

2025 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. Members appointed in 2025: Ryan Palmer, OD; Jeremiah Rethwisch, DC; and Jacob Sikes. Current vacancies: Veterinarian and Physician representatives.
- 2025 Officers: Chair David Reese, Vice Chair Dan Vehle, and Secretary Brett Lindau. 2026 officers were elected at the November meeting and remain as listed above.
- Meetings are generally held the fourth Monday in January, and the third Mondays of March, June, September, and November. There was 1 special and 5 regular meetings held in 2025. Governor Pillen met with the Board of Health members on September 15, 2025.
- 2026 meeting dates: January 26, March 16, June 15, September 21, and November 16.

PROFESSIONAL BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

- In 2025 there were 82 applicants; 51 interviews conducted; and 43 members appointed or reappointed to different professional boards. There are 27 professional boards in total including the newly created Board of Behavioral Analysts. Two boards, APRN and ADC, will be sunsetted in 2026 and some positions will be added the Board of Nursing and the Board of Mental Health Practice.
- There were 41 positions that we were unable to fill. With those, we have 41 planned for 2026.

RULES AND REGULATIONS:

- There were 5 sets of regulations submitted for approval in 2025. Many of the updates were required due to Uniform Credentialing Act updates and reducing duplicative language.

CREDENTIALING REVIEW:

- Completed the reviews on Occupational Therapists and Nurse Practitioners. There are no reviews in process. A new Credential Review manual was developed with input from several stakeholders. <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Credentialing-Review.aspx>

PUBLIC HEALTH, EDUCATION & LEGISLATION:

- Researched initiatives to develop position statements and prepare news articles.
- Received regular presentations by the DHHS Chief Medical Officer, Director of Public Health, State Epidemiologist and the Legislative Liaison. Healthcare Workforce Issues and LB503.

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 was no need to meet in 2024.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

- Caryn Vincent, Executive Administrator or Monica Gissler Webb, Program Staff
- Telephone 402/471-2948
- Email dhhs.boardofhealth@nebraska.gov.
- Web site: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Board-of-Health.aspx>
- Address: State Board of Health, Division of Public Health, P.O. Box 95026, Lincoln, NE 68509-5026 (301 Centennial Mall South, 6th floor)

State Board of Health Public Roster Current as of 9/30/2025

<u>Name and Address</u>	<u>Telephone & Email Address</u>	<u>Committees / Board Office</u>	<u>Eff Date of 1st Term</u>	<u>Current Term Exp</u>
Mark Bertch, DPT 16101 Evans St, #102 Omaha, NE 68116	402/909-6255 mbertchpt@gmail.com	Physical Therapist Credentialing Review Rules & Regs	9/12/24	8/1/2025
Jaime Dodge, MD 5445 Red Rock Ln Lincoln, NE 68516	531/333-2037 jkdodge@me.com	Physician Rules & Regulations Chair Public Health, Education & Legislation	8/15/2022	8/1/2025
Staci Hubert, PharmD 23561 Prairie Ridge Rd Gretna, NE 68028	402/499-1878 stacihuber@gmail.com	Pharmacist Professional Boards Chair PHEL	9/12/24	8/1/2029
Patricia Kucera, MSN,GRN,RN 6222 Ponderosa Dr Omaha, NE 68137	402/630-6940 patricia.kucera@yahoo.com	Nurse Professional Boards Credentialing Review	9/12/2024	8/1/2025
Brett Lindau, DO 145 Memorial Dr, Ste 145 Broken Bow, NE 68823	308/872-2486 blindau@cnmcpc.com	Osteopathic Physician Secretary	3/6/2024	8/1/2029
Ryan Palmer, OD 13549 Spring Ridge Loop Auburn, NE 68305	402/426-4601 drpalmer@blaireyeassociates.com	Optometrist Professional Boards Public Health, Education & Legislation	09/18/2025	8/1/2028
Connie Petersen, PhD 84577 562 nd Ave Hoskins, NE 68740	402/379-2030 x106 conpete@gmail.com	Mental Health Practitioner PHEL Chair Rules & Regulations	3/6/24	8/1/2028
David Reese, MHA 5401 South Street Lincoln, NE 68506	402/413-4414 dreese@madonna.org	Hospital Admin Board of Health Chair	2/8/2021	8/1/2025
Jeremiah Rethwisch, DC 18010 R Plaza, Ste 104 Omaha, NE 68135	402/980-6991 jrethwisch@nwhealth.edu	Chiropractor Professional Boards Credentialing Review	9/18/2025	8/1/2030
Daniel Rosenthal, PE 601 Old Cheney Road, Suite A Lincoln, NE 68512	402/430-2797 dan@regaeng.com	Engineer Credentialing Review Chair Professional Boards	2/14/2020	8/1/2028
Jacob Sikes 123 1 st Avenue Riverdale, NE 69970	308/293-3537 jacobsikes77@gmail.com	Public Member	9/18/2025	8/1/2030
Kimberly Stuhmer, RN, MT 2307 S. Z Road Polk, NE 68654	402/560-2619 tkstu@hotmail.com	Nurse Professional Boards PHEL	8/28/2024	8/1/2029

