



RURAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMISSION

NEBRASKA OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH
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DRAFT MINUTES of the

Rural Health Advisory Commission (RHAC)

Friday November 7, 2025

1:30 p.m. – 2:36 p.m.

Nebraska State Office Building

Lower Level Goldenrod Conference Room

301 Centennial Mall South

Lincoln, Nebraska

1. Call Meeting to Order; Open Meetings Act and Agenda Posted/Available for Download; Adopt Agenda; Approve Minutes from August 15, 2025 Meeting

Chairman Marty Fattig called the quarterly meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. with the following members present: April Dexter, N.P.; Marty Fattig; Jeffrey Harrison, M.D.; Kate Hesser, M.D.; Thomas Janousek, PsyD; Kate Kusek, D.D.S. (virtual); Myra Stoney; Diva Wilson, M.D. (virtual); Rebecca Schroeder, Ph.D.; Timothy Tesmer, M.D.; Tracy Zamora.

Mr. Fattig announced that the meeting notice had been posted to the DHHS website and sent out via email and USPS on October 24th, 2025.* Additionally, the Open Meetings Act and meeting agenda were posted outside the meeting room.

Jeffrey Harrison, M.D. moved to approve the November 7th, 2025, meeting agenda and Timothy Tesmer, M.D. seconded the motion. Deb Stoltenberg initiated roll call vote. YES: Dexter, Fattig, Harrison, Hesser, Janousek, Kusek, Stoney, Wilson, Schroeder, Tesmer, Zamora. ABSTAIN: None. EXCUSED: Wells. Motion carried.

Kate Hesser, M.D. moved to approve the August 15th, 2025, meeting minutes, and Rebecca Schroeder, Ph.D. seconded the motion. Deb Stoltenberg initiated roll call vote. YES: Fattig, Harrison, Hesser, Kusek, Stoney, Wilson, Schroeder, Tesmer. ABSTAIN: Dexter, Janousek, Zamora. EXCUSED: Wells. Motion carried.

2. Administrative Items

Commission Member Updates

Rachael Wolfe announced that this would be Chairman Fattig's final meeting as a commission member and the chair, and thanked him for 21 years of advocacy. Commission members applauded and thanked Chairman Fattig for his service.

**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.*

Ms. Wolfe remarked that an application was submitted for a replacement for the Rural Hospital Administrator position and the Governor's office is processing it. There are also applicants for the Family Medicine Resident position.

The commission then welcomed Tracy Zamora, the new Rural Nursing Home Administrator representative.

Nominate and Vote for Chair and Vice-Chair

Kate Hesser, M.D. moved to nominate Jeffrey Harrison, M.D. as Chair; April Dexter, N.P. seconded the motion. Deb Stoltenberg initiated roll call vote. YES: Dexter, Fattig, Hesser, Janousek, Kusek, Stoney, Wilson, Schroeder, Tesmer, Zamora. ABSTAIN: Harrison. EXCUSED: Wells. Motion carried.

Thomas Janousek, PsyD. moved to nominate Kate Hesser, M.D. as Vice-Chair; Timothy Tesmer, M.D. seconded the motion. Deb Stoltenberg initiated roll call vote. YES: Dexter, Fattig, Harrison, Janousek, Kusek, Stoney, Wilson, Schroeder, Tesmer, Zamora. ABSTAIN: Hesser. EXCUSED: Wells. Motion carried.

Set Meeting Dates for 2026

Note: half of the meetings in a calendar year can be held via videoconference. If any commission member attends virtually, it makes the meeting count as a videoconference. One meeting must be held outside of Lincoln and Omaha.

1. Meeting in Lincoln (NSOB or videoconference):
March 6th 2026
2. Possible rural location:
June 10th 2026 – Wednesday (Annual Nebraska Rural Health Conference on June 8th-10th in Kearney)
3. Meeting in Lincoln (NSOB lower level):
August 14th 2026
4. Meeting in Lincoln (NSOB or videoconference):
November 6th 2026

ORH will send out invites and reserve rooms.

3. National Rural Health Day

Heidi Peirce announced that National Rural Health Day is November 20th this year. Last year, Office of Rural Health (ORH) did a walking competition. This year, a Proclamation Signing Ceremony took place on November 4th.

