; when.

(1) Each public body shall keep minutes of all meetings showing the time, place, members present and absent, and the substance of all matters discussed.

(2) Any action taken on any question or motion duly moved and seconded shall be by roll call vote of the public body in open session, and the record shall state how each member voted or if the member was absent or not voting. The requirements of a roll call or viva voce vote shall be satisfied by a public body which utilizes an electronic voting device which allows the yeas and nays of each member of such public body to be readily seen by the public.

(3) The vote to elect leadership within a public body may be taken by secret ballot, but the total number of votes for each candidate shall be recorded in the minutes.

(4) The minutes of all meetings and evidence and documentation received or disclosed in open session shall be public records and open to public inspection during normal business hours.

(5) Minutes shall be written, except as provided in subsection (6) of this section, and available for inspection within ten working days or prior to the next convened meeting, whichever occurs earlier, except that cities of the second class and villages may have an additional ten working days if the employee responsible for writing the minutes is absent due to a serious illness or emergency.

(6) Minutes of the meetings of the board of a school district or educational service unit may be kept as an electronic record.

Source: Laws 1975, LB 325, § 6; Laws 1978, LB 609, § 3; Laws 1979, LB 86, § 9; Laws 1987, LB 663, § 26; Laws 2005, LB 501, § 1; Laws 2009, LB361, § 3; Laws 2015, LB365, § 2; Laws 2016, LB876, § 1.

Annotations

- If a person present at a meeting observes and fails to object to an alleged public meetings laws violation in the form of a failure to conduct rollcall votes before taking actions on questions or motions pending, that person waives his or her right to object at a later date. *Hauser v. Nebraska Police Stds. Adv. Council*, 264 Neb. 944, 653 N.W.2d 240 (2002).
- Subsection (2) of this section does not require the record to state that the vote was by roll call, but requires only that the record show if and how each member voted. Neither does the statute set a time limit for recording the results of a vote, after which no corrections of the record can be made. If no intervening rights of third

persons have arisen, a board of county commissioners has power to correct the record of the proceedings had at a previous meeting so as to make them speak the truth, particularly where the correction supplies some omitted fact or action and is done not to contradict or change the original record but to have the record show that a certain action was taken or thing done, which the original record fails to show. *State ex rel. Schuler v. Dunbar*, 214 Neb. 85, 333 N.W.2d 652 (1983).

- Failure by a public governing body, as defined under section 84-1409, R.R.S.1943, to take and record a roll call vote on an action, as required by section 84-1413(2), R.S.Supp.,1980, grants any citizen the right to sue for the purpose of having the action declared void. In this case such failure could not be later corrected by a nunc pro tunc order because there was no showing that a roll call vote on the disputed action was actually taken, and even if it was the record showed it was not recorded until over a year later. Sections 23-1301, R.R.S.1943, and 23-1302, R.R.S.1943, make it the duty of the county clerk to record proceedings of the board of county commissioners. *State ex rel. Schuler v. Dunbar*, 208 Neb. 69, 302 N.W.2d 674 (1981).
- There is no requirement that a public body make a record of where notice was published or posted. *Wolf v. Grubbs*, 17 Neb. App. 292, 759 N.W.2d 499 (2009).

84-1414. Unlawful action by public body; declared void or voidable by district court; when; duty to enforce open meeting laws; citizen's suit; procedure; violations; penalties.

(1) Any motion, resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or formal action of a public body made or taken in violation of the Open Meetings Act shall be declared void by the district court if the suit is commenced within one hundred twenty days of the meeting of the public body at which the alleged violation occurred. Any motion, resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or formal action of a public body made or taken in substantial violation of the Open Meetings Act shall be voidable by the district court if the suit is commenced more than one hundred twenty days after but within one year of the meeting of the public body in which the alleged violation occurred. A suit to void any final action shall be commenced within one year of the action.

(2) The Attorney General and the county attorney of the county in which the public body ordinarily meets shall enforce the Open Meetings Act.

(3) Any citizen of this state may commence a suit in the district court of the county in which the public body ordinarily meets or in which the plaintiff resides for the purpose of requiring compliance with or preventing violations of the Open Meetings Act, for the purpose of declaring an action of a public body void, or for the purpose of determining the applicability of the act to discussions or decisions of the public body. It shall not be a defense that the citizen attended the meeting and failed to object at such time. The court may order payment of reasonable attorney's fees and court costs to a successful plaintiff in a suit brought under this section.

(4) Any member of a public body who knowingly violates or conspires to violate or who attends or remains at a meeting knowing that the public body is in violation of any provision of the Open Meetings Act shall be guilty of a Class IV misdemeanor for a first offense and a Class III misdemeanor for a second or subsequent offense.

Source: Laws 1975, LB 325, § 9; Laws 1977, LB 39, § 318; Laws 1983, LB 43, § 5; Laws 1992, LB 1019, § 126; Laws 1994, LB 621, § 2; Laws 1996, LB 900, § 1074; Laws 2004, LB 821, § 40; Laws 2006, LB 898, § 4.