Kenneth Tusha, DDS 908 Clark Avenue Creighton, NE 68729	402/394-7254 tushaken@gmail.com	Dentist PHEL Rules & Regs	10/23/24	8/1/2029
Dan Vehle 17831 Englewood Circle Omaha, NE 68135-3407	402/301-2345 vehledan@gmail.com	Public Member Board of Health Vice Chair	12/21/2020	8/1/2025
Jeffrey Wienke, Jr, DPM 5055 A St Lincoln, NE 68510	402/483-4485 Jeffrey.Winke@bryanhealth.org	Podiatrist Rules & Regs Vice Chair Credentialing Review	3/6/2024	8/1/2028

Vacant/Expired positions: Physician (Cook 8/1/29); Veterinarian (Kuehn 8/1/28)

Staff:

Caryn Vincent, Executive Admin caryn.vincent@nebraska.gov 402/471-9435
Dhhs.boardofhealth@nebraska.gov

To: Members of the Nebraska State Board of Health
From: Dan Rosenthal, Chairperson of the Credentialing Review Committee
Subject: Credentialing Review Committee Annual Report for 2025
Date: November 17, 2025

Committee Duties and Responsibilities for 2025:

The 2025 assignment was to continue to work toward improving the efficiency of the Credentialing Review Program, to improve the clarity of the Credentialing Review criteria, to assist the full Board with any new credentialing reviews that arise. During 2025, members Russell Crotty OD and Douglas Vander Broek DC served until November 2025 and were replaced by Ryan Palmer OD and Jeremiah Rethwisch DC, respectively.

Current Committee Members:

Dan Rosenthal, PE (Chair); Douglas Vander Broek, DC (Vice Chair); Mark Bertch, DPT; Russell Crotty, OD; Patricia Kucera, MSN; Jeff Wienke, DPM;

Staff: Maggie Mills, Caryn Vincent

Goals for 2025 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 by updating procedure manuals and regulations
- 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 2025 were as follows:

During their January 2025 meeting the members of the Board's Credentialing Review Committee discussed the two reviews underway at the time: Occupational Therapy and Nurse Practitioners.

During their March 2025 meeting the members of the Board's Credentialing Review Committee and Board of Health members voted to agree with the Technical Review Committee for Occupational Therapy, to recommend approval of their proposal.

- <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Credentialing-Review.aspx>

During their June 2025 meeting the members of the Board's Credentialing Review Committee and Board of Health members voted to agree with the Technical Review Committee for Nurse Practitioners, to recommend approval of their proposal.

During their September 2025 meeting the members of the Board's Credentialing Review Committee reviewed the changes made to the Procedure Manual and updates to the public webpage. The committee also were made aware of the favorable Director's Report for the Nurse Practitioners proposal.