Jeffrey Harrison, M.D. was able to attend along with ORH staff and Jed Hansen from the Nebraska Rural Health Association. ORH welcomes suggestions for next year if members have ideas about how to celebrate rural.

Myra Stoney asked Heidi to send the social media out available from the National Organization of State Office of Rural Health (NOSORH).

4. Office of Rural Health Update

Heidi Peirce discussed the rural health transformation program (RHTP) which was introduced in September. ORH was part of the process of making proposals for funds.

Timothy Tesmer, M.D. thanked the commission for signing onto a letter of support for this proposal. The potential award is up to \$200 million a year for up to five years and will be focused on addressing workforce shortages. Dr. Tesmer went on to explain that the “Rural Health Transformation Program Governance Board” is the role the commission could play as part of this funding initiative. This would not add additional workload, beyond a possible subcommittee and an annual report. Having the commission serve in this way would prevent unnecessary bureaucracy as they could use the commission already in existence, rather than creating a new board.

Dr. Tesmer introduced Ryan Daly, Deputy Director of Finance, and Sara Morgan, Deputy Director for Health Promotion, and asked if anyone had questions.

Kate Hesser, M.D. asked if the award has been received yet. It has not. Thomas Janousek, PsyD. described that each state gets \$100 million if they apply, and up to \$200 million if their full proposal is approved. Ryan Daly explained that the department should hear back by sometime in January.

Jeffrey Harrison, M.D. asked for an overview of the proposal and specifically wondered about sustainability. Sara Morgan replied that the answer depends on the projects included – one is workforce development (complimentary to Nebraska Loan Repayment Program). The hope is that those providers stay past the award, and some statutory changes are planned that could help keep the work going longer. Ryan Daly mentioned there is money for facility conversion work, which will help with sustainability. Dr. Janousek remarked that they’re looking at expanding crisis continuum and stand up rural integrated clinics on the behavioral health side. Brittany Tran asked if public schools are involved and Dr. Janousek said potentially.

Chairman Fattig remarked that he is glad the RHAC will be monitoring some of these activities and thinks their advice will be valuable. Sara Morgan thanked the commission for their willingness to serve in this way.

5. Rural Health Systems and Professional Incentive Act Program Updates

Shortage Area Requests

There were no requests this quarter, but commission members remarked that they’d like to see a map of active CRNAs in Nebraska. They want to make sure we prioritize those serving OB if money is short.

Budget Update

Fiscal Year 2025-26; July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026 – first year of new biennium:

Total allocation = \$2,180,723

General Funds Obligated FY25-26 (total):

\$1.7 million

New applications will add about \$125,000 to the budget for FY25-26.

General Funds Remaining for FY25-26:

\$463,000 (or \$338,000 with new applications).

This amount can be carried over or used for SLRP match.

RHAC’s 2025 Annual Report and Distribution (Agenda item 5B)

Rebecca Schroeder, PhD. moved to approve the Rural Health Advisory Commission’s 2025 Annual Report, with updated maps to be added to the report after today’s meeting, and agreed that the Chair would distribute the Annual Report with a cover letter from the Commission via email to the following individuals/groups: Governor, Lt. Governor, all State Senators, Nebraska’s Congressional representatives, and DHHS’ Directors. Jeffrey Harrison, M.D. seconded motion. Deb Stoltenberg initiated roll call vote. YES: Dexter, Fattig,

Harrison, Hesser, Janousek, Kusek, Stoney, Wilson, Schroeder, Tesmer, Zamora. ABSTAIN: None. EXCUSED: Wells. Motion carried.

Annual Report will be added to the webpage that ORH maintains for the Commission, replacing prior versions. A final version will be emailed to RHAC members as well. If any physical copies are desired, ORH can assist with printing these documents.

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

Chairman Fattig stated that RHTP is the major thing happening right now. He is looking at maintaining funding and making other changes to the statute once that calms down. Issues with the government shutdown of course mean that nothing will be moving.

Thomas Janousek, PsyD remarked that the Division of Behavioral Health put out a request for application for use of opioid settlement funds released in June. They've selected five finalists and they're under financial review.

7. Public Comment

State Senator Dan McKeon spoke and asked the commission to let him know if there's anything we can do especially if it helps out Kearney County.

Jim Ulrich of York spoke, saying he appreciated the opportunity to attend and listen in. He is excited about RHTP opportunities and happy to hear more about the state's involvement with that.

