

**Crematory Operators  
Credentialing Review Meeting #1**  
Public Meeting  
**Minutes**

This is a draft. Minutes  
have not been approved  
by the State Board of  
Health.

Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 3:30pm

**MEMBERS:** Gary Anthone, MD; Peter Hunt, PA-C; David Deemer, LNHA; Kyle McCartney, PharmD; Jeffrey Howorth; Michael O'Hara, J.D., Ph.D.; Mark Bertch, DPT  
**STAFF:** Emma Davis, Emma Soukup

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

The first meeting of the crematory operators credentialing review process was called to order at 3:20 PM on Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. The following members were present: Gary Anthone, MD; Peter Hunt, PA-C; David Deemer, LNHA; Kyle McCartney, PharmD; Jeffrey Howorth; Michael O'Hara, J.D., Ph.D.; Mark Bertch, DPT. There were no committee members who were not in attendance. Quorum met.

Staff and others in attendance: Emma Davis, Emma Soukup

A copy of the Open Meetings Act was available in the meeting room.

**2. Applicant group presentation**

- Licensed funeral directors Paul Seger and Jamie Dolan gave the following presentation on behalf of the applicant group. Chris Klingler, also a licensed funeral director, was credited on the first slide of the presentation, but was not present at the technical review committee meeting.
- Seger began the presentation with an overview of what would be covered: an introduction to cremation, information about crematories in Nebraska, basics of the certifications and standards for crematory operations, restrictions, current practices, a description of the proposed changes, an overview of the benefits, risks, and potential risk management strategies regarding the proposed changes, a recap, and time for questions.
- On "Understanding Crematories," Seger provided the following information: Crematories are specialized facilities that use high-temperature equipment to reduce human remains to cremated remains. Nebraska has 33 active crematories. Most of these are operated within or alongside funeral homes. (Funeral homes are run by licensed funeral directors.) The others are centralized crematories serving multiple funeral establishments. There used to be an independent crematory, but it has since become a licensed funeral home as well. Cremation only occurs after three documents have been obtained, as per statute. These documents are the family's cremation authorization, a death certificate signed by a doctor, and the county's permit providing permission. There is one crematory in the state that has no oversight from a licensed funeral director.
- On "Basics of Certification and Standards," Seger stated that the applicant group proposes the following certification requirements and competency standards:
  - High school diploma or equivalent
  - Completion of an approved crematory operator training course
  - Refresher training and renewal every five years

- Crematories are already required to renew their license every five years, the proposal here is to require someone at the establishment to have taken the refresher training before the license can be renewed
- Universal chain-of-custody procedures and documentation
  - There are many different cremation authorizations provided by funeral homes across the state. The applicant group is seeking standardization of these documents.
  - Here, Dolan provides additional information. She explains that crematories are licensed by the state of Nebraska, but the employees running the equipment are not, this equipment can be operated by anyone. No training is legally required.
- Safe operation and maintenance inspections of cremation equipment
  - Seger states the applicant group believes these inspections might mitigate some issues being experienced in other states and increase safety by keeping the people in charge of machine upkeep accountable.
- Accurate recordkeeping and cremation logs
  - Seger explains that cremation logs are important for identification of remains and are kept long after the remains have left the facility in order to identify them in the future if necessary.
- On “Restrictions,” Seger stated: Crematories are not stand alone, public facing operations. The applicant group seeks to keep it that way, with funeral directors being the public-facing part of the operation or cooperation. The applicant group seeks for all crematories to be registered with the state under a person’s name, not under a company name. Since cremation is a final form of disposition, the applicant group thinks that cremation should take place under a licensed individual of some sort, given the contents of state statute regarding final disposition.
- On “Current Crematory Standards,” Seger explained: Crematories register with the state when they are built. To register with the state, someone must present a certificate from the manufacturer of the machine being installed stating that they were shown how to run the machine. Dolan clarifies that this certificate stating that the manufacturer showed one person how to run the machine is all that is necessary to register with the state currently. The crematory must also have an air construction permit through the DEQ and renew every year. Crematories must also have the three aforementioned documents in order to cremate each person. The crematory is required to use a cremation log and numbering system of some kind. Cremation machines can be owned and operated by anyone that has purchased one or works for a funeral home. Statute stipulates that only humans can be cremated in human crematories. Animals must be cremated in a separate building. However, there are no inspections or maintenance requirements.
  - These requirements were written in the 80’s and the applicant group believes they are too vague.
- On “Proposed Changes,” Seger provided the following suggestions:
  - Possess a high school diploma or equivalent
  - Complete a state-approved crematory operator training program
  - Apply for and receive certification through Nebraska DHHS
  - Renew certification every five years
  - Complete approved refresher or continuing education before renewal
  - Comply with Nebraska laws, safety requirements, and professional ethical standards as licensed funeral directors
    - Some crematories have found ways to be licensed and still bypass the DEQ air quality standards