During their November 2025 meeting, the members of the Board's Credentialing Review Committee approved their committee's annual report.

Committee Duties and Responsibilities for 2026:

The 2026 assignment is to continue to work toward maintaining the efficiency of the Credentialing Review Program, to assist the full Board with any new credentialing reviews that arise, and to continue improvements to Credentialing Review orientation and procedure materials.

Goals for 2026 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 by updating procedure manuals and orientation materials.
- 3) Advise the Board regarding which Board members would be appropriate as chairpersons of technical review committees.
- 4) Advise the new Board members regarding how the process works.
- 5) Promote the opportunity to other professional boards to become members of the Technical Review Committee Pool and take part in reviews.

Activities for 2026 are to be as follows:

The 2026 assignment is to improve the orientation materials and make all parties aware of procedures when conducting a Credentialing Review to continue the progress made to improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the process.

To: Members of the Nebraska State Board of Health
From: Staci Hubert, PharmD, Professional Boards Committee
Subject: 2025 Annual Report of the Professional Boards Committee of the Nebraska State Board of Health
Date: November 17, 2025

Committee Members for 2025:

PROFESSIONAL BOARDS COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Russell Crotty, OD (Chair); Staci Hubert, PharmD (Vice Chair); Patricia Kucera, RN; Dan Rosenthal, PE; Kim Stuhmer, RN, MT; Doug Vander Broek, DC. Dr. Crotty left the Board of Health in October and Dr. Hubert moved into the Chair position.

OFFICERS: David Reese (Chair); Dan Vehle (Vice Chair), Brett Lindau (Secretary)

STAFF: Monica Gissler Webb

Committee Goals:

In November 2025, the current Committee Chair and members established the following committee goals for 2026:

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 2024 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.

There were 60 planned vacancies for 2024. This number always goes up based on resignations and deaths.

Board vacancy information: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Board-Requirements-and-Vacancies.aspx>

Activities for 2025: An asterisk before a name identifies an incumbent board member.

January: Conducted 3 interviews and recommended the following 3 appointments:

Board of Mental Health Practice

Jen McNally, MA, LIMHP, from Lincoln for the partial term through November 30, 2025

Board of Psychology

Deborah Hoffnung, PhD, from Omaha, for the term through November 30, 2029

Board of Funeral Directing and Embalming

Amy Blinston, from Lincoln for the Public member partial term through November 30, 2025

March: No appointments made this month.

June: No appointments made this month.

August: Committee Chair and staff prescreened 61 applications. Another news release was issued for all positions for which there were no applications received.

September: On Sunday, September 14, 2025 we conducted 38 interviews at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital and recommended the following appointments to the full Board of Health on September 15, 2025. Most terms are for December 1, 2025-November 30, 2030. Incumbents who had positive staff evaluations and for which there were no other applicants were not interviewed, and these 18 applications were reviewed.

Board of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses

*Gina Crudden was reappointed as the APRN-CNS member through June 30, 2026.

Board of Alcohol and Drug Counseling

*Victor Gering was reappointed as an ADC only member through June 30, 2026.

*Brian Bierschenk was reappointed as public member through June 30, 2026.

Board of Athletic Training

Denise Marshall, MA, ATC, LAT was appointed as an AT member.

Board of Audiology and Speech Language Pathology

Melissa Bradley-Potter, MA, CCC-SLP was appointed as the Speech Language Pathologist.

Noel Griffith, AuD was appointed as the Audiologist member.

Board of Chiropractic

Bradley Stauffer, DC was appointed as a Chiropractor member.

Board of Cosmetology

Samantha Bain was appointed for the partial term through November 30, 2028.

*Ruth Lucas was reappointed as a Cosmetology Instructor member.

*Matt Bavougian was reappointed as a Body Artist member.

Dentistry

Amy Killeen, DDS, MS was appointed as a Dental School Faculty member.

David Verbik, DDS was appointed as a Dentist member.

Board of Funeral Directing and Embalming

Jamie Dolan was appointed as the Funeral Director and Embalmer.

