

## **2020 BOARD OF HEALTH FACT SHEET**

### **STATUTORY AUTHORITY:**

- N.R.S. 71-2601 through 71-2611 (Revised July 1, 2007).

### **MEMBERSHIP and MEETINGS:**

- 17 members appointed by the Governor for five year terms. Six terms expired in August 2020; two of those members are seeking reappointment. Current vacancies: physical therapist and osteopathic physician.
- Officers are elected annually in November: Chair Travis Teetor, MD; Vice Chair Doug Vander Broek and Secretary Kevin Borchert, PharmD served in 2020. In November 2020, Dr. Vander Broek was elected as Chair; Dr. Kevin Borchert was elected as Vice Chair; and Dr. Tesmer was elected as Secretary.
- Meetings are held the fourth Monday in January, and the third Mondays of March, June, September (typically held at a hospital outside on Lincoln), and November.
- 2020 meeting dates: January 25, March 15, June 14, September 16, and November 15.

### **PROFESSIONAL BOARD APPOINTMENTS:**

- In 2020 there were 57 applicants; 47 interviews conducted; and 43 members appointed or reappointed to 19 different professional boards.
- There were 3 positions that we were unable to fill. With those, we have 41 planned for 2021.

### **RULES AND REGULATIONS:**

- There were 66 regulations submitted for approval in 2020. Many of the updates were required due to UCA updates, and reducing duplicative language. A special meeting was held in July.

### **CREDENTIALING REVIEWS:**

- Completed the Art Therapy; Athletic Trainer; and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses reviews. A review on Music Therapy will start in January 2021.

### **PUBLIC HEALTH, EDUCATION & LEGISLATION:**

- Researched initiatives to develop position statements and prepare news articles.
- Received regular presentations by Bryson Bartels, DHHS Legislative Liaison.
- Received presentations on from Public Health Solutions; Crete Area Medical Center; Opioid and other Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention Efforts, TeleStewardship by MD Stewardship and Bryan Telemedicine Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs; and Licensee Discipline.

### **REVIEW PANEL:**

- There is an ad hoc committee to address the potential removal of professional board members for cause, in accordance with 184 NAC Ch. 6. There were two meetings in 2020.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

- Matt Gelvin, Executive Administrator or Monica Gissler, Program Staff
- Telephone 402/471-6515; Fax 402/471-0383
- Email [monica.gissler@nebraska.gov](mailto:monica.gissler@nebraska.gov)
- Web site: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Board-of-Health.aspx>
- Address: State Board of Health, Division of Public Health, Licensure Unit, RPQI, P.O. Box 95026, Lincoln, NE 68509-5026 (301 Centennial Mall South, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor)