Annotations

- The Legislature has granted standing to a broad scope of its citizens for the very limited purpose of challenging meetings allegedly in violation of the Open Meetings Act, so that they may help police the public policy embodied by the act. *Schauer v. Grooms*, 280 Neb. 426, 786 N.W.2d 909 (2010).
- Any citizen of the state may commence an action to declare a public body's action void. *City of Elkhorn v. City of Omaha*, 272 Neb. 867, 725 N.W.2d 792 (2007).
- The reading of ordinances constitutes a formal action under subsection (1) of this section. *City of Elkhorn v. City of Omaha*, 272 Neb. 867, 725 N.W.2d 792 (2007).
- If a person present at a meeting observes a public meetings law violation in the form of an improper closed session and fails to object, that person waives his or her right to object at a later date. *Wasikowski v. Nebraska Quality Jobs Bd.*, 264 Neb. 403, 648 N.W.2d 756 (2002).
- Under the Public Meetings Act, a county lacks capacity to maintain an action to declare its official conduct "void" for noncompliance with the act. *County of York v. Johnson*, 230 Neb. 403, 432 N.W.2d 215 (1988).
- When a petitioner under this section is successful in the district court, that court may allow attorney fees. *Tracy Corp. II v. Nebraska Pub. Serv. Comm.*, 218 Neb. 900, 360 N.W.2d 485 (1984).
- Informal discussions between the Tax Commissioner and the State Board of Equalization in which instructions were clarified, with such clarification leading to the amendment of hearing notices, did not constitute a public meeting subject to the provisions of this section. *Box Butte County v. State Board of Equalization and Assessment*, 206 Neb. 696, 295 N.W.2d 670 (1980).
- The right to collaterally attack an order made in contravention of the Public Meeting Act must occur within a period of one year as is specifically provided by this section. *Witt v. School District No. 70*, 202 Neb. 63, 273 N.W.2d 669 (1979).
- Statutory change, requiring "publicized notice" for board of education employment hearings, occurring between dates meeting scheduled and conducted, held not to void proceedings. *Alexander v. School Dist. No. 17*, 197 Neb. 251, 248 N.W.2d 335 (1976).

- Voiding an entire meeting is a proper remedy for violations of the Open Meetings Act. Once a meeting has been declared void pursuant to Nebraska's public meetings law, board members are prohibited from considering any information obtained at the illegal meeting. *Wolf v. Grubbs*, 17 Neb. App. 292, 759 N.W.2d 499 (2009).
- Actions by the board of directors were merely voidable under this section, and not void. Pursuant to subsection (3) of this section, the plaintiffs were awarded partial attorney fees because they were successful in having the court declare that the board of directors was in substantial violation of the statute, even though the plaintiffs did not get the relief requested of having the board's actions declared void. *Hansmeyer v. Nebraska Pub. Power Dist.*, 6 Neb. App. 889, 578 N.W.2d 476 (1998).

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Source: http://nebraskalegislature.gov/laws/display_html.php?begin_section=84-1407&end_section=84-1414

Date: December 2020



RURAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMISSION

NEBRASKA OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH
P.O. BOX 95026 • LINCOLN, NE 68509-5026 • PHONE (402) 471-2337 • FAX (402) 471-0180

DRAFT MINUTES of the

Rural Health Advisory Commission (RHAC)

Friday February 23rd, 2024

1:30 p.m. – 3:32 p.m.

Nebraska State Office Building

“Meadowlark” Lower-Level Conference Room

301 Centennial Mall South

Lincoln, Nebraska

- or -

Virtual Via Webex

1. Call Meeting to Order; Open Meetings Act and Agenda Posted/Available for Download; Adopt Agenda; Approve Minutes from November 17, 2023, Meeting

Chairman Marty Fattig called the quarterly meeting to order at 1:34 p.m. with the following members present: April Dexter, N.P. (remote); Marty Fattig; Michael Greene, M.D.; Jeffrey Harrison, M.D.; Kate Hesser, M.D.; Cherlyn Hunt (remote); Thomas Janousek (on behalf of Tony Green); Kate Kusek, D.D.S. (remote); Rebecca Schroeder, Ph.D; Myra Stoney; Timothy Tesmer, M.D.; Jeffrey Wallman, M.D.; Roger Wells, PA-C.

Mr. Fattig announced that the meeting notice had been posted to the DHHS website and sent out via email and USPS on February 9, 2024.* Handouts and meeting agenda were also posted on the DHHS website, with a link to these given on the agenda itself (<http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Rural-Health-Advisory-Commission.aspx> - under “Documents”). Additionally, the Open Meetings Act and meeting agenda were posted outside the meeting room.

