

These minutes have not been approved by the Board

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**Board of Mental Health Practice**  
January 16, 2026

**1. ROLL CALL**

The meeting of the Board of Mental Health Practice was called to order by Rebecca Czaja-Stevens, Chair. The meeting began at 9:03 a.m. and was located in the Otoe Room of the Nebraska State Office Building, Lincoln, Nebraska. In accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411 of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, copies of the agenda were e-mailed to the Board members and other interested parties, posted on the DHHS web site at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>, and posted in the lobby of the Nebraska State Office Building on January 9, 2026.

Czaja-Stevens stated that there is a current copy of the Open Meetings Act posted on the door to the meeting room and available at the link listed on the agenda.

The following members answered roll call:

**Members Present (9)**

Sara Batter, Vice Chair  
Rebecca Czaja-Stevens, Chair  
Paul Davies, Secretary  
Tammy Erickson  
Renea Gernant  
Yasmin Henderson  
Adrian Martin  
Jen McNally  
Amanda Milander-Mace

**Members Absent (1):**

Susan Meyerle

**Others Present:**

Maiya Baumann, Program Manager, Licensure Unit  
Sean Loving, Program Manager, Licensure Unit  
Jessica Dean, Health Licensing Coordinator, Licensure Unit  
Jessie Enfield, IT Business Systems Analyst, Licensure Unit  
Katherine Amyot, DHHS Department Legal  
Mindy Lester, Assistant Attorney General  
Chelsea Lindgren, Legal Assistant, Attorney General's Office  
Mark Meyerson, DHHS Investigator  
Linda Rohman, General Reporting Service

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Gernant moved, seconded by Martin, to adopt the agenda. A voice vote was taken. Voting yes: Batter, Czaja-Stevens, Davies, Erickson, Gernant, Henderson, Martin, and Milander-Mace. Absent: Meyerle. Motion carried.

**3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES – NOVEMBER 7, 2025**

**MOTION:** Gernant moved, seconded by Batter, to adopt the minutes. A voice vote was taken. Voting yes: Batter, Czaja-Stevens, Davies, Erickson, Gernant, Henderson, Martin, and Milander-Mace. Absent: Meyerle. Motion carried.

#### **4. CLOSED SESSION - CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

**MOTION:** Batter moved, seconded by Gernant, to enter into closed session at 9:06 a.m. to hear discussions of a confidential nature, and for the prevention of needless injury to individual reputations. A voice vote was taken. Voting yes: Batter, Czaja-Stevens, Davies, Erickson, Gernant, Henderson, Martin, and Milander-Mace. Absent: Meyerle. Motion carried.

Open Session 10:08 a.m.  
Break at 10:08 a.m.  
Back at 10:16 a.m.  
McNally entered at 10:24 a.m.  
Break at 12:13 p.m.  
Back at 12:26 p.m.

#### **5. BOARD HEARING – OPEN SESSION**

Julia Kercher requested a hearing before the Board regarding her application for reinstatement after suspension of her Independent Mental Health Practitioner, Mental Health Practitioner, and Professional Counselor licenses. She was represented by Anna Leonard. Katherine Amyot, Department Attorney and Hearing Administrator, requested that the Board go into closed session at 12:13 p.m. for discussion of evidence presented at the hearing. The Board returned to open session at 12:48 p.m.

#### **6. UPDATES AND REPORTS**

##### **a. Legislation**

Baumann reviewed the relevant bills pending in the Legislature, including LB 1040, regarding civil commitment; LB 860, regarding behavioral health services to individuals under 21 years of age; LB 825, which would require two hours of continuing education in domestic abuse counseling for all licensed mental health practitioners; LB 961, which creates the Collateral Sanction Relief Act relating to convictions; and LB 912, which creates the Community Health Worker Training Endorsement Act.

Batter moved, seconded by Davies, to select a board member to testify at the hearing for LB 825, which will take place January 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:30 p.m. in front of the Health and Human Services Committee.

##### **b. Regulations Updates**

Baumann reported that the updates to the regulations pertaining to Art Therapy have been sent to the Attorney General's office and Governor's office for final review prior to signature. There was a discussion of the process for updating or improving regulations and how the process works when regulations are opened up for revision. McNally brought up the subject of the board tracking future legislation related to mental health services provided in school settings and there was a discussion of how those services are provided as part of MIPS (Medicaid in Public Schools) and other programs. Loving explained that DHHS tracks the progress of any bills that are related to licensure. Martin asked about the process for opening up the regulations and Amyot described the steps that would be involved.