**State Board of Health** Current as of 1/13/2021

<b><u>Name and Address</u></b>	<b><u>Telephone, Fax Number &amp; Email Address</u></b>	<b><u>Board Office</u></b>	<b><u>Eff Date of 1<sup>st</sup> Term</u></b>	<b><u>Current Term Exp</u></b>
Joel Bessmer, MD 11810 Nicholas St Omaha, NE 68154	402/779-8400, F: 402/779-8401 <a href="mailto:jbessmer@members.md">jbessmer@members.md</a>	Physician Public Health, Education, & Legislation (PHEL) Rules & Regs	4/21/2017	8/1/2020
Russell Crotty, OD 1101 17 <sup>th</sup> Street Auburn, NE 68305	402/274-3218 <a href="mailto:rusty.crotty@gmail.com">rusty.crotty@gmail.com</a>	Optometrist Professional Boards PHEL	12/21/2020	8/1/2025
Shane Fleming, BSN, MSN, RN 2222 S. 16th St, Suite 330 Lincoln, NE 68502	402/421-1811 <a href="mailto:Sfleming@teledigmhealth.com">Sfleming@teledigmhealth.com</a>	Nurse Credentialing Review Chair PHEL		8/1/2019
Michael Hansen, FACHE Columbus Community Hospital PO Box 1800 Columbus, NE 68601	402/562-3351 <a href="mailto:mthansen@columbushosp.org">mthansen@columbushosp.org</a>	Hospital Admin Rules & Regs Chair PHEL	3/1/2016	8/1/2020
Diane Jackson, APRN-FNP Kearney County Health Services 727 E. 1 <sup>st</sup> Street Minden, NE 68959	402/746-0172 <a href="mailto:dkjacksonaprn@gmail.com">dkjacksonaprn@gmail.com</a>	Nurse Professional Boards Credentialing Review	8/31/2010	8/1/2020
John Kuehn, DVM 1101 43 Road Heartwell, NE 68935	308/830-1514 <a href="mailto:drjohndvm@icloud.com">drjohndvm@icloud.com</a>	Veterinarian PHEL Chair Credentialing Review	2/2020	8/1/2023
Michael Kotopka, DDS 1030 Aldrich Road Lincoln, NE 68510	402/420-2222 <a href="mailto:mikekotopka@gmail.com">mikekotopka@gmail.com</a>	Dentist Professional Boards Rules & Regs	12/21/2020	8/1/2025
Mark Patefield, PharmD 717 Cedar Avenue Laurel, NE 68745	402/518-0182 <a href="mailto:markpatefield@hotmail.com">markpatefield@hotmail.com</a>	Pharmacist Professional Boards PHEL	12/21/2020	8/1/2025
Daniel Rosenthal, PE 601 Old Cheney Road, Suite A Lincoln, NE 68512	402/484-7342 <a href="mailto:dan@regaeng.com">dan@regaeng.com</a>	Engineer Professional Boards PHEL	2/2020	8/1/2023
Wayne Stuberger, PhD, PT Munroe-Meyer Institute 985450 Nebraska Medical Center Omaha, NE 68198-5450	402/559-5720, F 402/559-9263 <a href="mailto:wstuberger@unmc.edu">wstuberger@unmc.edu</a>	Physical Therapist PHEL Credentialing Review	8/31/2010	8/1/2020
Robert (Bud) Synhorst 620 N 48 <sup>th</sup> St, Ste 205 Lincoln, NE 68504	402/310-3120 <a href="mailto:bud@liba.org">bud@liba.org</a>	Public Member Cred Review Rules & Regs	12/21/2020	8/1/2025
Timothy Tesmer, MD 7001 A Street, Suite 210 Lincoln, NE 68510	402/484-5500 <a href="mailto:tatesmer@hotmail.com">tatesmer@hotmail.com</a>	Physician Secretary	10/28/2020	8/1/2024

Douglas Vander Broek, DC 6511 Shenandoah Dr. Lincoln, NE 68510	402/413-5552 <a href="mailto:dougvanderbroek@gmail.com">dougvanderbroek@gmail.com</a>	Chiropractor Chair	3/6/2015	8/1/2020
Dan Vehle 17831 Englewood Circle Omaha, NE 68135-3407	402/301-2345 <a href="mailto:dvehle@wlgore.com">dvehle@wlgore.com</a>	Public Member Professional Boards Rules & Regs	12/21/2020	8/1/2025
Joshua Vest, DPM 1150 N. 83 <sup>rd</sup> St. Lincoln, NE 68512	402/483-4485, Fax 402/483-5372 <a href="mailto:jvest@capfootandankle.com">jvest@capfootandankle.com</a>	Podiatrist Rules & Regs Credentialing Review		8/1/2018
Jeromy Warner, PsyD, LP 835 S. Burlington Ave, #108 Hastings, NE 68901	402/463-7711 <a href="mailto:jwarner@marylanning.org">jwarner@marylanning.org</a>	Mental Health Professional Bds Chair Credentialing Review		8/1/2018

Vacancies: Osteopathic Physician, Physical Therapist, Hospital Administrator

Staff:

Matt Gelvin, Executive Admin	<a href="mailto:matthew.gelvin@nebraska.gov">matthew.gelvin@nebraska.gov</a>	402/471-6515, F: 402/471-0383
Monica Gissler, BOH Staff	<a href="mailto:monica.gissler@nebraska.gov">monica.gissler@nebraska.gov</a>	

To: Members of the Nebraska State Board of Health  
From: Jeromy Warner, PsyD, LP, Chair, Professional Boards Committee  
Subject: 2020 Annual Report of the Professional Boards Committee of the  
Nebraska State Board of Health  
Date: November 16, 2020

**Committee Members:**

Jeromy Warner, PsyD, LP (Chair); Diane Jackson, APRN (Vice Chair); Kevin Low, DVM; Daniel Rosenthal, PE; Wayne Stuberg, PhD, PT.

*Officers Ex-Officio Members:* Chair Travis Teetor, MD; Doug Vander Broek, DC; and Secretary Kevin Borchert, PharmD, RP.

*Staff:* Monica Gissler

**Committee Duties and Responsibilities:**

In November 2019, the current Committee Chair and members established the following committee goals for 2020:

1. Continue to work with professional organizations to increase the pool of qualified applicants for positions. Urge organizations to nominate at least three members for consideration.
2. Utilize the prescreening process again to make the best use of our interview times.
3. Continue to build and utilize the data base of professional board applicants who were excellent candidates, but for various reasons were not appointed to the positions they were seeking. Continue to develop and use protocol for notification, content of the letter or to be handled on an individual basis based upon the Professional Board recommendations. These applicants should receive consideration for the Credentialing Review Pool or PREP.
4. Utilize the peer evaluation process for incumbents for the 2017 interviews and develop a method of obtaining feedback from board members and staff about the process.
5. Improve upon and continue to use more efficient electronic means of processing application forms.
6. Formalize and continue the process of inviting professional board chairpersons to meet with the Committee and discuss how their board functions and any concerns or issues they have that the Board of Health might address. Increase the number of board members maintaining contact with the assigned professional boards to enhance communication and clarify BOH members function at professional board meetings. Discuss possibilities for consolidation or mergers of boards.
7. Develop guidelines for the appointment of individuals who wish to serve concurrently on more a Professional Board as well as the Credentialing Review Pool.
8. Further define the role of the committee in mediating issues with professional board members.

The Professional Boards Committee adopted these same goals for 2021.

**Activities for 2020:**

**January:** Meeting cancelled due to lack of quorum.

There are 44 planned professional board vacancies in 2020.

**March:** The Committee interviewed nine applicants by phone. The afternoon public meeting was cancelled due to COVID 19.

**April:** The following individuals were appointed, with most terms going through November 30, 2024.

Board of Chiropractic

Scott Misek, DC from Omaha for Chiropractor Member

Board of Cosmetology, Electrology, Esthetics, Nail Technology, and Body Art

Harold "Buddy" Sims from Omaha for Nail Technician Member

Board of Dentistry

Kirk McManus from Lincoln for Public Member

Board of Medicine and Surgery

Adam Kuenning from Omaha for Public Member

Board of Mental Health Practice

Mychelle Martinez from Omaha for Public Member

Board of Nursing Home Administration

Amie Clausen, LNHA, EMT from Blair for Nonprofit Home Member

Board of Psychology

Tomeka Johnson from Omaha for Public Member

**June and July meetings:** No appointments made.

**August:** Committee Chair and staff prescreened applications. Another news release was issued for all positions for which there were no applications received.

**September:** The Board of Health met via Webex. On Sunday, members conducted 35 interviews via teleconference and reviewed applications for appointments to several professional boards. On Monday, the following positions were appointed by the full Board of Health. Incumbent members where they were the only applicant, and they received favorable staff and peer review evaluations, were not required to interview in person. Unless noted otherwise, terms are for December 1, 2020 through November 30, 2025.