Dr. Sydney Stein, State Epidemiology Director, remarked that the Governor and CEO Corsi have tasked her with addressing obesity. She spoke about the NE Physical Activity Forum held recently to try to understand the programs that are most successful and share those statewide.

8. CLOSED SESSION

Myra Stoney 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. Thomas Janousek, PsyD. seconded the motion. Deb Stoltenberg initiated roll call vote. YES: Dexter, Fattig, Harrison, Hesser, Janousek, Kusek, Stoney, Wilson, Schroeder, Tesmer, Zamora. ABSTAIN: None. EXCUSED: Wells. Motion carried.

Chairman Marty Fattig announced that the Commission would go into Closed Session at 2:23 p.m.

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

9. OPEN SESSION

The Commission returned to Open Session at 2:35pm

Jeffrey Harrison, M.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. Kate Hesser, M.D. seconded the motion. Deb Stoltenberg initiated roll call vote. YES: Dexter, Fattig, Harrison, Hesser, Janousek, Kusek, Tesmer, Zamora. ABSTAIN: Stoney, Schroeder, Wilson. EXCUSED: Wells. Motion carried.

Date application submitted	First Name:	Last Name:	Profession/Specialty	License Number OR date you will be licensed:	Name of Main Facility	County	Average Weekly Hours TOTAL	Average Weekly ER Hours	Date of Practice	Loan Balance	Match Funds	State Start Date:	State Award Amount:	SLRP Start Date:	SLRP Minimum Award Amount:	SLRP Maximum Award Amount:
8/18/2025	Stephanie	Koch	Pharmacist	15864	Community Medical Center	Richardson	40	2	12/4/2017	\$ 69,000.00	\$ 3,000.00			7/1/2026	\$ 6,000.00	\$ -
8/27/2025	Jordan	Haake	Nurse Practitioner, Family Medicine	115387	Gothenburg Health	Dawson	40	0	8/5/2024	\$ 62,000.00	\$15,000.00			7/1/2026	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 62,000.00
8/28/2025	Jenna	Hilker	Nurse Practitioner, Family Medicine	113782	Park Street Medical Clinic	Nance	40	10	7/1/2025	\$111,592.22	\$15,000.00			7/1/2026	\$ 37,500.00	\$ 75,000.00
11/3/2025	Madeleine	Wilson	MD/DO, Family Medicine	33050	Cherry County Hospital and Clinic	Cherry	45	2	9/7/2022	\$313,174.56	\$30,000.00			7/1/2026	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 240,000.00
11/3/2025	Sondra	Holloway	MD/DO, Family Medicine	NE 1601	Chimney Rock Medical Center	Morrill	40	0	9/26/2022	\$ 21,834.24	\$30,000.00			7/1/2026	\$ 21,834.24	\$ -
8/27/2025	Dyanna	Swanigan	Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist	101637	Columbus Community Hospital	Platte	40	0	9/29/2025	\$131,841.81	\$15,000.00	1/1/2026	\$90,000.00			
8/27/2025	Mark	Funk	Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist	101708	Columbus Community Hospital	Platte	40	0	7/18/2022	\$172,276.68	\$ 8,500.00	1/1/2026	\$51,000.00			
8/27/2025	Kaylee	Krotter-Hoadley	Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist	101941	Columbus Community Hospital	Platte	40	0	7/28/2025	\$109,527.46	\$12,079.00	1/1/2026	\$72,474.00			
8/27/2025	Timothy	Pieper	Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist	101847	Columbus Community Hospital	Platte	40	0	7/2/2024	\$118,720.62	\$11,389.00	1/1/2026	\$68,334.00			
8/27/2025	Jessica	Kuhr	Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist	101706	Columbus Community Hospital	Platte	40	0	7/18/2022	\$122,665.40	\$ 8,500.00	1/1/2026	\$51,000.00			
8/27/2025	Kirby	Sutton	Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist	101583	Columbus Community Hospital	Platte	40	0	11/14/2022	\$160,788.17	\$ 8,750.00	1/1/2026	\$52,500.00			