##### **c. Association and Committee Updates**

###### **1. American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB) <http://www.aascb.org>**

Baumann said that the next virtual "hangout" meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2026 and the annual conference is scheduled to take place in Orlando, FL on February 22-24, 2026.

###### **2. Association of Marital & Family Therapy Regulatory Boards (AMFTRB) <http://www.amftrb.org>**

There were no updates.

3. Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) <http://www.aswb.org>

Batter attended the November meeting of ASWB. She said that supervision was an important topic at this meeting and recommended that the Nebraska board address supervision the next time the regulations are opened up for review. She said that there was a proposal to remove a public member from the ASWB board and she spoke in opposition, as she feels that public members are important. Davies moved, seconded by Martin, to approve funding for Batter to attend the next meeting, scheduled for April. A voice vote was taken. Voting yes: Batter, Czaja-Stevens, Davies, Erickson, Gernant, Henderson, Martin, McNally, and Milander-Mace. Absent: Meyerle. Motion carried.

d. Social Work Compact

Baumann said that the compact is in the process of looking at vendors, including the same vendor currently being used by other compacts.

e. Counseling Compact <https://counselingcompact.org/>

Baumann said that two states, Arizona and Minnesota, have begun issuing compact licenses. Once Nebraska has completed the necessary steps to begin issuing compact licenses, the Mental Health and Social Work page of the DHHS Licensure Unit website will be updated with information on applying for compact licenses.

f. Reports: email ballots, disciplinary and non-disciplinary actions, licensure statistics, and examination pass/fail reports.

1. Reports on disciplinary and non-disciplinary actions, licensure statistics, and examination pass/fail reports were included with the agenda for the meeting.

## **7. ANNUAL BUSINESS**

a. Amyot provided annual reminders of Open Meetings Act rules and best practices for board members. There was a discussion of the contact information for board members which is listed online and best practices for which addresses to use. Board members may choose to publicly list their business address, phone and email address if they are not comfortable listing their personal information. It was recommended that if board members receive questions about licensure from members of the public that they forward those questions to Licensure Unit staff.

b. Election of Officers and By Laws

1. Erickson moved, seconded by Milander-Mace, to retain the current slate of officers. Czaja-Stevens is currently the chair, Batter is the vice chair, and Davies is the secretary. A voice vote was taken. Voting yes: Batter, Czaja-Stevens, Davies, Erickson, Gernant, Henderson, Martin, McNally, and Milander-Mace. Absent: Meyerle. Motion carried.

2. Gernant moved, seconded by Martin, to designate Batter and McNally as investigative consultants. A voice vote was taken. Voting yes: Batter, Czaja-Stevens, Davies, Erickson, Gernant, Henderson, Martin, McNally, and Milander-Mace. Absent: Meyerle. Motion carried.

3. Batter moved, seconded by Davies, to retain Susan Meyerle as educational consultant. A voice vote was taken. Voting yes: Batter, Czaja-Stevens, Davies, Erickson, Gernant, Henderson, Martin, McNally, and Milander-Mace. Absent: Meyerle. Motion carried.

4. Martin moved, seconded by Erickson, to retain the current representatives to AASCB, AMFTRB, and ASWB. A voice vote was taken. Voting yes: Batter, Czaja-Stevens, Davies, Erickson, Gernant, Henderson, Martin, McNally, and Milander-Mace. Absent: Meyerle. Motion

carried.

5. Batter moved, seconded by McNally, to approve the board by laws. A voice vote was taken. Voting yes: Batter, Czaja-Stevens, Davies, Erickson, Gernant, Henderson, Martin, McNally, and Milander-Mace. Absent: Meyerle. Motion carried.

#### **8. PUBLIC COMMENT**

A member of the public whose application for licensure is currently pending joined the public comment to ask about the status of their application. It was explained to them that Licensure Unit staff would be in touch with them once review of their application was completed.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:17 p.m.

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Board of Mental Health Practice  
Summarized by: Jessica Dean, Licensure Unit