Board of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses

\* Alice Kindschuh, DNP, APRN-CNS, CNE of Omaha reappointed to the Clinical Nurse Specialist position

#### Alcohol and Drug Counseling

- \* Victor Gehrig, ADC of Gordon reappointed to the ADC Only position

#### Athletic training

- \* Rebecca "Becky" Docter, MA, ATC of Omaha reappointed to the Athletic Trainer position

#### Audiology and Speech Language Pathology

- \* Rhonda Dick, AuD, CCC-A of Blair reappointed to the Audiologist position
- \* Katie Brennan, MS, CCC-SLP of Lincoln reappointed to the Speech Language Pathologist position

#### Chiropractic

- Heather Henrichs, DC of Plattsmouth of Plattsmouth appointed to the Chiropractor position

#### Cosmetology, Electrology, Esthetics, Nail Technology, and Body Art

- \* Shannon Bingham of Omaha reappointed to the Salon Owner position
- \* Ruth Lucas of McCook reappointed to the Cosmetologist Instructor position
- \* Bridget Anderson of Lincoln reappointed to the Public position

#### Dentistry

- \* Dean Cope, DDS of Cambridge reappointed to the Dentist position
- \* Yoshinaru Ameku, DDS of Lincoln reappointed to the Dental School Faculty position

#### Funeral Directing and Embalming

- \* Leo Seger, FDE of Atkinson reappointed to the Funeral Director and Embalmer position
- \* Lawrence Battaglia of Omaha reappointed to the Public position

#### Massage Therapy

- \* Michele Helaney of Omaha reappointed to the Massage Therapist position

#### Medical Nutrition Therapy

- Shannon Frink, MS, RDN, LMNT of Hastings appointed to the Medical Nutrition Therapist position

#### Medical Radiography

- Randy Prouty, BSRT, RT(R) of Scottsbluff appointed to the Medical Radiographer position

#### Mental Health Practice

- Sara Batter, LICSW, LADC of Omaha appointed to the Master Social Worker position. This appointment is effective immediately.

- \* Janeen Gill, LMHP of North Platte reappointed to the Licensed Mental Health Practitioner position

Susan Meyerle, PhD, LIMHP, CEAP, CFLE of Lincoln appointed to the Licensed Mental Health Practitioner position.

#### Nursing

\* Patricia Motl, BSN, RN, CPN, CHEP of Omaha reappointed to the Staff Nurse position

Kandis Lefler, LPN of Malcolm appointed to the Licensed Practical Nurse position

Theresa Delahoyde, EdD, MSN, BSN, RN of Waverly appointed to the Baccalaureate Nurse Educator position

#### Nursing Home Administration

\* Amy Fish, NHA of Lincoln reappointed to the Proprietary Home position

\* Alexander Wilford, NHA of Grand Island reappointed to the Nonprofit Home position

#### Occupational Therapy

\* Nancy Peetz of North Platte reappointed to the Public position

#### Optometry

Creston Myers, OD of Alliance appointed to the Optometrist position

#### Pharmacy

Charles Tomlinson, PharmD, RPH of Bellevue appointed to the Pharmacist position

#### Respiratory Care

\* Jill Sand, M.Ed, RRT of Lincoln was reappointed to the Respiratory Care Practitioner position

#### Veterinary Medicine and Surgery

Donovan Hauser, DVM of Grand Island was appointed to the Veterinarian position

An updated press release went out reflecting the remaining vacancies for which there were no applicants.

