

Minutes of the March 6, 2025, 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 9:12 a.m. on March 6, 2025, in the Goldenrod 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 February 20, 2025.

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, Chair
Rene Botts, Vice-Chair
Jill Sand, Member

Members Absent:

Dr. Maria Michaelis

Staff Present:

Claire Covert-ByBee, DHHS Program Manager (via Webex)
Kim Hitzel, DHHS Health Licensing Coordinator
Katherine Amyot, DHHS Staff Attorney
Jeff Newman, Investigations
Abigail Nissen, Assistant Attorney General
Kirsten Coniglio, Health Licensing Specialist (via Webex)

Member of the Public

Heather Nichols, NSRC heather.nichols@unmc.edu

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

3. REAFFIRMATION OF MAIL BALLOT

The following mail ballot was brought before the Board:

Approval of the January 6, 2025, Board meeting minutes. Voting to approve, Botts, Sand, and Wyrens. Voting nay, none. Minutes approved January 14, 2025.

4. INVESTIGATIONAL & CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION/REPORTS – CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: Sand moved, seconded by Botts to move into closed session. Voting aye: Botts, Wyrens, and Sand. Voting nay, None. Motion Carried. Board went into closed session at 9:13 am.

The Board returned to open session at 9:46 am

5. BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS ON APPLICATIONS – OPEN SESSION

The Board did not make any recommendations.

6. NSRC- Heather Nichols

Heather Nichols from the NSRC updated the Board about the Respiratory Care Compact. The model legislation of the Respiratory Care Interstate Compact has been finalized and is now available for state enactment. A copy of this can be found on the Department of Health and Human Services public documents website.

7. RESPIRATORY CARE COMPACT

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>.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

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

Chair: Marcy Wyrens

Vice Chair: Rene Botts

Secretary: Dr. Marie Michaelis

Education and Investigative Consultant: Jill Sand

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

9. PER DIEM DISCUSSION

Motion: Sand moved, seconded by Wyrens that, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 38-171, each member of the Board shall receive in 2025 a per diem of \$50.00 per day. Voting aye: Sand, Botts, and Wyrens. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

10. NOTICE OF MEETING PUBLICATION

Motion: Botts moved, seconded by Sand 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, Sand, and Wyrens. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

11. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Covert-ByBee reported that there are no legislative developments directly impacting Respiratory Care in Nebraska, at this time.

12. LICENSURE APPLICATION PROCESSING REPORT

Covert-ByBee stated this report is for informational purposes only.

13. UPDATE OF NEW LICENSURE DATABASE

The new Licensure database My Licensure Office or MLO went live in late February. The Department is excited for the updating of the database and looks forward to more modernization to the system in the future.

14. 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 Update on New Licensure Database.

15. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

16. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Rene Botts, Vice Chair