**Sent as usual to: NE Rural Hospital CEOs, NE Certified Rural Health Clinic Directors, NE Local Public Health Departments, NE Community Action Partners, NE Community Health Centers/FQHCs, NE Professional Associations/Organizations, NE State Senators, the Offices of the Governor and Lt. Governor, and other rural interested parties and groups.*

Roger Wells, PA-C moved to approve the February 23, 2024, meeting agenda and Jeffrey Harrison, M.D. seconded the motion. Deb Stoltenberg initiated roll call vote. YES: Dexter, Fattig, Greene, Harrison, Hesser, Hunt, Kusek, Schroeder, Stoney, Tesmer, Wallman, Wells. ABSTAIN: None. EXCUSED: Green. Motion carried.

Rebecca Schroeder, Ph.D. moved to approve the November 17, 2023, meeting minutes and Timothy Tesmer, M.D. seconded the motion. Deb Stoltenberg initiated roll call vote. YES: Dexter, Fattig, Greene, Harrison, Hesser, Hunt, Kusek, Schroeder, Stoney, Tesmer, Wallman, Wells. ABSTAIN: None. EXCUSED: Green. Motion carried.

2. Administrative Items

Accountability and Disclosure Forms

Statement of Financial Interests (C-1) due March 1st, 2024, for the reporting period through 12/31/23.

Student Loan Form 1098s

Forms have been sent to student loan recipients by DHHS accounting.

Commission Member Update

Jeffrey Wallman, M.D. will be leaving when he completes his residency in June.

Next Meeting – June 5, 2024, in Kearney

Commission members were advised that the start time is yet to be determined as we are waiting for the Nebraska Rural Health Conference agenda to be finalized.

Other Announcements

Margaret Brockman will be retiring at the end of March. Ms. Brockman stated it's been a pleasure to serve for eleven years. Chairman Fattig and other members thanked her for her leadership over the years and wished her well.

3. Rural EMS Issues

Micheal Dwyer, EMT (Arlington) presented on Rural EMS issues, see report (available with handouts).

Mr. Dwyer stated he was excited and honored to be in front of the commission. He went over his background with Volunteer fire and EMS in Arlington, NE, as well as some work he's done with the Governor's EMS summit report (available in handouts) that was sent to commission members. This report will be updated again in June and send to commission members at that time. Issues with EMS are system-wide issues. Calls are up and responders are down, and there are severe issues in rural and frontier areas. The current system is not sustainable. Mr. Dwyer researched 11 states and remarked any state with a rural presence is struggling. There are general and specific workforce issues, lack of consistent funding model; there's not structural planning/consideration of the volunteer force and how to keep it going. EMS is declared an essential service in Nebraska per statute, but there are no teeth in that. We need material support for EMS as an essential service, need data to show evidence of specific needs, leadership matters, new models.

Jeffrey Harrison, M.D. asked if there are young EMTs in Nebraska. Mr. Dwyer replied that it depends on your zip code; in Arlington he has some individuals he's mentoring.

Mr. Dwyer mentioned LB1108 – “Why Not EMS” \$1.27 million – would replace antiquated ENARSIS system, do recruiting/retention. He remarked he has testified on seven different bills this session, some not even related to EMS but to get the issue on their minds.

Chairman Fattig remarked he thought the federal government should create a cost-based reimbursement model to fund EMS.

Mr. Dwyer stated that he would like to hear from commission members on what they think should be done and welcomed members to reach out to him.

Item 5 “Rural Health Systems and Professional Incentive Act Program Updates” was moved up as Jessica Meeske, DDS was available online to speak about a specific bill.

4. Rural Health Systems and Professional Incentive Act Program Updates

LB 1015

Additional proposed legislation for Dentists/Medicaid -

<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/108/PDF/Intro/LB1015.pdf>

Dr. Jessica Meeske is a previous recipient of loan repayment funds and voiced appreciation for the program. She spoke about her experience as a rural provider serving Medicaid clients, remarking that there is an issue with dentists not accepting new Medicaid clients. It's difficult to find a dentist to refer to. The waitlist at Heartland Clinic in Grand Island is 4,000 people. Dr. Meeske is also the Nebraska Dental Association president. She is working with the American Dental Association on new models that would incentivize providers to see Medicaid clients and working on ramping up fees on the Medicaid side. LB 935 would result in a 25% Medicaid fee increase. It's in legislature now. This would bring reimbursement up closer to the lowest reimbursing private dental plans.

LB 1015 is a proposal is to fund new dentists (out less than five years) with loan repayment via a separate appropriation. They have a similar program in Mississippi. The intention is for this to be a new loan repayment model, including five years of service (rather than three) and having graduated payments (rather than the same quarterly amounts throughout) to incentive providers staying on throughout the length of the contract. Continuing education was intended to be built into this program (was in draft but not final bill language); ideally the provider would partner with a Medicaid champion/mentor to help troubleshoot issues with that system. The goal is that by end of five-year contract, these providers would be unlikely to stop seeing Medicaid clients as it is built into their practice. Dr. Meeske mentioned needing UNMC College of Public Health (COPH) to look at the numbers and determine if this investment makes sense. Would want to follow up and see if people kept accepting Medicaid.

