

**PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
January 23, 2026**

ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Physician Assistant Committee was called to order at 2:01 p.m. by Peter Hunt, PA-C, Vice-Chairperson in the Husker Conference Room, of the Hampton Inn & Suites, located at 7343 Husker Circle, Lincoln, Nebraska 68504. The meeting was held In-Person and by WebEx. The following members answered the initial roll call:

Peter Hunt, PA-C, Vice-Chairperson
Merle Henkenius, Secretary
Bethany Berg, PA-C
Rachel Blake, MD
Vacancy, MD, PA Supervisor Position

Absent: None

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened. Present from the Department were Jan Gadeken-Harris, Health Licensing Coordinator and Vonda Apking, Program Manager; Mindy Lester, Assistant Attorney General via WebEx; Ellie Rohr, Department Attorney; Randy Clark and Susan Held, Investigators with the DHHS Investigation Unit.

Hunt 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 Committee members and other interested parties, posted on the DHHS web site at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx> and posted on the Bulletin Board at the entrance to the Nebraska State Office Building on January 8, 2026.

The Physician Assistant Committee and the Department want to “WELCOME” Bethany Berg, PA-C as the new Member to the Committee replacing Nicole Schwensow.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Blake moved, seconded by Berg, to adopt the agenda as presented. Voting aye: Berg, Blake, Henkenius and Hunt. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Blake moved, seconded by Henkenius to approve the meeting minutes of September 26, 2025, as presented. Voting aye: Blake, Henkenius and Hunt. Voting nay: None. Abstain: Berg. Absent: None. Motion carried.

2026 LEGISLATION UPDATES

LB1212 - Provide for licensure of internationally trained physicians under the Uniform Credentialing Act Notice of Hearing - February 11, 2026

To learn more regarding this Bill go to:

https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=63078&docnum=LB1212&leg=109

The PSCF (Patient Safety Cash Fund) fee legislation sunset as of January 1, 2026, and has not been extended.

<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/laws/statutes.php?statute=71-8722>

THESE MINUTES HAVE NOT BEEN APPROVED BY THE PA COMMITTEE

LB914 - Eliminate physician liability for negligence of physician assistants

Notice of Hearing – February 6, 2026

To learn more regarding this Bill go to:

https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=62704&docnum=LB914&leg=109

LB955 - Provide for practice agreements between pharmacists and physician assistants

Notice of Hearing – February 6, 2026

To learn more regarding this Bill go to:

https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=62703&docnum=LB955&leg=109

REGULATIONS UPDATE

No updates were presented.

INVESTIGATIONAL REPORTS – CLOSED SESSION

Blake moved, seconded by Henkenius to go into closed session at 2:12 p.m. for the purpose of review and discussion of investigative reports, licensure applications, and other confidential information, and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of the individuals. Voting aye: Berg, Blake, Henkenius and Hunt. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

The Committee Members returned to Open Session at 3:20 p.m.

APPLICATION(S) REVIEW – OPEN SESSION

There were no applications for review for this meeting.

DESIGNATION OF THE METHOD BY WHICH THIS BODY WILL GIVE PUBLIC NOTICE OF ITS MEETINGS

Jan Gadeken-Harris explained that the Committee needs to inform the public each year of the method by which the Committee will provide notice of their meetings. In the past, the Committee had chosen to post meeting agendas on the Bulletin Board at the Nebraska State Office Building, to e-mail agendas to the interested parties list, and to post agendas on the Department's website. Blake moved, seconded by Henkenius, to continue the same method that the Department has been using to provide public notice of this Committee's meetings by posting meeting agendas at the Nebraska State Office Building, by e-mailing agendas to the interested parties list, and by posting agendas on the Department's website. Voting aye: Berg, Blake, Henkenius and Hunt. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Blake moved, seconded by Berg to elect new officers for 2026 as follows:

Chairperson: Peter Hunt, PA-C

Vice Chairperson: Bethany Berg, PA-C

Secretary: Merle J. Henkenius

Voting aye: Berg, Blake, Henkenius and Hunt. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Just as a reminder there is a vacancy on the PA Committee for a Physician who is a supervisor of Physician Assistants. For more information on how to apply for that vacancy go to:

<https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Board-Membership-and-Responsibilities.aspx>

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

THESE MINUTES HAVE NOT BEEN APPROVED BY THE PA COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

The next Physician Assistant Committee meeting is scheduled March 27 @ 2:00 p.m.

The projected schedule for 2026 is listed on the DHHS website:
<https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business Hunt, Vice-Chairperson, adjourned the meeting at 3:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

signature available upon request

Merle Henkenius, Secretary
Physician Assistant Committee