

These minutes have not been approved by the Board

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

Board of Psychology  
January 30, 2026

### **1. ROLL CALL**

The meeting of the Board of Psychology was called to order by Stacy Waldron, Vice Chair, at 10:02 a.m. in the Lower Level Morrill Room, Nebraska State Office Building, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE. In accordance with §84-1411 of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, copies of the agenda were 1) emailed to the Board members and other interested parties, 2) posted on the DHHS web site at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>, and 3) posted on the bulletin board in the Nebraska State Office Building Lobby on January 26, 2026.

The following members answered roll call:

#### **Members Present:**

Thomas Cardwell, PhD  
Jennifer Dreibelbis  
Deborah Hoffnung, PhD  
Tomeka Johnson, Secretary  
Katherine Linder, PhD  
Stacy Waldron, PhD, Vice Chair

#### **Staff and Others Present:**

Maiya Baumann, Program Manager, Licensure Unit  
Jessica Dean, Health Licensing Coordinator, Licensure Unit  
T.J. O'Neill, Assistant Attorney General  
Marley Sandberg, DHHS Department Legal

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

### **2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Linder moved, seconded by Cardwell, to adopt the agenda. A voice vote was taken. Voting yes: Cardwell, Dreibelbis, Hoffnung, Johnson, Linder and Waldron. Motion carried.

### **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NOVEMBER 14, 2025**

**MOTION:** Linder moved, seconded by Hoffnung, to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2025 meeting. Voting yes: Cardwell, Dreibelbis, Hoffnung, Johnson, Linder and Waldron. Motion carried.

### **4. UPDATES**

- a. Legislation 2026

Baumann mentioned various pending bills in the 2026 Legislative session related to behavioral health licensure and/or services. LB 860 is a bill related to the provision of behavioral health services to individuals under 21 years of age. LB 961 is a bill introducing the Collateral Sanction Relief Act, which would allow individuals with some types of convictions to file a petition for a certificate of qualification for employment. LB 1040 is a bill related to inpatient commitment of mentally ill and dangerous persons under the Nebraska Mental Health Commitment Act; it would allow interested parties such as a spouse, parent, sibling, adult child, adult friend, or guardian to file a petition for inpatient commitment with the appropriate local mental health board. LB 1084 is a bill related to emergency protective custody for mentally ill and dangerous individuals or dangerous sex offenders. LB 911 is a bill related to behavior analysis services. LB 27 is a carryover bill from the previous session which relates to the Rural Health Systems and Professional Incentive Act. The act includes financial incentives and loan repayment programs for certain providers practicing in health profession shortage areas in Nebraska, including mental health providers. Waldron clarified that LB 860 is the first step in the process to create Medicaid waiver behavioral health services for individuals under 21 years of age. Medicaid waiver services currently exist for the aged and disabled and developmentally disabled populations.

b. Association Updates

i. Association of State Provincial Psychology Boards <https://www.asppb.org>

Waldron said that the ASPPB's 40<sup>th</sup> mid-year meeting is scheduled for April 16<sup>th</sup> through April 19<sup>th</sup> in Charlotte, NC. The theme is "Guardians of the Future: Regulating Psychology" and the meeting will largely deal with regulation of artificial intelligence (AI.) She said that there is funding from ASPPB to pay for airfare and hotel costs for state board members to attend the annual meeting of ASPPB occurring in October. Baumann described the basic process for submitting request for travel reimbursement; the Department requests that documentation for out of state travel be submitted approximately 30 days prior to the date(s) of travel. Waldron said that it would be good to send multiple delegates to the annual meetings, including both a board member delegate and a department delegate, as there are sometimes special meetings to attend. Waldron said that as a director-at-large of ASPPB she has been training on various aspects of their services including mobility, education and examinations, and recently completed training on education. This included loan structures for the different types of psychology programs and how that funding might be affected in the future if the definition of an entry level psychology degree is changed under the APA Model Licensing Act.

Baumann attended a virtual town hall on the APA Model Licensing Act, which was held on January 28<sup>th</sup>. She said that public comments on the act have been opened until March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The town hall included a discussion on the definition of a psychologist under the act; there is concern that a psychologist is not able to practice due to discipline on their license would still be able to use the title of psychologist under the act because it would be based on education rather than holding an active credential.

Waldron said that the reason that Nebraska's regulations related to ethics and unprofessional conduct have not been updated since 1992 is because the newer

versions of the APA's ethics code were not acceptable to previous Nebraska administrations; Dreibelbis clarified that this was specifically because of references to gender identification and sexual orientation. Waldron said that because of this, state statutes and regulations can come into conflict with the APA code of ethics and it is possible that a licensee could be disciplined for conduct against state rules even if it adhered to the APA code.

Baumann said that if board members wish to submit comments on the Model License Act, they should submit them as individuals rather than on behalf of the board, since the board would need to vote on the comments first. Waldron asked if there would be a problem with the board submitting a comment voicing their concern about aspects of the act which counter the board's mission to protect public health and Sandberg said that the board could vote to submit a comment.