- Be subject to individual oversight and disciplinary action
- Inspections
  - To help mitigate some of the public distrust that has resulted from current events in other states
- On “Benefits,” Seger stated that the proposed changes would:
  - Strengthen public confidence in Nebraska’s death-care profession
    - Especially because these changes are proactive instead of reactionary
  - Establish consistent minimum training and competency standards
    - Not learned through the grapevine, straight from the source instead
  - Improve safe operation and maintenance of cremation equipment
  - Promote consistent practices across funeral-home and stand-alone crematories
  - Require operators to remain current through five-year refresher training
- On “Potential issues/risks,” Seger stated that there would be a cost for an inspector and the licensure unit would have increased workload.
- On “Risk mitigation,” Seger stated that the charges from credentialing the crematory operators could be used to pay for the inspector. He mentioned that there are only 33 of these facilities currently in the state.
- On “Summary,” Seger stated that current statutes are behind the times. They were written when cremation was uncommon and now, 50-55% or more of people are being cremated. A standard is necessary for crematories. More regulations would also help the public feel there is more transparency. It is also important to be proactive rather than react once there is an issue. Dolan added that anyone can work for a crematory and reiterated that the statutes currently in place are not adequate for how cremation has come to be used.

### 3. Technical Review Committee discussion and questioning

- TRC: You mentioned animal cremation in your presentation, just to clarify, we are only discussing human cremation, correct?
  - Applicant group (AG): Correct.
- TRC: You mentioned there is one crematory without oversight from a licensed funeral directory. Was that what motivated you to do this or was there some event?
  - AG: That one crematory, no. But say they do something wrong. There’s no disciplinary action or oversight except that they might be sued by a funeral home. Nothing has happened in Nebraska at a crematory. We don’t want what has happened in other states to happen here with how vague our statutes are, and we want our crematories to be licensed. We’re trying to be proactive.
  - TRC: So, that one crematory that isn’t under a licensed funeral director, if they did something substandard, there would be no disciplinary action. Whereas you, a crematory functioning under a licensed funeral director, could have disciplinary action?
    - AG: Through the funeral directing part of it, there’s still nothing for a crematory operator. We’re just trying to have the same standard.
- TRC: This is just a question about cremation, not necessarily related to your proposal. But what happens to gold teeth and things like that after cremation? Who gets the metal? I read online that after cremation, if there’s a metal like that, it’d be pulverized.
  - AG: It goes to medical waste. And actually, in reviewing all this stuff, we have learned that as per statute, even if a family member requests to have something like that given back, we are not allowed to give it back. So, it goes to medical recycling is the short answer.
  - TRC: I was just interested in what happens to something that is worth money, like a gold tooth or something. Can the cremation people find that and keep it?

