

# NEBRASKA BOARD OF NURSING

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING

February 12, 2026

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Nebraska Board of Nursing was called to order by Brenda Smidt, Board President, at 8:30 a.m., February 12, 2026, at the Best Western Plus Conference Room, 2201 Wildcat Circle, Lincoln NE 68521. Copies of the agenda were emailed to the Board members, emailed to interested parties, posted in the east entryway of the Nebraska State Office Building, and posted on the Department of Health & Human Services website on February 2, 2026. Copies of the revised agenda were emailed to the Board members, emailed to interested parties, posted in the east entryway of the Nebraska State Office Building, and posted on the Department of Health & Human Services website on February 9, 2026. Smidt announced that a copy of the Open Meetings Act was available in the room.

### **ROLL CALL**

The following board members were present and answered roll call:

- Holly Chandler, APRN-CRNA
- Theresa Delahoyde, RN
- Kathy Harrison, RN, *Board Secretary*
- Angela Kula, LPN
- Kandis Lefler, LPN
- Patricia Motl, RN
- Eric Rogat, RN, *Board Vice-President*
- Kristin Ruiz, RN
- Jules Russ, *Public Member*
- Brenda Smidt, RN, *Board President*

The following board member was absent: Clay Jordan, RN.

One board position was vacant.

The following staff members from the Department and the Attorney General's Office were present during all or part of the meeting:

- Ann Oertwich, RN, *Executive Director*
- Danielle Dohrmann, RN, *Nursing Practice Consultant (arrived at 8:35 a.m.)*
- April Minster, RN, *Nursing Education Consultant*
- Sherri Joyner, *Health Licensing Coordinator*
- Jessie Enfield, *DHHS IT Systems Analyst*
- Marley Sandberg, *DHHS Legal*
- Mindy Lester, *Assistant Attorney General*
- Brittany Bigham, RN, *Investigator*
- Jessica Bowman, RN, *Investigator*
- Andrea Cramer, RN, *Investigator*

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened. Introductions were made on behalf of April Minster, the new Nursing Education Consultant.

### **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Motl made the motion, seconded by Delahoyde, to adopt the agenda for the February 12, 2026, Board of Nursing meeting.

Voting Yes: Chandler, Delahoyde, Harrison, Kula, Lefler, Motl, Rogat, Ruiz, Russ, and Smidt. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Jordan. Motion carried.

These minutes were approved by the Board of Nursing on March 12, 2026.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Lefler made the motion, seconded by Motl, to approve the consent agenda.

Voting Yes: Chandler, Delahoyde, Harrison, Kula, Lefler, Motl, Rogat, Ruiz, Russ, and Smidt. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Jordan. Motion carried.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**MOTION:** Kula made the motion, seconded by Delahoyde, for the Board to go into closed session for the purpose of reviewing and discussing investigative reports, licensure applications, and other confidential information, and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of the individuals.

Voting Yes: Chandler, Delahoyde, Harrison, Kula, Lefler, Motl, Rogat, Ruiz, Russ, and Smidt. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Jordan. Motion carried.

Smidt announced that the Board was in closed session for the purpose of reviewing and discussing investigative reports, licensure applications, and other confidential information, and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of the individuals.

8:34 a.m. Meeting went into closed session.

9:28 a.m. Motl left the meeting.

9:32 a.m. Motl returned to the meeting.

10:02 a.m. Kula left the meeting.

10:10 a.m. Kula returned to the meeting. Meeting went into recess.

10:20 a.m. Meeting reconvened.

10:32 a.m. Meeting returned to open session.

**LICENSURE RECOMMENDATIONS****CRISTY D. O'CONNELL – RN APPLICANT**

**MOTION:** Chandler made the motion, seconded by Motl, to recommend denying Cristy O'Connell's application for an RN license based on disciplinary action taken against a license in another jurisdiction.

Voting Yes: Chandler, Delahoyde, Harrison, Kula, Lefler, Motl, Rogat, Ruiz, Russ, and Smidt. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Jordan. Motion carried.

**NEHEMIAH TALBOTT – RN APPLICANT**

**MOTION:** Delahoyde made the motion, seconded by Kula, to recommend denying Nehemiah Talbott's application for an RN license based on substance use, misdemeanor convictions, and insufficient evidence of fitness to practice.

Voting Yes: Chandler, Delahoyde, Harrison, Kula, Lefler, Motl, Rogat, Ruiz, Russ, and Smidt. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Jordan. Motion carried.