Dr. Meeske asked the commission if they had feedback for her.

Margaret Brockman asked what they're asking for in appropriation.

Dr. Meeske stated \$300,000 per year for five years. This would be a pilot program to fund five providers and they don't want it to compete with the existing state loan repayment program.

Chairman Fattig mentioned that there was not initially an appropriation for either LB 1015 or LB 1062. He, as a private citizen, worked with the Nebraska Medical Association to add funding and staff.

There was some discussion of how loan repayment funding had varied over years, increased to about 2 million just in the past few years. Currently ~ \$250,000 is remaining, but if we add a \$300,000 program without funding it, we're looking at a waiting list. Before recent funding increases, there were fifty qualified providers sitting on a waiting list at any given time waiting for funding, so we want to be cognizant of that.

LB 1062

Additional proposed legislation Adding Rural Veterinarians to the program -

<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/108/PDF/Intro/LB1062.pdf>

Discussion then continued to LB 1062.

Chairman Fattig remarked that veterinary care is a worthy cause, but he's not sure this is the area to add it. Dr. Harrison remarked he would rather see it expand to EMS. Dr. Kate Kusek agreed and remarked that EMS is more tied to health professionals and the veterinarian bill would need its own appropriation. Dr. Kate Hesser remarked that when she thinks rural health, she thinks people.

Chairman Fattig remarked that the chances of these bills passing this year are slim to none, but that at this point, the funding would all be coming from the same pot.

Shortage Area Requests

York County requested re-assessment as a shortage area for General Surgery. Upon review by Office of Rural Health staff (verified by HPTS), they do qualify.

Jeffrey Harrison, M.D. moved to approve the designation of York County as a shortage area for General Surgery and Roger Wells, PA-C seconded the motion. Deb Stoltenberg initiated roll call vote. YES: Dexter, Fattig, Greene, Harrison, Hesser, Hunt, Kusek, Schroeder, Stoney, Tesmer, Wallman, Wells. ABSTAIN: None. EXCUSED: Green. Motion carried.

Budget Update

Fiscal Year 2023-24; July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024 – first year of new biennium:

Total allocation = \$2,180,723
\$1,913,398.50 obligated
\$267,324.50 remaining

New applications will obligate some of the remaining funds (remaining amount of ~\$250,000 can be carried over to FY24-25).

Members then went back to item four "RHAC Strategic Planning Session Follow Up" from the original agenda.

5. RHAC Strategic Planning Session Follow Up

Loan Repayment Prioritization Matrix

Rachael Wolfe reported that the plan to have a needs assessment done by Dave Palm has fallen through. However, she and Heidi Peirce have discussed the potential to use the Federal Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) scores for prioritization of applicants to the programs.

If a county or site is in a rural area but doesn't have a HPSA score, it could automatically be prioritized (to avoid more rural areas falling through the cracks with that method). There is a map on the RHAC page of counties with population under 15,000 (the definition of rural mentioned in the statute) -

<https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Rural-Health-Advisory-Commission.aspx>

Here is a link to the map that shows which counties currently have a Primary Care HPSA (pink counties):

<https://gis.ne.gov/portal/apps/experiencebuilder/experience/?id=e3bbcc604b72448582d83843cf7eb494&page=All-In-One-3-31-2023&views=Primary-Care%3A-BSN-Registered-Nurse>

There are also Dental HPSAs

<https://gis.ne.gov/portal/apps/experiencebuilder/experience/?id=e3bbcc604b72448582d83843cf7eb494&page=All-In-One-3-31-2023&views=Dentistry%3A-Dental-Hygienist>

and Mental Health HPSAs

<https://gis.ne.gov/portal/apps/experiencebuilder/experience/?id=e3bbcc604b72448582d83843cf7eb494&page=All-In-One-3-31-2023&views=Mental-Health%3A-MS-LADC%2FLCSW>

Heidi Peirce discussed what goes into HPSA scores; there is quite a bit. The score runs from 0-25, with a higher score being better. To qualify for federal programs, 16-18 is generally required. Many sites in Nebraska (particularly in rural areas) don't go higher than 15. It's not a perfect system, doesn't capture everything.

Chairman Fattig remarked that the commission was created based on HPSA scores not being a perfect system.

No prioritization matrix will be implemented at this time.

Marketing of Program

Rachael Wolfe then remarked that commission members discussed next steps and determined they should choose two to three of the strategic goals identified in the planning session in August 2023 to focus on. They would then have a subcommittee meet and discuss. Marketing of loan programs, optimizing financial support, and optimized rural workforce were the three areas discussed. Subcommittees were not determined. She asked if RHAC members would like to set up a marketing subcommittee or any other subcommittees.