- AG: There's not a lot left after cremation. It's a lot less than you'd think. Families can hire dentists or oral surgeons to remove the gold teeth if they want. But as a funeral director and cremator, I don't know what I'm doing and trying to remove it would be mutilation.
- TRC: After cremation, there's not any DNA, is there?
  - AG: Not after the pulverization process as much. If there needs to be DNA extraction, there is a possibility that it can be found in the bones before the body is put through the processor to become that fine powder ashes. It's very difficult, the bones are brittle and fall apart.
  - TRC: Could a family request bones be kept in case they want to do a DNA test later?
    - AG: There's a statute that states we cannot give them bone fragments.
    - TRC: Is there a minimum amount of days you have to wait to do a cremation after somebody dies?
      - a. AG: No, as long as we have those three forms, we can cremate. That said, in order to get a doctor to sign the death certificate, is a couple of days, easy. Death certificates are supposed to be signed within 24 hours of death, but that rarely ever happens.
      - b. TRC: But what if there was a person who really wanted this other to be cremated fast and they were trying to get rid of the DNA of it?
        - i. AG: There have been cases of that, and we'll get a call from the sheriff's office or something telling us to hold everything, don't move. They'll ask if the cremation has taken place or not. Three to five days is pretty standard for us to have to hold before a cremation can take place.
- TRC: When I think about inspections and I think about various examinations and things like that, I want to know who the official educators would be. Could I just host a class and claim to have provided education?
  - AG: CANA, ICC, and the National Funeral Directors Association have education programs.
  - TRC: We're looking to have something formalized, right? So, I'm looking to understand who the approved educator is.
    - AG: We put them in the application; those are the big three.
- TRC: Are there any current inspections of funeral directors and funeral homes?
  - AG: There used to be an examining board pre-Covid. Since then, it's gone to a self-inspection. We'd like to see no more self-inspection, but we've been told that's a statute thing. And we're not making big asks with inspection; we're asking for what we think the public would want.
- TRC: In the state of Nebraska, who is the governing body over funeral homes?
  - AG: Our examining board for licensure.
  - TRC: Do funeral home directors have licenses and need to re-license?
    - AG: Yes, every two years.
    - TRC: You say you want crematory operators to go through a training program that is certified somehow. Who are these programs you mentioned certified through?
      - a. AG: Different states operate through different entities. We're talking about cremation standards that are national. State-specific is the statute stuff that we could enact. But these programs are nationally recognized.
      - b. TRC: Is there a national board of funeral directors or cremation experts?
        - i. AG: Both.
        - ii. TRC: So, they approve or implement some sort of examination?
          - 1. AG: The programs have national standards that they have to hit.
          - 2. TRC: Is there a national test that you have to pass?
            - a. AG: For funeral directors, yes. I don't think there's ever been a national test for crematories.
  - TRC: As funeral directors, you recertify every two years, what do you have to do to recertify?
    - AG: We need continuing education hours.
    - TRC: And do crematory operators need continuing education hours?

