

Minutes of January 28, 2026, Board of Respiratory Care Practitioners Meeting

1. ROLL CALL

Marcy Wyrens, Chairperson, called the virtual meeting of the Board of Respiratory Care Practitioners to order at 9:02 a.m. on January 28, 2026, in the Morrill Conference Room at the Nebraska State Office Building located at 301 Centennial Mall South, 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 website at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>, and posted in the Licensure Unit on January 15, 2026.

Wyrens announced that this is an open meeting, and the Open Meetings Act is posted.

Members Present: The following members answered roll call:

Marcy Wyrens, LRCP, RRT, Board Chair (via Webex)
Rene Botts, Board Vice-Chair
Rachel Shirk, Board Member
Maria Michaelis, MD Board Member (via Webex) Joined at 9:01 am

Staff Present:

Claire Covert-ByBee, DHHS Program Manager (via Webex)
Kim Hitzel, DHHS Health Licensing Coordinator
Katherine Amyot, DHHS Staff Attorney
Abigail Hoy Nissen, Assistant Attorney General

Member of the Public

Heather Nichols, NSRC heather.nichols@unmc.edu

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION: Botts moved, seconded by Shirk, to adopt the agenda. Voting aye: Botts, Shirk, Wyrens. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

3. REAFFIRMATION OF MAIL BALLOT

The following mail ballots were brought before the Board:

Approval of August 27, 2025, Board meeting minutes. Voting to approve, Botts, Wyrens, Sand, and Michaelis. Voting nay, none. Minutes approved September 8, 2025.

4. INVESTIGATIONAL & CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION/REPORTS – CLOSED SESSION

Purpose: To hear discussions regarding confidential information and to protect the reputation of individuals named or referenced in such discussions.

MOTION: Michaelis moved, seconded by Shirk moved, to move into closed session. Voting aye: Botts, Wyrens, Shirk, Michaelis. Voting nay, None. Motion Carried. Board went into closed session at 9:04 am.

The Board returned to open session at 9:34 am

5. BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS ON APPLICATIONS – OPEN SESSION

The Board did not make any recommendations.

6. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- A. The hearing for LB 735, the Respiratory Care Practice Compact Bill, was held at the State Capital on January 22, 2026. Marcy Wyrens, representing the Board of Respiratory Care Practice, attended in person and gave testimony in support of the bill. There were questions from the Senators about licensure time frames and licensure requirements. No one gave testimony in opposition of the bill.

7. RESPIRATORY CARE COMPACT UPDATE

The model legislation that was developed by the Respiratory Care Interstate Compact can be found on the website <https://compacts.csg.org/compact-updates/respiratory-therapy-licensure-compact>.

Heather Nichols spoke at the meeting about the compact and the states that have passed the legislation. There are 5 states that have passed the model legislation: Montana, Washington, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Alabama.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Motion: Botts moved, and seconded by Michaelis to vote on the following slate of officers:

Chair: Marcy Wyrens

Vice Chair: Rene Botts

Secretary: Maria Michaelis

Education Consultant: Rachel Shirk

Investigative Consultant Marcy Wyrens

Voting aye: Botts, Wyrens, Michaelis, and Shirk. Voting nay: none. Motion Carried.

9. PER DIEM DISCUSSION

Motion: Michaelis moved, seconded by Botts that, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 38-171, each member of the Board shall receive a per diem of \$50.00 per day for 2026. Voting aye: Shirk, Botts, Michaelis, and Wyrens. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

10. NOTICE OF MEETING PUBLICATION

Motion: Michaelis moved, seconded by Shirk to keep the current Notice of Meeting Publication. Covert-ByBee advised that meeting agenda are posted at the Nebraska State Office Building on the Licensure Unit Bulletin board at 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE, emailed to interested parties and stakeholders who have requested notification, and posted on the Department of Health and Human Services website. Voting aye: Botts, Shirk, Michaelis, and Wyrens. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

11. LICENSURE APPLICATION PROCESSING REPORT

Covert-ByBee stated this report is for informational purposes only. It is a snapshot in time of licensure activity.

12. TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING

Topics to be on the agenda for the next meeting include Legislative Update, Application Processing report, Compact Update, Public Comment, and Nebraska Society for Respiratory Care.

15. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

16. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:06 am.

Respectfully submitted,
(signature on file)

Maria Michaelis, MD Board Secretary