

NEBRASKA BOARD OF ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL CONFERENCE MEETING HELD

February 25, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Nebraska Board of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses was called to order by Timothy Glidden, Board President, at 1:05 p.m. on February 25, 2022. The central meeting location was at the Nebraska State Office Building, Room 3C, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln NE 68508. Copies of the agenda were emailed to the Board members on February 15, 2022, emailed to interested parties on February 15, 2022, posted outside the Licensure Unit within the Nebraska State Office Building on February 15, 2022, and posted on the Department of Health & Human Services website on February 15, 2022. Joyner announced that a current copy of the Open Meetings Act was in the room.

ROLL CALL

The following Board members answered roll call via teleconference:

- Kent Dunovan, *Public Member*
- Sheila Ellis, MD, *Board Secretary*
- Barbara Foss, APRN-NP
- Timothy Glidden, APRN-CRNA, *Board President*
- Andrew Russell, MD
- Jenda Stauffer, APRN-CNM

The following Board members were absent: Alice Kindschuh, APRN-CNS, *Board Vice-President*, and Jackie Sandersfeld, *Public Member*

One Board position was vacant.

The following staff members from the Department and Attorney General's Office were present:

- Ann Oertwich, RN, *Executive Director*
- Sherri Joyner, *Health Licensing Coordinator*
- Lisa Anderson, *Assistant Attorney General*
- Andrea Cramer-Price, *Investigator*
- Brittany Bigham, *Investigator*

The following staff members from the Department attended the meeting via teleconference:

- Kathy Hoebelheinrich, *Nursing Practice Consultant*
- Jacci Reznicek, *Nursing Education Consultant*
- Anna Harrison, *DHHS Compliance Monitor*

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened. Introductions were made on behalf of the two new Board members, Kent Dunovan and Andrew Russell.

These minutes were approved by the
APRN Board on June 13, 2022.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Glidden made the motion, seconded by Stauffer, to adopt the agenda for the February 25, 2022, APRN Board meeting.

Voting Yes: Dunovan, Ellis, Foss, Glidden, Russell, and Stauffer. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Kindschuh and Sandersfeld. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION: Foss made the motion, seconded by Stauffer, to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2021, Board meeting.

Voting Yes: Ellis, Foss, Glidden, Russell, and Stauffer. Voting No: None. Abstain: Dunovan. Absent: Kindschuh and Sandersfeld. Motion carried.

ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS

MOTION: Foss made the motion, seconded by Glidden, to elect Jenda Stauffer as Board President.

Voting Yes: Dunovan, Ellis, Foss, Glidden, Russell, and Stauffer. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Kindschuh and Sandersfeld. Motion carried.

MOTION: Foss made the motion, seconded by Glidden, to elect Alice Kindschuh as Board Vice-President.

Voting Yes: Dunovan, Ellis, Foss, Glidden, Russell, and Stauffer. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Kindschuh and Sandersfeld. Motion carried.

MOTION: Glidden made the motion, seconded by Foss, to elect Sheila Ellis as Board Secretary.

Voting Yes: Dunovan, Ellis, Foss, Glidden, Russell, and Stauffer. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Kindschuh and Sandersfeld. Motion carried.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF BOARD MEETINGS

Joyner explained that boards administered by DHHS are asked to pass a motion annually regarding the methods the board will employ to notify the public of its meetings. During the previous year, the public was notified of APRN Board meetings by publishing the agenda on the DHHS website, posting the agenda in the Licensure Unit lobby on the first floor of the Nebraska State Office Building, and by emailing the agenda to an interested parties list.

MOTION: Glidden made the motion, seconded by Foss, to continue to notify the public of APRN Board meetings by publishing the agenda on the DHHS website, posting the agenda in the Licensure Unit lobby on the first floor of the Nebraska State Office Building, and by emailing the agenda to an interested parties list.

Voting Yes: Dunovan, Ellis, Foss, Glidden, Russell, and Stauffer. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Kindschuh and Sandersfeld. Motion carried.