- AG: We want them to do a refresher course every five years. And the reason we chose five years is because that's how often the crematories have to recertify.
- TRC: When you go through your education as a funeral director, do you learn how to cremate?
  - AG: No, they talk about the process, but it's not enough to know what to do.
  - TRC: In our state, do you know if most funeral directors have taken these cremation courses?
    - AG: I would say there're more that have not taken it than that have. Nothing in the state says we need to have these trainings done and they're expensive, so it's hard to have people go do them.
- TRC: Many professionals in this room are licensed through the state, but we work for entities other than the state. We don't have oversight to these entities, we have oversight to ourselves. For example, he's a pharmacist, but he isn't responsible for the pharmacy unless he also owns it. It sounds like you're asking for regulation of the crematorium. How would a certified person who knows how to cremate help regulate the actual facility?
  - AG: So, they're regulating what is happening in that facility, meaning they know what standards should be done. Everyone needs to be educated about the standards we should be following and right now we don't have that.
  - TRC: As pharmacists, our licenses are on the line for every decision we make. But we have pharmacy technicians who do a lot of the work. If the crematory fails inspection, does that failure come to the funeral director who should have oversight of the cremation operator, or is this falling directly to the cremation operator?
    - AG: What we're asking for is if you're the independent person, you'd have to answer just as a funeral home would have to answer. Because in the state, you can have a crematory and not a licensed funeral director, there's no oversight. He has a licensed crematory but anybody doing the act of cremating does not have a license. Pharmacy techs need to have a license; crematory operators do not.
    - TRC: Pharmacy techs have licenses, but if something goes wrong in a pharmacy, they're not the ones that fall responsible to the public. That's a pharmacist. I need clarification on where the responsibility to the public falls. Is it directly to the operator? Are they responsible for the maintenance of the crematorium? Or would responsibility fall to the funeral home?
      - a. AG: But right now, crematoriums do not have to be owned by funeral homes or have oversight from funeral directors. You can't have a funeral director responsible if there isn't one. The majority of crematories are owned by funeral directors, but they don't have to be.
- TRC: So funeral homes that have crematories have two different licenses. Are you looking to license the operator or certify?
  - AG: Certification.
  - TRC: Do crematory operators currently have a registration with the state?
    - AG: No.
    - TRC: So, we're looking at registration and certification.
      - a. AG: The word license and certification, it's difficult.
- TRC: Wouldn't it be simpler to say all crematories must have oversight from a licensed funeral director? Then all of this would just be a moot point.
  - AG: The problem is then that we have people out there who say that'd be turning this into a monopoly.
- AG: This is to bring it all under one roof and make all entities talk. DEQ is not talking to licensure right now, we know this. Then we have crematories where nothing can happen to them except for families suing, but more than likely instead they'll be coming after us.
- TRC: Have you researched a state that has successfully set this up in the way that you're proposing?
  - AG: Kansas.
  - TRC: Okay, and how is Kansas statute set up? Exactly how you're proposing today?

- AG: South Dakota has something that says you hold somebody for 48 hours and you can cremate them. So we went more with Kansas, because that's where the schools are at, so they send people to crematory operator classes, and they have statute like what we want to enact. We also asked them what they would change.
    - a. TRC: And how long has that been in place?
    - b. AG: I don't know. I know it's been seven, not quite ten.
      - i. TRC: And what did they say didn't work well?
      - ii. AG: Saying crematories have to be run by a funeral home. There was worry it would create a monopoly and so the recommendation was to go through this process with our lobbyist.
- TRC: I don't see that as a monopoly. A monopoly is one person or organization owning all. So, unless that's the case, it's not going to cause a monopoly. I personally feel that this license should exist. But I need to know what the supervisory role is. If it's the operator who is responsible for everything and they are liable for it all, then they should be accountable. But, if the operators are kids straight out of high school without much guidance or resources or power, we can't come after the operator specifically. This is a matter of where accountability falls and what the supervisory role is.
  - AG: My license says the name of my crematory and the owners, me and my husband, and the manager, me. We'd like to see people on these licenses as the manager. Then I have a girl who works for me, she's taken this training. Nobody else works for me, but if they did, they would take this training, too.
  - TRC: But is the proposal to require that from the state?
    - AG: Yes, we need to get to that.
- TRC: Who is responsible? Is it that person with a high school diploma that is responsible? It sounds like you want that person to be responsible and if something were to happen, that person could be sued.
  - AG: It could be. There are people in this town running crematories and people in the funeral home have no idea what's going on there.
- TRC: Wouldn't it be better to have a crematory board? Instead of going about it this way?
  - AG: I mean, we're trying to get in under the funeral directing board.
  - TRC: But that goes against your monopoly sentiment.
    - AG: That's right.
    - TRC: So, I would say you'd be better off having a crematory board, A. But also, why do you need a name on a certificate? What's wrong with having a corporation?
      - a. AG: I don't care who the owner is, but why would a business be the manager?
      - b. TRC: Because that's the LLC I set up for tax purposes.
        - i. AG: That would be who your owner is, but the manager might be Joe Schmoe. He's the responsible party.
        - ii. TRC: Does he have a license or a certification?
          - 1. AG: Certification.
- TRC: So why don't we have a crematory board and get some oversight into the things that go on?
- TRC: To regulate an individual, we need to meet certain criteria. The first criteria is that an unregulated practice could cause danger to the health, safety, or welfare of the public. Explain it.
  - AG: So, the welfare of the public could be if these people are not regulated, they give you the wrong person back. The emotional wellbeing. If there's oversight saying oh hey when you open your doors, you shouldn't have this stench coming out. Or you may have seen the Netflix documentary where they were cremating so many people at a time and they opened up a field and the fat was running down the field, so you can cremate more people and keep the crematory running all the time...
  - TRC: But that's the crematorium, not the operator. The certified operator. Having an operator certified is not going to prevent a crematory from doing illegal practice.
    - AG: But now there is no funeral director oversight.
    - TRC: That's a totally different thing you're asking for.