*Amy Blinston was reappointed as a Public member.

Board of Medical Nutrition Therapy

* Shannon Frink, MS, RDN, LMNT was reappointed as a Licensed Dietary Nutritionist member.

Board of Medical Radiography

*Randy Prouty, RRT was reappointed as a Medical Radiographer member.

Board of Medicine and Surgery

*Rachel Blake, MD was reappointed as a Physician member.

Jeffrey Howorth was appointed as public member.

Board of Mental Health Practice

*Sara Batter, LICSW, LADC was reappointed as a Master Social Worker member.

*Susan Meyerle, PhD, LIMHP, CEAP, CFLE was reappointed as an LMHP member.

*Jennifer McNally, LMHP was reappointed as an LMHP-only member.

Board of Nursing

*Theresa Delahoyde, PhD, MSN, RN, CNE was reappointed as the Baccalaureate Degree Educator member.

*Patricia Motl, BSN, RN was reappointed as the Staff Nurse – Community member.

*Kandis “Candy” Lefler, LPN was reappointed as the Practical Nurse member.

Holly Chandler, EdD, CRNA, FAANA was appointed as the APRN member.

Board of Nursing Home Administration

Christen Sobrilsky, MSA, LNHA was appointed as the Nursing Home Administrator – Proprietary member.

*Janelle Ali-Dinar, PhD, MA/MS was reappointed as the Public member.

Board of Optometry

*Creston Myers, OD was reappointed as an Optometrist member.

Board of Pharmacy

Amy Pohlman, PharmD, MHA was appointed to the newly created Pharmacist member position.

*Charles Tomlinson, RP, PharmD was reappointed as a Pharmacist member.

Board of Physical Therapy

*Kirk Peck, PT, PhD, CSCS, CCRT, CERP was reappointed as a Physical Therapist member.

Board of Podiatry

*Derek Miller, DPM was reappointed as a Podiatrist member.

Board of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery

* Donovan Hauser, DVM was reappointed as a veterinarian member.

Marcie Kemnitz, EdD was appointed as public member for a partial term through November 30, 2029.

Reviewed proposed requirements and timelines for creating the new positions on the Board of Pharmacy, for the Board of Alcohol and Drug Counseling which cases to exist on June 30, 2026 and adds a few positions to the Board of Mental Health Practice, and for the Board of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses which ceases to exist on June 30, 2026 and adds a few positions to the Board of Nursing.

November: Conducted 10 interviews and recommended the following appointments:

Board of Cosmetology

Judith Wendt was appointed as the nail technician member.

Carmela Hallett appointed as the Esthetics Instructor member.

Board of Massage Therapy

Abigail Davis, LMT was appointed as the Massage Therapist member.

Board of Mental Health Practice

Yasmin Henderson, ATR-BC, LIMHP, LPC, LADC was appointed as the Art Therapist member, a new position on this Board.

Board of Respiratory Therapy

Rachel Shirk RRT-NPS, AE-C, Ed.D was appointed as the Respiratory Care Practitioner member.

Physician Assistant Committee

Bethany Berg, MPA was appointed as the Physician Assistant member.

Board of Pharmacy

Julie Wollberg, CPhT was appointed as the Pharmacy Technician member, a new position on this Board.

There are a few positions for which there were no applicants. These will roll over to 2026.

There are 41 planned professional board vacancies in 2026.

To: Members of the Nebraska State Board of Health
From: Connie Petersen, PhD, Committee Chair
Subject: 2025 Report of the Public Health, Education and Legislation Committee of the Nebraska State Board of Health
Date: November 17, 2025

Committee Members:

Connie Petersen, PhD (Chair); Jaime Dodge, MD; Staci Hubert, PharmD; Kim Stuhmer, RN, MT; Ken Tusha, DDS

OFFICERS: David Reese (Board Chair); Dan Vehle (Vice Chair); Brett Lindau, DO (Secretary)

STAFF: Monica Gissler Webb

Committee Duties and Responsibilities:

The Public Health, Education, and Legislation (PHEL) Committee met via conference call one time during 2025 and in person five times. Their objective is to identify and promote public education and legislation to enhance the health, mental health, and living environment of all residents of Nebraska.