#### **November:**

The Committee interviewed nine applicants. The following individuals were appointed, most with terms through November 30, 2025, unless indicated otherwise, followed by their hometown:

#### Board of Chiropractic

Scott Misek, DC from Omaha for Chiropractor Member

#### Board of Cosmetology, Electrology, Esthetics, Nail Technology, and Body Art

Harold "Buddy" Sims from Omaha for Nail Technician Member

Board of Dentistry

Kirk McManus from Lincoln for Public Member

Board of Medicine and Surgery

Adam Kuenning from Omaha for Public Member

Board of Mental Health Practice

Mychelle Martinez from Omaha for Public Member

Board of Nursing Home Administration

Amie Clausen, LNHA, EMT from Blair for Nonprofit Home Member

Board of Psychology

Tomeka Johnson from Omaha for Public Member

There are several positions for which there were no applicants. These will roll over to 2021.

There are 41 planned professional board vacancies in 2021.



To: Members of the Nebraska State Board of Health  
From: Mike Hansen, Chairperson of the Rules and Regulations Committee  
Subject: Rules and Regulations Committee Annual Report for 2020  
Date: November 16, 2020

The State Board of Health is required by law to consider all rules and regulations of the DHHS Division of Public Health. Professional and occupational credentialing regulations must be adopted (or “approved”) by the Board. Other regulations of the Division of Public Health must be advised upon (or “reviewed”) by the Board.

To enhance discussion and improve efficiency of Board meetings, all Public Health regulations come before the Board’s Rules and Regulations Committee prior to the meeting of the full Board.

For most of 2020 Rules and Regulations Committee members were:

Joel Bessmer, MD  
Michael Hansen, Hospital Administrator, Chair  
Kevin Low, DDS  
Debra Parsow (Public member)  
Joshua Vest, DPM, Vice Chair

Staff support for the Rules and Regulations Committee is provided by Monica Gissler.

Staff worked hard to revise over 100 sets of regulations to reduce duplication and comply with new mandates. We continue to monitor movement of draft regulations through the process, and attend public hearings. In addition to regular meetings, a special full Board of Health meeting was held in July to accommodate the Rules and Regulations process and keep them moving.

Regulations reviewed and approved in 2020:

April:

**Nursing** – Ann Oertwich

- 172 NAC 99 – Provision of Nursing Care
- 172 NAC 102 – Practice of Licensed Practical Nurses
- 172 NAC 98 – Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Licensure
- 172 NAC 100 – Advanced Practice Registered Nurse
- 172 NAC 101 – Practice of Nursing
- 172 NAC 103 – Practice of Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists
- 172 NAC 104 – Practice of Certified Nurse Midwives
- 172 NAC 107 – Clinical Nurse Specialists

**Behavioral Health and Consumer Services** – Kris Chiles

- 172 NAC 61 – Medical Nutrition Therapists
- 172 NAC 67 – Funeral Directors and Embalmers
- 172 NAC 68 – Funeral Establishments and Branch Establishments

**Emergency Medical Services** – Tim Wilson

- 172 NAC 11 – Licensure of Out-Of-Hospital Emergency Care Providers
- 172 NAC 12 – Licensure of Emergency Medical Services
- 172 NAC 13 – Emergency Medical Services Training Agency