Chairman Fattig remarked he would like to have a call to discuss with at least a few volunteers. Jeffrey Harrison, M.D., Michael Greene, M.D., and Roger Wells, PA-C volunteered.

6. Review Current Federal and State Legislative Activities Impacting Rural Health

Roger Wells, PA-C reported on Federal matters, remarking that the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) – put out some webinars recently. Mental health is perceived as the biggest problem by patients, while access to care is the biggest problem as perceived by administrators. Access is multi system and includes affordability and transportation and pain. Rep. Bacon is putting forward a bill trying to reimburse hospitals for time residents spend with patients. There is also a focus on a national minimum wage/wage competition; states need to compete with other states for provider wages.

Mr. Wells then gave a state update, remarking that there was a colorectal bill, lung cancer screening bill, and a pharmacy bill along with a PA interstate compact bill (providers would be able to do telehealth in 4-5 states, echoing M.D. bill). Telehealth provisions would require all insurance to cover telehealth in Nebraska. He remarked it can be difficult to get things through on a federal level and that when there is a chance for movement on the state level, folks should jump on it.

Chairman Fattig remarked on LB 1087 – provider assessment/tax – all hospitals in the state would be assessed. He also remarked that Friend is the first and only Rural Emergency Hospital in Nebraska. He then mentioned the Epic tax (consumption tax), stating it would get rid of all taxes in state, but that everything else becomes taxable. He remarked that people should do their research and that things aren't always as they appear.

7. Public Comment

Dr. Gary Ensz – physician in Auburn, NE present along with his office manager Christy, spoke to thank the commission for the loan repayment programs. He initially went to Auburn as a National Health Service Corps Scholar and the programs have been important for their health clinic to remain strong. His son and daughter-in-law recently participated and were able to avoid a long waiting list due to recent funding increases. Dr. Ensz stated that this was very helpful in bringing them back home. They have 3 PAs taking advantage of the program who work in their ER doing primary care work. Making the designation that ER is primary care was very important to their clinic. He does think the program needs to be publicized more. Graph showing financial impact of the providers in communities needs to be shared more as well.

Amy Reynoldson with Nebraska Medical Association (NMA) then spoke. NMA initiated the process for ARPA funding and got that headed to the loan repayment program. In regard to LB1015, she stated that they will be advocating for expanded funding to go along with any program expansions. Anyone wanting to expand the program needs to bring money to the table. NMA is doing work on integrated healthcare, working with division of behavioral health. Dr. Todd Stull would be great to present to the commission about this project and the work. The PA interstate compact hearing was yesterday – physicians have a compact, PAs having one would be great. They're making sure there's compliance and oversight. Lung cancer screening bill – came out of committee today. Looking at increasing provider reimbursement rate in outpatient clinic setting.

Micheal Dwyer, EMT remarked that healthcare shortage areas seem to match ambulance deserts. He would like to look at ways we can be collaborating more.

8. CLOSED SESSION

Jeffrey Harrison, M.D. moved to go to Closed Session for the purpose of review and discussion of accounts receivable, loan repayment program applications, and other confidential information, and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of the individuals at 3:25 p.m.

Kate Hesser, M.D. seconded the motion. Deb Stoltenberg initiated roll call vote. YES: Dexter, Fattig, Greene, Harrison, Hesser, Hunt, Kusek, Schroeder, Stoney, Tesmer, Wallman, Wells. ABSTAIN: None. EXCUSED: Green. Motion carried.

Chairman Marty Fattig announced that the Commission would go into Closed Session at 3:26 p.m.

It was announced that guests should leave the room and the Webex.

9. OPEN SESSION

The Commission returned to open session at 3:07 p.m. (no vote required per legal).

Rebecca Schroeder, Ph.D. moved to approve the loan repayment applications with estimated loan repayment start dates and loan repayment amounts as indicated or as determined by Office of Rural Health staff, based on issuance of license and/or loan documentation, practice time in the shortage area, and the availability of funds for the state match, and also, to approve action discussed during the accounts receivable portion. Jeffrey Wallman, M.D. seconded the motion. Deb Stoltenberg initiated roll call vote. YES: Dexter, Fattig, Greene, Harrison, Hesser, Hunt, Kusek, Schroeder, Stoney, Tesmer, Wallman, Wells. ABSTAIN: None. EXCUSED: Green. Motion carried.