- TRC: Did you guys talk to the crematories around here that aren't licensed and try to work out something with them?
  - AG: Crematories that are not under funeral directors?
  - TRC: That aren't licensed to what you were saying, that are out...
    - AG: There's one.
    - TRC: I thought you said there were a bunch that were out doing stuff crematory-wise that wouldn't be advised.
      - a. AG: I'm saying their operators, people who are operating the machines, have never operated a machine until they got this job, and now they're doing who knows what practices. It'd be a good education for them to know how to operate these machines.
- AG: Let's say right now, you want to put a crematory in. You get your DEQ certification, you get your construction permit, you get your license from the state, and you have your building and you have your crematory. That company that you bought it from will come out and tell you how to run the machine. And that's it. You have no idea, say it starts to smoke, because it's the third one of the day and he's 450 pounds. They didn't tell you not to put that 450-pound body in there after you'd run your machine and it was at 1,200 degrees. This operating certification, you don't have any of that right now in the state. That's what the operator certification would be, is how to actually operate the machine.
- TRC: Are all machines the same? Probably not, would that be a problem?
  - AG: No, because the three manufacturers that make these machines have all gotten together and have done this. So, throat air is a thing on every machine. How you turn it on might be different. But throat air puts more air in, main chamber is the same.
    - TRC: The same, but different.
    - AG: The same, but different. The machine looks the same, the control panel might look differently. It's like you've got a Nissan or a Neon. The radio might not be in the same place, but it does the same thing. So they've all gotten together and gotten this certification program together that covers all crematory machines.
- TRC: You said the state licenses the crematory?
  - AG: The state licenses the crematory, the crematory building if you really want to get down to what a crematory license is.
  - TRC: Do they license it or just give you the license to do the construction?
    - AG: That's the DEQ. We don't generate enough poor air quality to be anything more than a construction permit. So, ours is always a construction permit. Even if it's been running for fifteen years. The state licenses the building with a machine in it. It says you've paid your dues.
- TRC: Would requiring this certification cause some crematories to close? Then in turn causing prices to go up for the consumer?
  - AG: I would say no. Of the 33 crematories in the state, I talked to 11 of them, and I haven't talked to any that think they don't need regulation. The problem is everything that's happened around us. With bodies found and people finding out they were given concrete instead of human ashes.
  - TRC: How would this certification of a person prevent this from happening? If a person is certified and knows how to cremate, that's great. But the body has to go in, the ashes have to come out. Unless that whole funeral home is doing something mischievous, it's not really up to the one person running the machine.
    - AG: If you're running a crematory and the flame goes out and you have no idea what's wrong. In 2002, Tristate Crematory ended up throwing bodies out into this river. They had a \$25 part that they wouldn't replace because he didn't know what he was doing.
    - TRC: Why is that the operator's problem? That'd be the owner's problem.
      - a. AG: The owner lives in California and doesn't care what's happening, he isn't going to check.

