

These minutes have not been approved by the Board

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF FUNERAL DIRECTING AND EMBALMING**
January 22, 2026

1. ROLL CALL

The Board of Funeral Directing and Embalming was called to order by the Chair, Steven Brunken, at 9:00 a.m., at the Nebraska State Office Building, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lower-Level Morrill Room, Lincoln, Nebraska. The meeting was conducted In-Person and by WebEx. The following members answered roll call.

Steven Brunken, Chairperson
Amy Blinston, Vice-Chairperson
James Conner, Secretary
Jamie Dolan – New Member

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened. Also present were: Sean Loving, Program Manager; Heather Ord, Health Licensing Coordinator; Ivette Lopez Quintana, Administrative Technician; Jennette Peterson, Compliance Monitor; Jessie Enfield, ITBSA; Katherine Amyot, Department Legal; T.J. O'Neill, Assistant Attorney General; Mark Meyerson, Investigator of the Investigations Unit.

Brunken announced that there is a copy of all the public documents being reviewed at this meeting available in the meeting room pursuant to the Open Meetings Act.

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 Licensure Unit on January 8, 2026.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Conner moved, seconded by Blinston, to approve the agenda as presented. Voting aye: Brunken, Blinston, Conner, and Dolan Voting nay: none. Abstain: none Absent: none Motion carried.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 30, 2025

Blinston moved, seconded by Brunken, to approve the agenda as with the following corrections:

Page 1 Item 4: replaced “closed session at 10:44 a.m.” to “closed session at 9:15 a.m.”
Page 1 Item 4: deleted “Buckminster repeated the motion and purpose”

Voting aye: Brunken, Blinston, and Conner Voting nay: none. Abstain: Dolan Absent: none
Motion carried.

4. INVESTIGATIONAL REPORTS & OTHER CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION – CLOSED SESSION

Conner moved, seconded by Dolan, to enter into closed session at 9:06 a.m. for the purpose of hearing discussions of an investigative/confidential nature and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of the individuals. Voting aye: Brunken, Blinston, Conner, and Dolan Voting nay: none. Abstain: none Absent: none Motion carried.

5. OPEN SESSION Application review and recommendations (initial licensure, reinstatement, convictions, administrative penalties, and mail ballot reports)

The board returned to open session at 10:28 a.m.

6. UPDATES AND REPORTS

a) **Legislation:**

- i) LB 961 – Introduction January 12, 2026 for changes in Neb. Rev. Stat 29-2264 and 29-3005 pertaining to convictions.
- ii) Credentialing Review (407) Program – Crematory Operator License started for 2027.

b) **Nebraska Funeral Directing Association (NEFDA):** <http://www.nefda.org>- Stefanie Gonzalez and Pual Seger explained certification for crematory operators to show education on crematory. Seger proposes to have the crematory certification be under DHHS. He also proposes there to be an inspector that inspects establishments that are affiliated and kept track under DHHS. Seger suggested that all crematories need to be informed of the standards since crematories aren't held to the same standards as others.

c) **International Conference of Funeral Service Examination Board (ICFSEB):**
<https://theconferenceonline.org/>

Brunken will attend as a delegate to the 122nd International Conference of the Funeral Service Examination Board (ICFSEB) from February 24, 2026, to February 26, 2026.

d) **Reports: Disciplinary and Non-Disciplinary Actions; License Statistics; and Examinations:** No discussion at this time

7. DESIGNATION OF THE METHOD BY WHICH THIS BODY GIVES PUBLIC NOTICE OF ITS MEETINGS

Loving informed the Board that the Department currently sends notifications via email to interested parties, posts meeting agendas to the Department's Public website, and posts a paper agenda inside the State Office Building.

Conner moved, seconded by Dolan, to continue the current method of which this body gives public notice of its meetings. Voting aye: Brunken, Blinston, Conner, and Dolan Voting nay: none. Abstain: none Absent: none Motion carried.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Dolan moved, seconded by Conner, to keep Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary the same. The slate of officers is as follows: Brunken – Chairperson, Blinston – Vice-Chairperson, and Conner – Secretary. Voting aye: Brunken, Blinston, Conner, and Dolan Voting nay: none. Abstain: none Absent: none Motion carried.

9. MEETING SCHEDULE

The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2026.

To see the list of meeting dates, agendas, and minutes, go to:
<https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting date will be March 26, 2026. There being no further business, the chair declared the meeting adjourned at 11:44 a.m.

Board of Funeral Directing and Embalming

Summarized by: Heather Ord, Health Licensing Coordinator, Licensure Unit