Date application submitted	First Name:	Last Name:	Profession:	License Number OR Date will be Licensed	Name of Facility:	County:	Average hours per week TOTAL:	Average ER hours per week:	Date provider began or will begin practice in the shortage area:	Loan balance	Matching Funds	State Start Date:	State Award Amount:	SLRP Start Date:	SLRP Minimum Award Amount:	SLRP Maximum Award Amount:
11/16/2023	Lindsay	Kvols	Nurse Practitioner, Family Practice	113661	Providence Medical Center	Wayne	40	0	9/1/2023	\$ 64,972.91	\$10,000.00	4/1/2024	\$ 60,000.00			
11/29/2023	Samantha	Fletcher	Licensed Mental Health Professional	1/1/2024	Blue Valley Behavioral Health	Otoe	35	0	5/3/2021	\$ 113,915.69	\$ 4,000.00	4/1/2024	\$ 24,000.00			
11/30/2023	Andrew	Brown	Physician Assistant, Family Practice	2031	Johnson County Hospital/Tecumseh Family Health	Johnson	56	40	11/12/2018	\$ 43,500.00	\$15,000.00	4/1/2024	\$ 43,383.66			
12/4/2023	Michelle	Claussen	Licensed Mental Health Professional	2759	Heartland Counseling Services	Dakota	40	0	9/6/2022	\$ 24,887.60	\$ -	4/1/2023	\$ -	9/1/2025	\$ -	\$ -
12/4/2023	Melinda	Cole	Licensed Mental Health Professional	2801	Methodist Fremont Health	Dodge	40	5	2/28/2022	\$ 63,129.62	\$ 6,000.00	4/1/2024	\$ 36,000.00			
1/5/2024	Katelyn	Christensen	Registered Nurse (Bachelor's level or higher)	6/1/2024	Brodstone Healthcare	Nuckolls	40	0	5/30/2021	\$ 16,694.13	\$ -			9/1/2025	\$ 16,694.13	\$ 16,694.13
1/5/2024	Whitni	Rust	Registered Nurse (Bachelor's level or higher)	84417	Brodstone Healthcare	Nuckolls	40	0	7/22/2013	\$ 17,277.57	\$ -			9/2/2025	\$ 17,277.57	\$ 17,277.57
1/8/2024	Darcie	Kennedy	Licensed Mental Health Professional	4/30/2024	Ambience Counseling	Red Willow	40	0	1/8/2024	\$ 57,873.93	\$ 6,667.00	5/1/2024	\$ 40,002.00			
1/18/2024	Mitchell	Hervert	MD/DO, General Internal Medicine	2209	Grand Island Regional Medical Center	Hall	40	0	6/1/2024	\$ 392,755.05	\$30,000.00	6/1/2024	\$180,000.00			
1/19/2024	Makayla	Garcia	Nurse Practitioner, Family Practice	112436	Providence Medical Center	Wayne	40	40	11/1/2023	\$ 62,180.89	\$10,000.00	4/1/2024	\$ 60,000.00			
2/12/2024	Alex	Becker	DDS/DMD, General Dentistry	7/19/2024	Heartland Health Center	Hall	40	0	8/1/2024	\$ 251,289.49	\$30,000.00	8/1/2024	\$180,000.00	9/1/2024	\$100,000.00	\$200,000.00
2/13/2024	Abby	Richardson	MD/DO, Family Practice	33840	Franklin County Memorial Hospital	Franklin	20	2	2/1/2024	\$ 95,312.04	\$ 30.00	4/1/2024	\$ 90,000.00			

Note: If award amount is blank for a particular program, provider does not qualify for that program. If \$- is listed, funds for that program were already obligated and provider will be added to a waitlist to allow time for them to find a match or to potentially be funded in the case of another provider's withdrawal.

10. Adjourn

Kate Hesser, M.D. moved to adjourn at 3:32 p.m., and no second is necessary. Deb Stoltenberg initiated roll call vote. YES: Dexter, Fattig, Greene, Harrison, Hesser, Hunt, Kusek, Schroeder, Stoney, Tesmer, Wallman, Wells. ABSTAIN: None. EXCUSED: Green. Motion carried.

Jeff Harrison, Roger Wells and Marty Fattig met via Zoom to discuss ideas on marketing the loan repayment plan to possible applicants.

Here are their thoughts:

Jeff Harrison, M.D.:

Thinking of this in 2 buckets, marketing to students and marketing to recruiters.

Students:

- RHOP advisors at Chadron, Wayne, Kearney and Peru
- Student Association for Rural Health chapters
- HOSA
- Financial Aid Advisors at feeder schools
- NMA/NAFP
- AHEC Scholars

Recruiters:

- NE Hospital Association
- Chambers of Commerce
- FQHC's
- Midwest Independent Practice Association?
- Nursing Home Association
- NE Pharmacies

Roger Wells, PA-C:

To effectively recruit high school students into the medical field, employing targeted advertising techniques can be highly beneficial. Here are some of the best strategies I have researched and feel may be affective. Certainly, these were NOT my first thoughts but a host of research outcomes:

1. **Optimize Online Content:** Ensure your website and online content are mobile-friendly and optimized for search engines to capture the attention of tech-savvy Gen-Z students¹.
2. **Social Media Engagement:** Utilize platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to run targeted ads and share engaging content that resonates with high school students¹.
3. **Virtual and Hybrid Events:** Host webinars, virtual tours, and Q&A sessions to provide interactive experiences and showcase your programs².
4. **Authentic Storytelling:** Share real stories and testimonials from current students or alumni to create a genuine connection with prospective students³.
5. **Interactive Content:** Develop quizzes, surveys, and interactive videos that can help students explore their interests in the medical field¹.
6. **Email Campaigns:** Craft personalized email campaigns that inform and nurture interest among students who have shown interest in medical careers¹.
7. **Influencer Partnerships:** Collaborate with influencers or notable figures in the medical field to reach a broader audience and add credibility to your message¹.

