



**NOTICE OF MEETING and AGENDA
BOARD OF MENTAL HEALTH PRACTICE**

This meeting will be held in person. The public is welcome to attend any Open Session discussion in the Nebraska State Office Building, Lower Level, Otoe Room. This meeting will also be available to the public by WEBEX using this link:

<https://sonvideo.webex.com/sonvideo/j.php?MTID=mccc6f65218b6b14267f72ec55353c053>.

Call-in information: 1-408-418-9388; meeting number (access code): 2497 800 0403

PLEASE NOTE: members of the public who wish to join via Webex will need to wait in the lobby while the meeting is in closed session. We recommend that you wait in the lobby until the closed session portion of the meeting has ended and the meeting has been unlocked by the host.

AGENDA	Posted:
<p>Date: Friday, March 6, 2026 9:00 a.m.</p> <p>Location: NSOB Otoe Room, Lincoln, Nebraska</p> <p>For Information Contact: Jessica Dean 402-471-4918 or Jessica.dean@nebraska.gov</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ROLL CALL AND CALL MEETING TO ORDER <u>Announcement:</u> There is a current copy of the Open Meetings Act posted on the door to the meeting room and available at the link listed below. 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 16, 2026 4. CLOSED SESSION (approx. 9:15 a.m.): Investigative Reports and Confidential Information <u>Purpose:</u> to hear discussions of investigative and confidential nature, and for the prevention of needless injury to individual reputations. 5. OPEN SESSION: (approx. 12:00 p.m.): review, recommendations, email ballots, and applications 6. Scope of Practice – Somatic Therapy 7. UPDATES, NEW BUSINESS, AND REPORTS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislation • Regulations • Association and Committee Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AASCB https://aascb.org/ ○ AMFTRB https://amftrb.org/ ○ ASWB https://www.aswb.org/ • Licensing Compacts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Social Work Compact ○ Counseling Compact • Email Ballots • Reports: disciplinary and non-disciplinary actions, licensure statistics, examination pass/fail report (included with agenda) 8. PUBLIC COMMENT 9. ADJOURN (approx. 1 p.m.)

Nebraska Open Meetings Act: 84-1407 through 84-1414

<https://ago.nebraska.gov/open-meetings>

All items known at the time of distribution of this agenda are listed. A current agenda is available at the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, Licensure Unit and at the following website: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx> If auxiliary aids or reasonable accommodations are needed for attendance at a meeting, please call Jessica Dean at (402) 471-4918 (voice), or for persons with hearing impairments, please call the Nebraska Relay System, 711 TDD, prior to the meeting date. Advance notice of seven days is needed when requesting an interpreter.

2026 Meeting Dates
1/16/26
3/6/26
5/1/26
7/10/26
TBD

Agenda Item 3

These minutes have not been approved by the Board

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
Board of Mental Health Practice
January 16, 2026

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Board of Mental Health Practice was called to order by Rebecca Czaja-Stevens, Chair. The meeting began at 9:03 a.m. and was located in the Otoe Room of the Nebraska State Office Building, 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 web site at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>, and posted in the lobby of the Nebraska State Office Building on January 9, 2026.

Czaja-Stevens stated that there is a current copy of the Open Meetings Act posted on the door to the meeting room and available at the link listed on the agenda.

The following members answered roll call:

Members Present (9)

Sara Batter, Vice Chair
Rebecca Czaja-Stevens, Chair
Paul Davies, Secretary
Tammy Erickson
Renea Gernant
Yasmin Henderson
Adrian Martin
Jen McNally
Amanda Milander-Mace

Members Absent (1):

Susan Meyerle

Others Present:

Maiya Baumann, Program Manager, Licensure Unit
Sean Loving, Program Manager, Licensure Unit
Jessica Dean, Health Licensing Coordinator, Licensure Unit
Jessie Enfield, IT Business Systems Analyst, Licensure Unit
Katherine Amyot, DHHS Department Legal
Mindy Lester, Assistant Attorney General
Chelsea Lindgren, Legal Assistant, Attorney General's Office
Mark Meyerson, DHHS Investigator
Linda Rohman, General Reporting Service

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION: Gernant moved, seconded by Martin, to adopt the agenda. A voice vote was taken. Voting yes: Batter, Czaja-Stevens, Davies, Erickson, Gernant, Henderson, Martin, and Milander-Mace. Absent: Meyerle. Motion carried.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES – NOVEMBER 7, 2025

MOTION: Gernant moved, seconded by Batter, to adopt the minutes. A voice vote was taken. Voting yes: Batter, Czaja-Stevens, Davies, Erickson, Gernant, Henderson, Martin, and Milander-Mace. Absent: Meyerle. Motion carried.

4. CLOSED SESSION - CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

MOTION: Batter moved, seconded by Gernant, to enter into closed session at 9:06 a.m. to hear discussions of a confidential nature, and for the prevention of needless injury to individual reputations. A voice vote was taken. Voting yes: Batter, Czaja-Stevens, Davies, Erickson, Gernant, Henderson, Martin, and Milander-Mace. Absent: Meyerle. Motion carried.

Open Session 10:08 a.m.
Break at 10:08 a.m.
Back at 10:16 a.m.
McNally entered at 10:24 a.m.
Break at 12:13 p.m.
Back at 12:26 p.m.