**Other Public Health** – Sue Medinger, Julie Luedtke, Julia Schmitt, Becki Harris, Mary Boden, Bryan Buss, Sean Loving

- 181 NAC 2 – Screening of Infants for Inherited and Congenital Infant-or Childhood-On-Set Diseases
- 177 NAC 5 – Fees for Department Laboratory Tests and Services; staff: Boden
- 180 NAC 12 – Licensing Requirements for Management of Radioactive Waste (Repeal)
- 180 NAC 17 – Enforcement of Radiation Control Act and Rights to Hearing Procedures for Licensees and Registrants; Penalties
- 180 NAC 1 – Control of Radiation – General Provisions
- 180 NAC 2 – Registration of Radiation Generating Equipment Facilities and Services
- 180 NAC 3 – Licensing of Radioactive Material
- 180 NAC 4 – Standards for Protection Against Radiation
- 180 NAC 5 – Radiation Safety Requirements for Industrial Radiographic Operations
- 180 NAC 6 – Control of Radiation Diagnostic X-Rays in the Healing Arts; AND
  - 180 NAC 21 – Dental Radiographic Equipment
- 180 NAC 8 – Radiation Safety Requirements for Analytical X-Ray Equipment
- 180 NAC 9 – Radiation Safety Requirements for Non-Human Use Particle Accelerators
- 180 NAC 10 – Notices, Instructions and Reports to Workers: Inspections
- 180 NAC 13 – Transportation of Radioactive Material
- 180 NAC 14 – Radiation Safety Requirements for Well Logging and Subsurface Tracer Studies
- 180 NAC 15 – Training and Experience Requirements for Use of Radiation Sources
- 180 NAC 19 - Licenses And Radiation Safety Requirements For Irradiators
- 180 NAC 20 – Therapeutic Radiation Machines for Human Use
- 180 NAC 22 – Shipping of High Level Radioactive or Transuranic Waste
- 180 NAC 23 – Fluoroscopic Education and Training for Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists
- 173 NAC 5 – Rabies Control Program
- 186 NAC 3 – External Cause of Injury
- 186 NAC 6 – Outpatient Surgical Procedures Data

June:

**Behavioral Health and Consumer Services** – Kris Chiles

- 172 NAC 15 & 16 – Alcohol and Drug Counselors – Chapter 16 Repealed.
- 172 NAC 81, 82 & 83 – Massage Therapists

- **Rehabilitation and Community Services** – Claire Covert-ByBee

- 172 NAC 17 – Licensure of Athletic Trainers
- 172 NAC 23 & 24 – Audiology & Speech Language

**Other Public Health** – Sue Medinger, Julia Schmitt, Steve Goans, Jill Krause, & Connie Ganz

- 178 NAC 2 & 4 – Public Swimming Pools – Chapter 4 Repealed.
- 180 NAC 24 – Physical Protection Radioactive Material
- 186 NAC 4 – Parkinson’s Disease Registry

July:

- **Medical and Specialized Health** – Jesse Cushman
- 172 NAC 53 – Unlicensed Dental Assistants and the Licensure of Dental Assistants
- 172 NAC 56 – Licensure of Dentists; Minimal, Moderate, or General Anesthesia/Deep Sedation
- 172 NAC 57 – Licensure of Dental Hygienists
- 181 NAC 6 – Cancer Drug Repository Program
- 181 NAC 7 – Immunosuppressant Drug Repository Program
  
- **Behavioral Health & Consumer Services** – Kris Chiles
- 172 NAC 94 – Independent Mental Health Practitioners, Mental Health Practitioners, Marriage and Family Therapists, Professional Counselors, and Social Workers
- 172 NAC 106 – Nursing Home Administrators
  
- **Other Public Health**
- 180 NAC 7 – Medical Use of Radioactive Material – Deb Wilson
- 391 NAC 7 – Residential Child-Caring Agencies – Lindsay Braddock
- 391 NAC 8 – Child-Placing Agencies – Lindsay Braddock
- 172 NAC 4 – Credentialing Review Program – Matt Gelvin

September:

**Medical and Specialized Health** – Jesse Cushman

- 172 NAC 128 – Practice of Pharmacy and Credentialing of Pharmacy Personnel  
<https://www.nebraska.gov/nesos/rules-and-regs/regtrack/proposals/2197.pdf>
- 172 NAC 130 – Mail Service Pharmacy Licensure  
<https://www.nebraska.gov/nesos/rules-and-regs/regtrack/proposals/2196.pdf>
- 175 NAC 8 – Pharmacies  
<https://www.nebraska.gov/nesos/rules-and-regs/regtrack/proposals/2195.pdf>

**Rehabilitation and Community Services** – Claire Covert-Bybee

- 172 NAC 29 – Chiropractic

November:

**Medical and Specialized Health** – Jesse Cushman

- 172 NAC 180 – Practice of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery
- 172 NAC 182 – Licensure of Animal Therapists

## **Goals for 2021**

The Rules and Regulations Committee will consider all regulations of the DHHS Division of Public Health prior to their presentation to the Board of Health, with adequate time to make recommendations.