**ALYSSIA D. SPACE – LPN REINSTATEMENT FROM DISCIPLINE**

**MOTION:** Delahoyde made the motion, seconded by Ruiz to recommend reinstating Alyssia Space's LPN license on probation for three years with the following terms and conditions: abstain from alcohol; abstain from controlled substances and other prescription drugs unless prescribed by the treating practitioner; abstain from promethazine and Benadryl unless prescribed by or directed to use by a licensed practitioner

for a legitimate medical purpose; verification from treating practitioner of all prescription medications; report all prescription medications taken; submit to random body fluid screens; advise Department of any professional counseling and submit reports; comply with treatment recommendations including recommendations for attendance at support group meetings and sponsor; active practice for 3120 hours; provide notice of disciplinary proceedings to employer and other states where licensed; provide quarterly employer reports; shall not provide nursing services for staffing agencies or in home health care; provide written notice to Department of any employment, address or phone changes within seven (7) days; comply with all reports, notices or other documentation from the Department; promptly respond to Department regarding compliance during probation; obey all state and federal laws, rules and regulations regarding practice of nursing and must report any violations of the above to Department within seven days; pay any costs associated with ensuring compliance, and appear at any meetings of the Board of Nursing when requested. The recommendation for probation is based on a diagnosis of a substance use disorder. The recommendation for reinstatement is based on applicant's current participation in treatment, completion of treatment, compliance with treatment recommendations, active involvement in the substance abuse/addiction recovery process, and positive letter of reference from an employer.

Voting Yes: Chandler, Delahoyde, Harrison, Kula, Lefler, Motl, Rogat, Ruiz, Russ, and Smidt. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Jordan. Motion carried.

### **CLAIRE M. WELSH – RN REINSTATEMENT FROM DISCIPLINE**

**MOTION:** Ruiz made the motion, seconded by Harrison to recommend reinstating Claire Welsh's RN license on probation subject to the terms and conditions listed in the probation offer letter dated December 21, 2022.

Voting Yes: Chandler, Delahoyde, Harrison, Kula, Lefler, Motl, Rogat, Ruiz, Russ, and Smidt. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Jordan. Motion carried.

### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**MOTION:** The Education Committee moved, seconded by Harrison, that the Board approve the following 2024-2025 ADN Program Reports: Central Community College, Metropolitan Community College, Mid-Plains Community College, Northeast Community College, Southeast Community College, and Western Nebraska Community College; the following 2024-2025 BSN Program Reports: Bryan College of Health Sciences, Clarkson College, Creighton University, College of Saint Mary, Midland University, Nebraska Methodist College, Nebraska Wesleyan University, Union Adventist University, and University of Nebraska Medical Center; and the following 2024-2025 PN Program Reports: Central Community College, College of Saint Mary, Metropolitan Community College, Mid-Plains Community College, Northeast Community College, Southeast Community College, and Western Nebraska Community College.

Voting Yes: Chandler, Delahoyde, Harrison, Kula, Lefler, Motl, Rogat, Ruiz, Russ, and Smidt. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Jordan. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** The Education Committee moved, seconded by Harrison, that the Board approve the following curriculum materials and syllabi from Northeast Community College with minor suggestions: updated Plans of Study (Traditional PN/ADN and LPN-to-ADN); course structure document detailing credit hours, clock hours, prerequisites, and co-requisites for both tracks; course descriptions for all nursing courses; term-by-term course schedule; syllabi for first-term courses planned for Summer 2026 (NURS 1020: Introduction to Nursing Concepts, and NURS 1045: LPN Bridge); syllabi for second-term courses planned for Fall 2026 (NURS 1025: Concepts of Pathophysiology & Pharmacology I, NURS 1030: Foundational Concepts in Nursing with Health Assessment, NURS 1035: Foundational Concepts Clinical, and NURS 1040: Health

Assessment Lab); and basic syllabi with course objectives, student learning outcomes, and topical outlines for courses offered in terms 3, 4, and 5 (planned for Spring 2027, Fall 2027, and Spring 2028).

Voting Yes: Chandler, Delahoyde, Harrison, Kula, Lefler, Motl, Rogat, Ruiz, Russ, and Smidt. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Jordan. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** The Education Committee moved, seconded by Harrison, that the Board approve the Bryan College of Health Sciences curriculum plans, full course syllabi, and associated clinical evaluation tools for the following: sample BSN curriculum plan – traditional; sample BSN curriculum plan – accelerated; NURS473 Transition to Professional Practice syllabus; NURS476 Nursing Leadership & Management syllabus; NURS476 Nursing Leadership & Management clinical evaluation record; NURS479 Nursing Capstone syllabus, and NURS479 Nursing Capstone clinical evaluation record.

Voting Yes: Chandler, Harrison, Kula, Lefler, Motl, Rogat, Ruiz, Russ, and Smidt. Voting No: None. Abstain: Delahoyde. Absent: Jordan. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** The Education Committee moved, seconded by Harrison, that the Board approve the online BSN program for Herzing University with the requirement that the program provide quarterly reports to the Board.

Voting Yes: Chandler, Delahoyde, Harrison, Kula, Lefler, Motl, Rogat, Ruiz, Russ, and Smidt. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Jordan. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** The Education Committee moved, seconded by Harrison, that the Board approve the online MSN program for Herzing University with the requirement that the program provide quarterly reports to the Board.