8/27/2025	Noelle	Steffensmeier	Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist	101765	Columbus Community Hospital	Platte	40	0	7/24/2023	\$107,796.95	\$ 9,500.00	1/1/2026	\$57,000.00			
8/27/2025	Angela	Dawson	Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist	101258	Columbus Community Hospital	Platte	40	0	8/18/2014	\$ 70,428.23	\$11,389.00	1/1/2026	\$68,334.00			
8/27/2025	Emily	Albracht	Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist	6/1/2026	Columbus Community Hospital	Platte	40	0	7/15/2026	\$117,725.39	\$ 7,667.00	8/1/2026	\$46,002.00			
9/2/2025	Gina	Hipke	Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist	101928	Phelps Memorial Health Center	Phelps	40	0	9/2/2025	\$144,847.41	\$15,000.00	1/1/2026	\$90,000.00			
11/5/2025	Shanna	Vargas	Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist	101218	Mary Lanning Healthcare	Adams	40	0	10/28/2025	\$ 93,164.38	\$15,000.00	1/1/2026	\$90,000.00			
9/24/2025	Lori	Dye	Nurse Practitioner, Psychiatry	115901	Mindful Path llc	Hall	40	0	9/24/2025	\$ 80,662.00	\$10,000.00	1/1/2026	\$80,662.00			
8/26/2025	Crystal	Dailey	Nurse Practitioner, Family Medicine	NE112345	Brown County Hospital	Brown	40	30	11/4/2024	\$ 18,193.03	\$15,000.00	7/1/2026	\$17,750.00			
9/2/2025	Katie	Stanczyk	Nurse Practitioner, General Internal Med	116332	Inpatient Physician Associates	Hall	40	0	10/1/2025	\$ 41,810.12	\$15,000.00	1/1/2026	\$41,810.12			
9/5/2025	Andrea	Rice	MD/DO, Family Medicine	3303	Trivalley Health System	Furnas	40	0	9/2/2025	\$500,000.00	\$30,000.00	1/1/2026	\$180,000.00	7/1/2026	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 300,000.00
9/15/2025	Kimberly	Wiese	Nurse Practitioner, Family Medicine	116250	AMH Family Practice	Antelope	40	10	7/23/2025	\$117,742.82	\$15,000.00	1/1/2026	\$90,000.00	7/1/2026	\$ 37,500.00	\$ 75,000.00
9/22/2025	Deyanna	Boston	MD/DO, Family Medicine	32491	Charles Drew Health Center	Douglas	20	0	9/3/2020	\$457,616.27	\$12,500.00	1/1/2026	\$75,000.00	7/1/2026	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -
9/29/2025	Tabitha	Hoffman	Licensed Mental Health Professional	3382	Fillmore County Hospital	Fillmore	40	2	12/19/2022	\$ 92,400.66	\$10,000.00	1/1/2026	\$60,000.00			
9/30/2025	Lori	Bratetic	Nurse Practitioner, Family Medicine	113738	Midtown Health Center	Madison	32	0	9/2/2025	\$ 52,866.59	\$15,000.00	1/1/2026	\$52,866.58	7/1/2026	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 52,866.59
10/15/2025	Thayne	Moore	Licensed Mental Health Professional	9/12/2026	Midwest Encouragement and Counseling Center	Buffalo	40	0	7/1/2025	\$ 33,833.56	\$10,000.00	10/1/2026	\$33,833.56	10/1/2026	\$ 33,833.44	\$ -
10/24/2025	Erin	Pascoe	Nurse Practitioner, Psychiatry	116255	Community Hospital	Red Willow	40	0	9/15/2025	\$ 67,000.00	\$15,000.00	1/1/2026	\$67,000.00			
10/27/2025	Dominic	Gliko	Nurse Practitioner, Psychiatry	116205	OneWorld	Douglas	40	0	8/20/2025	\$ 89,843.28	\$15,000.00	1/1/2026	\$89,843.28	7/1/2026	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 89,843.28
10/29/2025	Megan	Corbin	Nurse Practitioner, Family Medicine	10/28/2025	Jefferson Community Health and Life	Jefferson	40	0	3/1/2026	\$ 73,894.95	\$15,000.00	1/1/2026	\$73,894.94			
SLRP Only																
LB 50																
CRNA																
date of licensure																

Note: If award amount is blank for a particular program, provider does not qualify for that program. If \$- is listed for SLRP maximum amount, total award is for two years only.

10. Adjourn

The Commission adjourned at 2:36 p.m.