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 Credentialing Review homepage: [dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Board-of-Health.aspx](https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Board-of-Health.aspx)

- a. AG: There is draft language for that right now.
- TRC: If there are people who have already taken and passed this course, would you grandfather them in?
  - AG: Yes, just like when we redid the education requirements. There was some grandfathering because of that and then we went through a cycle and then the requirements were all the same.
    - Legal: I don't know that it, just from a legal perspective, would actually be grandfathering them in so much as they would have to produce evidence that they have met the requirements. So, as long as their course, depending on what the requirements of that course are, does that course expire, does any of that happen. As long as it has been taken and as long as that course meets the requirements of the statute, they would be able to show they've met the requirements.
- TRC: What's the specific statute you're seeking to...
  - AG: It's in with chapter 38; we talked a little bit about. So, the funeral service or director and embalming act, it would be housed.
  - TRC: Chapter 71? Is that?
- TRC: Why don't you change the statute to say funeral directors and crematory board? Then, the board's already been created, you all have oversight. And the fact that there's public members on that board, it keeps the funeral directors from having a monopoly and in check.
  - AG: I don't know that might be where that has to go.
- AG: What you're talking about, chapter 71, is a continuation of that, chapter 38 is actually where it should be.
- TRC: How long is the course you guys take? For operating? Do you know?
  - AG: A day. It's a day with a test at the end.
  - TRC: Shoot, you said you're hiring? I could work part time.
    - TRC: So, it's not really in-depth, like multi-day?
    - AG: It's a one-day you sit through; you listen, have discussion, take the test, and have discussion after that.
      - a. TRC: So, it's kind of like an online thing?
      - b. AG: It could be. I'm guessing. I would guess they do it online, but I don't like to do things online.
        - i. TRC: Would they actually then know how to work a machine?
        - ii. AG: Yes, so it goes over each machine and its nuances. Each machine has nuances. It's got pictures and videos of the operation, except it doesn't show, you know, loading and that kind of stuff. But it does show like if you see this, that's bad. If there's a hole in the floor, that's not good. Crematory machines aren't you just turn them on and run them forever. They're brick. There's a certain amount of time, you have to be down for a certain amount of time. We have ours inspected once a year. The manufacturer comes out, checks everything out, sees if it's running. The manufacturer was just out, saw there was a motor out, I didn't even know it was out.
          - 1. TRC: And that's not a requirement by the state?
          - 2. AG: It's just one of those things like hey maybe you should think about. Like, something with your car. Something might be acting funny, but you're like oh, I can live with it. Someone else talks about it and is like, hey didn't you think that was weird? And you're like oh yeah, maybe I should have that looked at. It's advice.
- TRC: Okay, so look, you're a good business owner. You do the right things. But even you had a motor out. It can't go back on the operator. How often do you have your system serviced?
  - AG: Once a year.