PHARMACEUTICAL CARE AGREEMENTS

Glidden acknowledged that the Board received and reviewed copies of the Nebraska Medicine Heart and Vascular Center Pharmacy Collaborative Practice Agreement, the Nebraska Medicine Patient Centered

Medical Home Pharmacist Collaborative Practice Agreement, and the Bryan Heart agreement between Allyson Helms, PharmD, and Kelly Johnson, APRN-NP and Kathryn Kitten, APRN-NP.

NCSBN MIDYEAR MEETING

Oertwich reported that she and Patti Motl, the Board of Nursing President, will attend the National Council of State Boards of Nursing's Midyear meeting in St. Louis on March 15th through March 17th. APRN Board members can attend the meeting virtually. There is no cost to attend virtually. Oertwich also noted that the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) has many resources available on its website that Board members can access.

NURSING LICENSURE

Oertwich reported that 75 APRN-CNS licenses, 597 APRN-CRNA licenses, 52 APRN-Midwife licenses, and 2,492 APRN-Nurse Practitioner licenses were renewed during the 2021 renewal period. A higher number of RNs and APRNs than usual applied for reinstatement after their licenses expired on October 31, 2021. Based on telephone calls and emails from licensees, it appears that some people mistakenly thought that Executive Order 21-12, which waives a number of licensing requirements, also deferred renewals until December 31, 2022.

Oertwich reported that RNs and APRNs will return to their standard biennial renewal cycle in 2022. Staff understand that there may be confusion about when the next renewal period will occur. They will try to get the word out that APRNs and RNs will need to renew by October 31, 2022.

NURSING WORKFORCE SHORTAGE INITIATIVES

Oertwich reported that a consortium consisting of the UNMC College of Nursing, the UNMC School of Public Health, the Nebraska Center for Nursing, and the Nebraska Board of Nursing has been awarded a \$2 million HRSA grant to develop projects that support the mental health and resiliency of nurses in Nebraska. Oertwich noted that Juan Ramirez, a consultant for the Center for Nursing, worked closely with Alyson Hanish from UNMC during the grant writing process. The application received 98 out of 100 points when it was scored by HRSA. Oertwich said that the project has four major aims: 1) promote resiliency among undergraduate nursing students, 2) help retain bedside nurses by educating middle managers on ways to create healthy workplace cultures, 3) provide resources for mental health nursing, and 4) develop a critical incident response team to provide mental health resources for hospital staff.

2022 LEGISLATION

Oertwich reported that LB1044, LB1091, and LB1055 might get combined into one bill. All three bills propose spending American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds on nursing-related issues. LB1044 would provide funds to develop new care models for hospitals, LB1055 would provide for premium pay to frontline nurses, and LB1091 would provide scholarships to students in LPN and RN programs.

Oertwich reported that a hearing was held on February 24, 2022, on LB716, which would allow APRNs and physician assistants to perform abortions. Oertwich said that none of the APRN professional groups in Nebraska sponsored the bill nor did they testify at the hearing. Based on the hearing, Oertwich said that the focus seemed to be on chemically-induced abortions. Stauffer noted that most midwives in Nebraska are opposed to such proposals, even though similar types of proposals might be supported by the American College of Midwives.

COMMUNICATION

APRN Compact Updates – Oertwich reported that Utah has become the third state to pass legislation to join the APRN Compact. North Dakota and Delaware are the other two states. The Compact will go live when seven states join. Oertwich noted that the COVID pandemic seems to have driven an increased interest in licensure compacts

Nursing News – Oertwich reported that the next edition of *Nursing News* will be published soon.

Staff Updates – Oertwich reported that the Licensure Unit's Nursing Section is currently fully staffed. Hoebelheinrich plans to retire as soon as her replacement is hired.

CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: Glidden made the motion, seconded by Stauffer, 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: Dunovan, Ellis, Foss, Glidden, Russell, and Stauffer. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Kindschuh and Sandersfeld. Motion carried.

Stauffer 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.

1:45 p.m. *Meeting went into closed session.*
2:50 p.m. *Hoebelheinrich left the meeting.*
2:52 p.m. *Hoebelheinrich returned to the meeting.*
3:12 p.m. *Meeting returned to open session.*

LICENSURE RECOMMENDATIONS

No license applications were reviewed by the Board.

CONCLUSION AND ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sherri Joyner
Health Licensing Coordinator