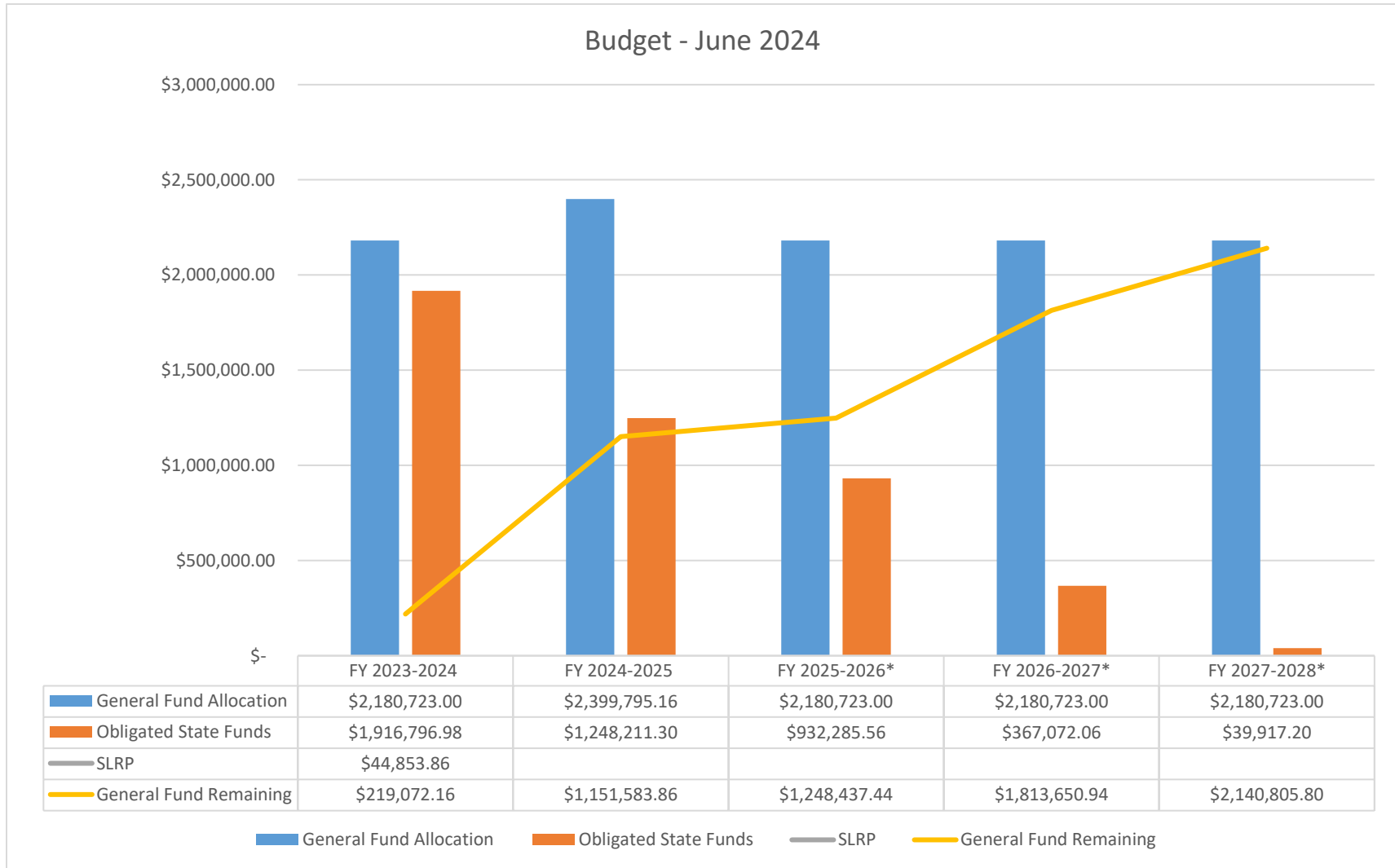
8. **Content Marketing:** Publish articles, blogs, and infographics that provide valuable information about medical careers and education paths¹.
9. **SEO and PPC Advertising:** Use search engine optimization and pay-per-click advertising to increase visibility in search results for medical career-related queries⁴.
10. **Referral Programs:** Encourage current students to refer peers, offering incentives for successful referrals to the medical programs¹.