- TRC: Is that all you need to do to keep it operational?
  - AG: Other than if you have an issue.
  - TRC: So, you have an agreement with the manufacturer that says if it breaks down before you come and look at it, you'll come out and fix it, but I've got to pay you so much? For how many years in advance? Some sort of contract?
    - a. AG: Yes, but that's not a requirement of the state. There's no requirement for crematories for anything.
    - b. TRC: A little surprising, the lack of oversight there. I agree with you.
      - i. AG: And that's what we're trying to get at. This was all done in the 80's. The crematory I own, we don't have any of the original equipment. I have like one broom I kept just to say it's original. It was put in in 1986. It was the only one from Denver to Omaha at that time. So now you see how many, now there's 33. I think everything that's happened, and with what's happening now, we just want to get ahead of things before there's somebody who gets their crematory in the wrong hands of someone and are like we didn't know what we were doing, we just saw it on TV, youtube'd a video, and we know how to cremate. And I get what you're saying, that the liability has to fall on someone.
      - ii. TRC: The liability has to fall on someone, but if you say it's a one-day course, it wouldn't be difficult to buy a crematorium. I buy a crematorium, he takes the one-day course, boom, we're in. I've got an LLC, can I invest? Don't, don't, don't leave me out!
        - 1. AG: I mean, you still have to get a license, you still have to...
        - 2. TRC: Seems pretty easy to do that.
          - a. AG: I can tell you if you buy a crematorium and it's smoking everyday and it's on youtube and it's on tiktok, somebody's getting a phone call. But once again, a lot of that is going to be coming through statute because of the other stuff, we just have to get there.
          - b. TRC: So, you want more oversight is what you're saying. Besides this. You're going for more oversight from the state.
            - i. AG: So, our other side is that there are self-inspections. Because of Covid, there are self-inspections. If you have something down, are you really gonna, oh unlicensed myself, I can't do this? No. You're not. We need inspections.
- TRC: I think that's all great, but how does this benefit you guys as funeral home directors?
  - AG: Our benefit is that if people know how to run the machines, we know they're doing the right thing because of the courses they have to take. That could be continuing education. Just because this says it has to be done every five years doesn't mean you won't seek out some other conferences to go to and things like that. Also, it tells you how to run the machines so you're not running it essentially into the ground.
  - TRC: That could also be your requirement for employment.
    - AG: I don't know anyone who would require a machine to run as hard as it can until your building burns down.
    - TRC: No, I mean if you're hiring someone to do the cremation, like this high school, part of your requirement for employment for your nursing home would be that they have to take this one-day course. So that would be on you guys as the funeral home directors.
      - a. AG: So, I'm going to stop you right there, because are you saying funeral home or crematory? Because a funeral home does not have to build a crematory.

- b. TRC: I'm saying that if you're saying the benefit to you is to make sure that person knows how to operate it, it would behoove you to have them take that course.
          - i. AG: Yes.
  - TRC: Let me just make sure I'm understanding correctly. I'm just overly kumbaya back here. The goal for public safety and public benefit is that we're standardizing something to make sure that the people doing it are doing it right.
    - AG: Correct. 100%
    - TRC: And we're looking to have certified bodies that know they have to be certified and there's a legislative proposal that will be going through soon to state that in order to run your crematorium and have registration through the state, you have to have a certified individual operating such. Is that fair? And so, it's for public benefit and not to benefit funeral directors or the funeral directors' associations. These are separate from funeral directing processes.
      - AG: There's a lot of people running the machines now that are licensed funeral directors.
      - TRC: And they're probably doing fine with their operations, but just to make sure.
        - a. AG: Looking out for everyone involved, and public health, yeah.
  - TRC chair: Great dialogue here, but for the sake of time, we have about 17 minutes left, we should probably wrap up. I want to ask the committee members if they have any specific questions or information that we want the applicant group to bring back to the next meeting.
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#### **4. Technical review committee – Questions and requests for next meeting**

- TRC asked: Why is cremation becoming more popular? Does it have to do with the affordability of the process as compared to other forms of final disposition?
    - Answer provided in meeting: It has to do with Covid, the Pope giving Catholics permission to be cremated, the convenience of being able to delay funeral services, and county assistance providing coverage for cremation only.
  - TRC suggested: Consider changing the funeral director board to the funeral director and crematory operator board. Consider if any alternatives to licensure would better achieve the goals of the applicant group.
  - TRC asked: Who is the provider or recognizer of crematory operator education? How would the proposed statute need to be worded? What is the accrediting body?
  - TRC asked: What would happen to an independent crematory operator, if there is no authorizing agent, what would happen to the remains after 60 days?
  - Single TRC member requested: Committee member requested that all individuals in the room focus more on the six criteria that will be voted on.
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#### **5. Meeting adjourned**

- The TRC chair checked for public members who wished to comment. There were none. The meeting was adjourned.
  - The next meeting is scheduled for October 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:30PM in the Otoe room.
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*Note: If you would like any attachments mentioned in these minutes, or have other questions, please contact [Emma.Soukup@nebraska.gov](mailto:Emma.Soukup@nebraska.gov).*

Updated: September 24, 2026