Voting Yes: Chandler, Delahoyde, Harrison, Kula, Lefler, Motl, Rogat, Ruiz, Russ, and Smidt. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Jordan. Motion carried.

### **PRACTICE COMMITTEE UPDATES**

**MOTION:** The Practice Committee moved, seconded by Smidt, that the Board approve the revised *Patient Abandonment* Advisory Opinion.

Voting Yes: Chandler, Delahoyde, Harrison, Kula, Lefler, Motl, Rogat, Ruiz, Russ, and Smidt. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Jordan. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** The Practice Committee moved, seconded by Smidt, that the Board approve the revised *Intravenous/Infusion Therapy* Advisory Opinion.

Voting Yes: Chandler, Delahoyde, Harrison, Kula, Lefler, Motl, Rogat, Ruiz, Russ, and Smidt. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Jordan. Motion carried.

### **CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR DISCIPLINE CASES**

Members expressed approval for adding the following courses to the Board's list of approved continuing education for discipline cases: 1) the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners' Alzheimer's Disease & Dementia Care Seminar, 2) Course for Anger's Nebraska Anger Management Class, and 3) CIMA Education's Anger Management Program.

Delahoyde recommended creating a process to update approved continuing education courses annually.

## **2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Oertwich reported on bills under consideration for the 2026 legislative session:

LB676 and LB374, which were introduced in 2025, have been combined and carried over to the 2026 session. The proposal would enact changes sought by APRN-Certified Nurse Midwives, such as eliminating their supervising physician requirement, but it would also establish a “licensed midwife” category for persons who do not necessarily have the education and training of APRN-CNMs.

LB1234 would create a license for freestanding birth centers where licensed midwives would be able to practice.

LB 912, the Community Health Worker Training and Endorsement Act, would create a process for endorsing training programs for Community Health Workers (CHWs). It would enable Medicaid reimbursements for services provided by CHWs. The bill is connected to grant monies available through the Rural Health Transformation Program.

LB 936 would allow nurse practitioners who have completed approved training to perform and utilize fluoroscopy.

## **NCSBN UPDATES**

Oertwich said that she expected that the National Council of State Boards of Nursing’s MidYear Meeting would include active discussions on revisions to the proposed APRN Compact, the possibility of increasing the NCLEX examination fee, and proposed changes to NCSBN’s Model Rules. Voting on these items will not occur until the Annual Meeting in August.

## **JOINT BOARD COMMITTEE ON MEDICAL SPAS**

No actions have been taken by Joint Board Committee since the Board’s January meeting.

## **COMMUNICATION**

Nursing News – Oertwich reported that staff are finalizing articles for the next edition of *Nursing News*.

Merger with APRN Board – Oertwich reported that the APRNs who currently serve on the APRN Board are being contacted about applying for positions on the Board of Nursing. It is possible that appointments to the expanded Board of Nursing will be made at the Board of Health’s March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Staff Updates – Oertwich reported that the Licensure Unit’s Nursing and Nursing Support Section is fully staffed. In addition to April Minster taking on the Nursing Education Consultant position, David Stokes has been hired as supervisor for Nursing Support. Oertwich noted that Stokes’ experience with clinical education, state nurse aide testing, and assisted living facilities will be valuable in his new role.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

The floor was opened to comments from the public. No comments were received.

12:07 p.m.     *Meeting went into recess.*

12:31 p.m.     *Meeting reconvened.*

**STRATEGIC PLANNING AND COMMITTEE STRUCTURES**

Members reviewed the Board's strategic plan. Dohrmann asked members to think of ways that committees or work groups could advance the Board's strategic plan and to think of themes or topics that the Board should work on in order to facilitate the Board's merger with the APRN Board.

*12:48 p.m. Ruiz left the meeting.*

Dohrmann described potential webinars that she, Minster, and Oertwich could hold monthly, with each meeting focused on a specific topic, such as IV hydration or ketamine therapies, followed by an 'open mic' session where licensed nurses could ask questions. Members were enthusiastic about the proposal.

*1:00 p.m. Russ left the meeting.*

Dohrmann asked each member to write down themes that they thought could be addressed by committees or workgroups. Themes that were submitted included workforce, Center for Nursing, ethics in education, discipline, practice location, compounding, IV hydration, APRN Compact, oversight of post-baccalaureate education, and guidelines for online nursing programs.

Dohrmann noted that one option was to keep the Practice Committee and the Education Committee, and then create additional work groups for specific projects. Chandler suggested that there be a permanent APRN sub-group working with the Practice Committee. Members considered the possibility of having each committee meet monthly instead of every other month. Dohrmann suggested that based on the themes that were collected, the Board might have an Education Committee, a Practice Committee, and a Workforce Committee, with three to seven members on each committee.

**CONCLUSION**

The meeting adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sherri Joyner  
Health Licensing Coordinator