By combining these techniques with a clear understanding of your target audience, you can create a compelling recruitment campaign that appeals to high school students' interests and aspirations in the medical field.

I would suggest a combined program of "electronic capture" from UNMC and CHI with the assistance and in-house capability of the Office of Rural Health.

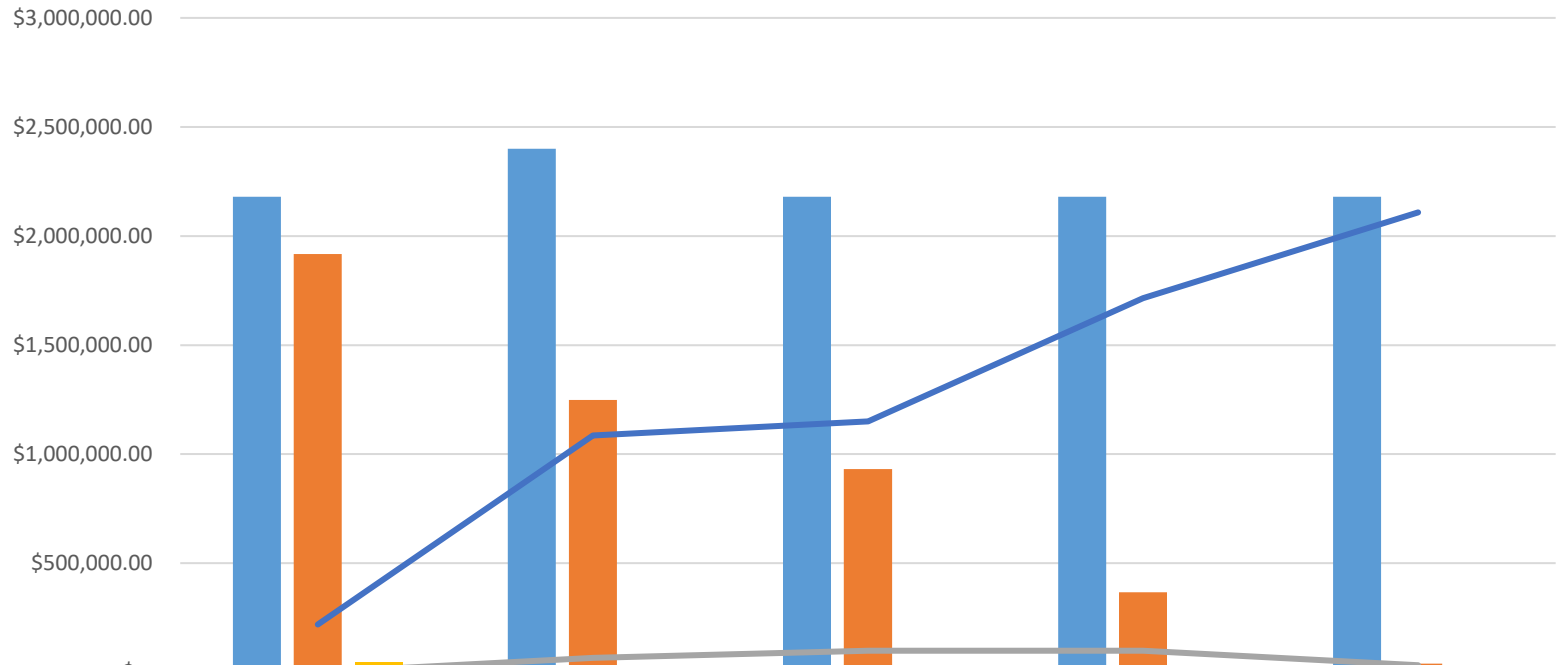
Marty Fattig:

Share all information on the programs we administer with as many interested organizations as possible. The ones that come to mind are the NMA, the NHA, the NeRHA, the PA association, the pharmacy association, the Nebraska Academy of Family Practice, just to name a few. I think it is also important to share what we are doing with the Governor's Office and the Legislature.



*general fund allocation is projected for FY2025-26 and on

Budget - June 2024 - Including New Applications



	FY 2023-2024	FY 2024-2025	FY 2025-2026*	FY 2026-2027*	FY 2027-2028*
General Fund Allocation	\$2,180,723.00	\$2,399,795.16	\$2,180,723.00	\$2,180,723.00	\$2,180,723.00
Obligated State Funds	\$1,916,796.98	\$1,248,211.30	\$932,285.56	\$367,072.06	\$39,917.20
SLRP	\$44,853.86				
New Applications	\$-	\$66,360.68	\$98,856.45	\$98,856.45	\$32,495.77
General Fund Remaining	\$219,072.16	\$1,085,223.18	\$1,149,580.99	\$1,714,794.49	\$2,108,310.03

■ General Fund Allocation
 ■ Obligated State Funds
 ■ SLRP
 — New Applications
 — General Fund Remaining

* general fund allocation is projected for FY2025-26 and on