This will include consideration for approval of additional professional and occupational credentialing regulations under the Uniform Credentialing Act (UCA).

The Committee will also continue to review all other regulations of the Division of Public Health. This will include program regulations of the following units of the Division:

- Community and Rural Health Planning
- Epidemiology and Informatics
- Environmental Health
- Health Promotion
- Lifespan Health Services

To: Members of the Nebraska State Board of Health  
From: Debra Parsow, Chairperson of the Credentialing Review Committee  
Subject: Credentialing Review Committee Annual Report for 2020  
Date: November 16, 2020

***Committee Duties and Responsibilities for 2020:***

The 2020 assignment was to continue to work toward improving the efficiency of the Credentialing Review Program, to assist the full Board with any new credentialing reviews that arise, and to assist the full Board in appointing new members to the two credentialing review pools, as indicated.

***Current Committee Members:***

Debra Parsow (Chair); Diane Jackson, APRN-FNP (Vice Chair); Shane Fleming, RN; Joshua Vest, DPM; John Kuehn, DVM, and; Jeromy Warner, PhD

***Staff:*** Ron Briel, Matt Gelvin

***Goals for 2020 were as follows:***

- 1) Advise the full Board regarding proposals for either change in scope of practice or new credentialing,
- 2) Continue to work towards improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Credentialing Review Program, and,
- 3) Advise the Board regarding which Board members would be appropriate as chairpersons of technical review committees.
- 4) Advise the Board regarding new member appointments to the two credentialing review pools, as indicated.

***Activities for 2020 were as follows:***

During their April 15, 2020 meeting the members of the Board's Credentialing Review Committee reviewed the Art Therapy proposal for new credentialing, recommending approval of this proposal. The members of the full Board of Health also recommended approval of this proposal during the afternoon session on that same day.

During their November 16, 2020 meeting the Board's Credentialing Review Committee members made their recommendation on the Athletic Trainer proposal. Later that same day the members of the full Board of Health made their recommendation on this proposal. Also, during their November 16, 2020 meeting the Board's Credentialing Review Committee members made their recommendation on the APRN proposal. Later that same day the members of the full Board made their recommendation on this proposal.

During their November 16, 2020 meeting of the Board the Board's Credentialing Review Committee reviewed and approved its annual report on credentialing review activities. The full Board then voted to approve all Board Committee Annual reports at this same meeting.

***Committee Duties and Responsibilities for 2021:***

The 2021 assignment is to continue to work toward improving the efficiency of the Credentialing Review Program, to assist the full Board with any new credentialing reviews that arise, and to assist the full Board in appointing new members to the two credentialing review pools, as indicated.

***Goals for 2021 are as follows:***

- 1) Advise the full Board regarding proposals for either change in scope of practice or new credentialing,
- 2) Continue to work towards improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Credentialing Review Program, and,
- 3) Advise the Board regarding which Board members would be appropriate as chairpersons of technical review committees.
- 4) Advise the Board regarding new member appointments to the two credentialing review pools, as indicated.

***Activities for 2021 are to be as follows:***

The 2021 assignment is to continue to work toward improving the efficiency of the Credentialing Review Program, to assist the full Board with any new credentialing reviews that arise, and to assist the full Board in appointing new members to the two credentialing review pools, as indicated.

10/27/2020

To: Members of the Nebraska State Board of Health  
From: Shane Fleming, MSN, RN, Committee Chair  
Subject: 2020 Report of the Public Health, Education and Legislation Committee of the  
Nebraska State Board of Health  
Date: November 16, 2020

***Committee Members:***

Shane Fleming, RN (Chair); Joel Bessmer, MD (Vice Chair); Michael Hansen; John Kuehn, DVM; Wayne Stuber, PhD, PT

***Officers:*** Travis Teeter, MD (Chair); Doug Vander Broek, DC (Vice Chair); and Kevin Borchert, PharmD, PT (Secretary).