Activities in 2025:

January:

In the morning committee meeting they reviewed the legislative bills on the BOH Tracker as potential bills to follow. Board of Health members were identified as liaisons to most bills. At the public meeting we voted on official Board of Health positions on specific bills. If any board members wants to speak or testify on a specific bill, they either need to be approved by the Board of Health, or be clear that they are testifying on their own and not as a board member.

The Public Health Recognition Program has been dormant and there was a committee discussion about resurrecting it. Dr. Petersen will lead a subcommittee for this, and Dr. Hubert and Ms. Stuhmer will join efforts.

March:

In the morning committee meeting we reviewed the status of legislative bills on the Board of Health Legislative Tracker sent out almost daily by Monica Webb.

The Public Health Recognition Program format was discussed. Dr. Petersen, along with Dr. Hubert and Ms. Stuhmer, reviewed the program and suggested updating the nomination form and reactivating it.

The Board approved a motion to create a sunset provision for the Public Health Recognition Program. If the program is not extended in March 2027, the program would cease.

Dr. Cook distributed a draft statement to the Legislature in support of LB202 Exempt certain activities from disciplinary action under the Medicine and Surgery Practice Act. After discussion, the Board voted to approve the draft statement. Monica will post the statement on behalf of the Board of Health. There was a question about liability for Board of Health members in the performance of their duties. N.R.S. 71-2611 addresses coverage.

June:

Reviewed final actions of the Legislature this session including implementation strategies.

September:

The nomination form for the Public Health Recognition Program has been updated to be a fillable pdf. The program will be highlighted on the main Division of Public Health or Licensure Unit webpage. Caryn Vincent offered to share information about this program with local health directors.

The 2026 Legislative session begins on Wednesday, January 7. Day 10 will be January 21, which is the last day for bill introduction. The PHEL Committee will have a conference call at 3:00 PM on Thursday, January 22, 2026 to discuss the bills.

November:

The committee discussed an interactive document to track legislation in the 2026 session before. Members learned about how they could provide information to senators regarding the Credentialing Review Program.

Committee Objectives for 2026:

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Nominate public health programs that have worked to improve the lives of Nebraskans.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.

To: Members of the Nebraska State Board of Health
From: Jaime Dodge, MD, Chairperson of the Rules and Regulations Committee
Subject: Rules and Regulations Committee Annual Report for 2025
Date: November 17, 2025

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. Proposed regulations are posted on the Secretary of State’s website: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/DHHS-Regulations.aspx>

For most of 2025 Rules and Regulations Committee members were:

Mark Betch, DPT
Jaime Dodge, MD
Connie Petersen, PhD
Ken Tusha, DDS
Doug Vander Broek, DC
Jeff Wienke, DPM

Staff support for the Rules and Regulations Committee was provided by Monica Webb.

Staff worked hard to create and revise sets of regulations to reduce duplication and comply with new mandates, with several more in process. We continue to monitor movement of draft regulations through the process and attend public hearings.

Regulations reviewed and approved in 2025:

January: There were no proposed regulations before the Board of Health today

March:

- Title 177 NAC 7 – Methods and Permits for Analyses to Determine the Presence of Drugs.
- Title 172 NAC 97 – Approval of Basic Nursing Programs in Nebraska.

June:

September:

- 172 NAC 94, Independent Mental Health Practitioners, Mental Health Practitioners, Marriage and Family Therapists, Professional Counselors, Art Therapists, and Social Workers.
- 184 NAC 3 - Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Department of Health for Petitions for Promulgation, Amendment, or Repeal of Regulations.

172 NAC 2 – Care of Clients with Tuberculosis.

November:

There were no proposed regulations for the Board of Health at this meeting.

Goals for 2026

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

Special meetings will be scheduled as necessary to keep the regulations process moving.