

DRAFT MINUTES
of the Second Meeting of the
Respiratory Therapy Technical Review Committee
November 19, 2021
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Members Attending

Robert Synhorst
Su Eells
Larry Hardesty
Michael J. O'Hara, J.D., Ph.D.
Rebecca Docter, MA, ATC
Ryan Flugge, RP, PharmD, BCPS
Jeromy Warner, PsyD, LP

Staff Attending

Matt Gelvin
Ron Briel
Marla Scheer

I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Approval of the Agenda

Chairperson Synhorst called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. The roll was called; a quorum was present. Mr. Synhorst welcomed all attendees. The agenda and Open Meetings Law were posted and the meeting was advertised online at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Licensure/Pages/Credentialing-Review.aspx>. The committee members unanimously approved the agenda for the second meeting and the minutes of the first meeting.

II. Discussion on the Proposal

Dr. O'Hara asked the applicant representatives if RTs might need additional continuing education courses if the proposal were to pass. Heather Nichols, RT, responded for the applicant group by stating that there would be no need for additional continuing education courses, and that RTs are already well prepared for the additions to their scope of practice.

Dr. Flugge asked the applicant representatives whether or not there might be a need to adjust RT continuing education courses to focus on the specific changes defined in the proposal if it were to pass, or, is this not necessary? Marcy Wyrens, RT, responded that the ECMO component of the proposal would require such a special focus, adding that RTs already receive this kind of specifically focused training via hospital requirements. Ms. Wyrens added that the RT training curriculum has already been adjusted to include specific training in ECMO. Heather Nichols, RT, commented that all necessary education and training to provide the additional scope elements are already in place.

Ms. Eells asked the applicant representatives if the proposal would call for new statutory wording pertinent to ECMO training. Heather Nichols, RT, responded by stating that ECMO falls under hospital statutes and rules and regulations that define the training necessary for safe and effective practice. Dr. Flugge then asked what the committee members could do to provide assurance that specific focus on ECMO training continues to be a component of RT education and training if the proposal were to pass. Program staff responded that the committee members may include a specific item in their report of recommendations to address this concern if they wish to do so.

Dr. Warner asked the applicants how long it might be before they have to update their scope of practice again. Heather Nichols, RT, responded by stating that the proposed changes should be all that's needed for at least the next decade, but that beyond that, "who knows?" .

III. Public Comments

Dexter Schrod, J.D. with the Nebraska Medical Association commented that NMA and applicant representatives recently met via telephone conference call to discuss the proposal. He stated that this discussion clarified that the proposal as written poses no concerns or problems for NMA and that NMA has decided to support the RT proposal.

Bridget Norton with Nebraska Children's Hospital commented that she sees no problems with the education and training that is already in place for RTs vis-à-vis the proposed new scope elements and indicated her support for the proposal.

IV. Other Business and Adjournment

There being no further business, the committee members unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 1:27 p.m.

The committee members agreed by consensus that their agenda for next meeting—scheduled for January 11, 2022—will be revised so as to include agenda components pertinent to the formulation of committee recommendations to follow the completion of the public hearing components of the meeting.