***Staff:*** Monica Gissler

***Committee Duties and Responsibilities:***

The Public Health, Education, and Legislation (PHEL) Committee met via conference call five times during 2020 and worked toward the following committee objective: To identify and promote public education and legislation to enhance the health, mental health, and living environment of all residents of Nebraska.

***Committee Objectives for 2021:***

- ✓ Inform and educate about selected health programs in Nebraska that promote public health and the prevention of health and behavioral health problems. Areas of interest include Environmental issues, and Communication/Representation by Board members.
- ✓ Find effective methods to actively monitor and impact introduced legislation via electronic and other safe means during a pandemic.
- ✓ Develop BOH position statements directed toward public health issues that affect Nebraskans.
- ✓ Advocate for and actively support proposed legislation that enhances health of Nebraskan's citizens, including opportunities for the education and development of health care professionals, especially in underserved areas in Nebraska.
- ✓ Collaborate with DHHS to get public health initiatives out. Work with Chief Medical Officer.
- ✓ Plan retreats and provide program content for special meetings of the Board of Health.
- ✓ Cooperate with district health departments and other public health entities to promote issues.
- ✓ Nominate public health programs that have worked to improve the lives of Nebraskans.

***Activities in 2020:***

**January:** Mr. Fleming, Chair of the Public Health, Education and Legislation Committee, hosted a conference call on January 23, 2020 to discuss bills of interest to this committee. The Board of Health selected eight bills as Category 1, to take action on.

**April:** Mr. Fleming explained the three categories that the Board of Health places legislative bill in: Category 1: Take action on; 2: Monitor and take possible action on, and 3: monitor.

Board of Health action means providing testimony or sending a letter either lending support or stating concerns regarding a bill. For each of the support and opposition bills listed above, the Board will send a letter and/or testify. Whenever the Board of Health takes a position on a piece of legislation, a supermajority vote of twelve members is required, rather than the normal majority on nine.

BILL	INTRODUCER	BOARD OF HEALTH PRIORITIES 2020
772	Williams	Change the scope of practice for physician assistants. 2/26/20 Amended into LB755.
817	Stinner	Adopt the Prescribing Psychologist Practice Act.
828	Hilkemann	Change provisions relating to the scope of practice of a licensed optometrist.
840	Quick	Prohibit the use of electronic smoking devices as prescribed under the Nebraska Clean Indoor Air Act.
887	Arch	Authorize pharmacists to adapt prescriptions.
967	DeBoer	Change provisions regarding bullying prevention and education.
1044	B Hansen	Change provisions relating to the practice of medical nutrition therapy
1064	Briese	Change provisions relating to the sale and use of tobacco products.

**June:** Public Health Recognition: The Big Fix, A Low Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic for Cats, nominated by Dr. Low. The Kearney Area Animal Shelter (KAAS) secured the services of several Volunteer Veterinarians to provide an entire day of surgical spaying and neutering for cats at a cost of \$20 each, for pets and trapped feral cats. Almost every community in Nebraska has a concern with over population of cats. This initiative addresses that concern by helping to significantly reduce the number of kittens born each year, many of which often end up homeless or euthanized. The veterinarians collectively performed 172 surgical services as well as rabies immunization, with no additional charge, on as many cats. Considering the potential for females to bear kittens almost any time of the year, the event prevented somewhere between 45,000 to 50,000 kittens over the next 10 years.

**September:** A special session of the Legislature started July 20, 2020 and adjourned August 13, 2020. Actions taken were discussed, along with any potential impacts to DHHS.

**November:** Reviewed interim study progress, and prepared for the 2021 Legislative sessions.

11/18/20