**MOTION:** Hoffnung moved, seconded by Cardwell, to have Waldron write a comment on their concerns with potential harm to the public by the APA Model License Act and submit it on behalf of the Nebraska board. A voice vote was taken. Voting yes: Cardwell, Dreibelbis, Hoffnung, Johnson, Linder and Waldron. Motion carried. Dreibelbis asked if such a comment, once submitted, would only be available on the Model License Act website or if it would be included in written records by the board. Baumann said that if Waldron submitted a copy of the comment to Licensure staff, it could be added to the updates section of a future meeting agenda; that way it would be included in the written record of the board.

ii. PSYPACT <https://www.asppb.net/page/PSYPACT>

Baumann did not have any updates. Waldron said that 43 states have joined, including Montana most recently. Legislation to join the compact has been introduced in Iowa, Hawaii, Massachusetts, New York, Alaska, Hawaii, New Mexico since 2025. Cardwell asked about states which allow prescriptive psychology; Baumann said that would need to be added to the compact first before it would be allowed. There was a discussion of the two different types of credentials under PSYPACT. The Authority to Practice Interjurisdictional Telepsychology (APIT) allows a psychologist to practice telepsychology in another compact state after obtaining an E.Passport certificate from ASPPB. The Temporary Authorization to Practice (TAP) allows a psychologist to physically practice in another compact state or states for up to 30 consecutive days after obtaining an Interjurisdictional Practice Certificate (IPC) from ASPPB. Baumann said that Nebraska licensees wishing to practice in another compact state should always contact the other state to verify if there are additional requirements for compact licensure. The regulations and/or statutes of the state where the client is physically located always take precedence; for instance, if a client is located in a state or jurisdiction that requires mandatory reporting, the psychologist would need to comply with that rule even if it was not required in their home state. Waldron explained that the APIT is similar to a passport, while the IPC is similar to a travel visa.

iii. American Psychological Association <http://apa.org>

There were no other updates. Linder mentioned that the next conference will take place in Washington, D.C. in August.

- iv. Nebraska Psychological Association <http://www.nebpsych.org>

Linder said that the NPA Legislative Breakfast will take place in Lincoln on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026. The spring conference will take place on May 1<sup>st</sup> and will be a hybrid virtual/in-person meeting.

- v. Waldron said that after three years of serving as a director-at-large on the ASPPB board, she is eligible to run for president-elect of ASPPB. She said that the nomination has to come from the nominee's state board. Waldron brought a copy of the nomination letter used when she was previously elected as director-at-large and said that after board officers were elected, the new chair of the board would be able to sign the nomination letter, which needs to be submitted to ASPPB in April.

**MOTION:** Cardwell moved, seconded by Linder, to nominate Waldron for president-elect of ASPPB. A voice vote was taken. Voting yes: Cardwell, Dreibelbis, Hoffnung, Johnson, and Linder. Waldron abstained. Motion carried.

- c. Licensure Statistics (attached to agenda)

There was a brief discussion of the different types of reports that can be generated from the licensing system; staff explained that if board members were interested in seeing licensure statistics by county or other categories, those reports could be generated and distributed.

- d. Annual Business

- i. **MOTION:** Hoffnung moved, seconded by Johnson, to nominate Waldron as chair, Linder as vice chair, and Cardwell as secretary. A voice vote was taken. Voting yes: Cardwell, Dreibelbis, Hoffnung, Johnson, Linder, and Waldron. Motion carried.
- ii. **MOTION:** Linder moved, seconded by Hoffnung, to nominate Cardwell and Waldron as investigative consultants and Linder and Hoffnung as educational consultants. A voice vote was taken. Voting yes: Carwell, Dreibelbis, Hoffnung, Johnson, Linder, and Waldron. Motion carried.
- iii. **MOTION:** Johnson moved, seconded by Hoffnung, to nominate Linder as ASPPB delegate and Dreibelbis as PSYPACT delegate. A voice vote was taken. Voting yes: Cardwell, Dreibelbis, Hoffnung, Johnson, Linder, and Waldron. Motion carried.
- iv. **MOTION:** Linder moved, seconded by Hoffnung, to continue using the same methods to notify the public of meeting dates. A voice vote was taken. Voting yes: Cardwell, Dreibelbis, Hoffnung, Johnson, Linder, and Waldron. Motion carried.
- v. **MOTION:** Cardwell moved, seconded by Linder, to retain the approved per diem rates for board members. A voice vote was taken. Voting yes: Cardwell, Dreibelbis, Hoffnung, Johnson, Linder, and Waldron. Motion carried.

e. 2026 Meeting Dates

- i. The meeting dates for the remainder of 2026 were selected. Meeting dates will be March 20<sup>th</sup>, May 15<sup>th</sup>, July 17<sup>th</sup>, September 11<sup>th</sup>, and November 20<sup>th</sup>.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:06 p.m.

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Summarized by:  
Jessica Dean, Licensure Unit