5. BOARD HEARING – OPEN SESSION

Julia Kercher requested a hearing before the Board regarding her application for reinstatement after suspension of her Independent Mental Health Practitioner, Mental Health Practitioner, and Professional Counselor licenses. She was represented by Anna Leonard. Katherine Amyot, Department Attorney and Hearing Administrator, requested that the Board go into closed session at 12:13 p.m. for discussion of evidence presented at the hearing. The Board returned to open session at 12:48 p.m.

6. UPDATES AND REPORTS

a. Legislation

Baumann reviewed the relevant bills pending in the Legislature, including LB 1040, regarding civil commitment; LB 860, regarding behavioral health services to individuals under 21 years of age; LB 825, which would require two hours of continuing education in domestic abuse counseling for all licensed mental health practitioners; LB 961, which creates the Collateral Sanction Relief Act relating to convictions; and LB 912, which creates the Community Health Worker Training Endorsement Act.

Batter moved, seconded by Davies, to select a board member to testify at the hearing for LB 825, which will take place January 21st at 1:30 p.m. in front of the Health and Human Services Committee.

b. Regulations Updates

Baumann reported that the updates to the regulations pertaining to Art Therapy have been sent to the Attorney General's office and Governor's office for final review prior to signature. There was a discussion of the process for updating or improving regulations and how the process works when regulations are opened up for revision. McNally brought up the subject of the board tracking future legislation related to mental health services provided in school settings and there was a discussion of how those services are provided as part of MIPS (Medicaid in Public Schools) and other programs. Loving explained that DHHS tracks the progress of any bills that are related to licensure. Martin asked about the process for opening up the regulations and Amyot described the steps that would be involved.

c. Association and Committee Updates

1. American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB) <http://www.aascb.org>

Baumann said that the next virtual "hangout" meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2026 and the annual conference is scheduled to take place in Orlando, FL on February 22-24, 2026.

2. Association of Marital & Family Therapy Regulatory Boards (AMFTRB) <http://www.amftrb.org>

There were no updates.

3. Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) <http://www.aswb.org>

Batter attended the November meeting of ASWB. She said that supervision was an important topic at this meeting and recommended that the Nebraska board address supervision the next time the regulations are opened up for review. She said that there was a proposal to remove a public member from the ASWB board and she spoke in opposition, as she feels that public members are important. Davies moved, seconded by Martin, to approve funding for Batter to attend the next meeting, scheduled for April. A voice vote was taken. Voting yes: Batter, Czaja-Stevens, Davies, Erickson, Gernant, Henderson, Martin, McNally, and Milander-Mace. Absent: Meyerle. Motion carried.

d. Social Work Compact

Baumann said that the compact is in the process of looking at vendors, including the same vendor currently being used by other compacts.

e. Counseling Compact <https://counselingcompact.org/>

Baumann said that two states, Arizona and Minnesota, have begun issuing compact licenses. Once Nebraska has completed the necessary steps to begin issuing compact licenses, the Mental Health and Social Work page of the DHHS Licensure Unit website will be updated with information on applying for compact licenses.

f. Reports: email ballots, disciplinary and non-disciplinary actions, licensure statistics, and examination pass/fail reports.

1. Reports on disciplinary and non-disciplinary actions, licensure statistics, and examination pass/fail reports were included with the agenda for the meeting.

7. ANNUAL BUSINESS

a. Amyot provided annual reminders of Open Meetings Act rules and best practices for board members. There was a discussion of the contact information for board members which is listed online and best practices for which addresses to use. Board members may choose to publicly list their business address, phone and email address if they are not comfortable listing their personal information. It was recommended that if board members receive questions about licensure from members of the public that they forward those questions to Licensure Unit staff.

b. Election of Officers and By Laws

1. Erickson moved, seconded by Milander-Mace, to retain the current slate of officers. Czaja-Stevens is currently the chair, Batter is the vice chair, and Davies is the secretary. A voice vote was taken. Voting yes: Batter, Czaja-Stevens, Davies, Erickson, Gernant, Henderson, Martin, McNally, and Milander-Mace. Absent: Meyerle. Motion carried.

2. Gernant moved, seconded by Martin, to designate Batter and McNally as investigative consultants. A voice vote was taken. Voting yes: Batter, Czaja-Stevens, Davies, Erickson, Gernant, Henderson, Martin, McNally, and Milander-Mace. Absent: Meyerle. Motion carried.

3. Batter moved, seconded by Davies, to retain Susan Meyerle as educational consultant. A voice vote was taken. Voting yes: Batter, Czaja-Stevens, Davies, Erickson, Gernant, Henderson, Martin, McNally, and Milander-Mace. Absent: Meyerle. Motion carried.

4. Martin moved, seconded by Erickson, to retain the current representatives to AASCB, AMFTRB, and ASWB. A voice vote was taken. Voting yes: Batter, Czaja-Stevens, Davies, Erickson, Gernant, Henderson, Martin, McNally, and Milander-Mace. Absent: Meyerle. Motion carried.

5. Batter moved, seconded by McNally, to approve the board by laws. A voice vote was taken. Voting yes: Batter, Czaja-Stevens, Davies, Erickson, Gernant, Henderson, Martin, McNally, and Milander-Mace. Absent: Meyerle. Motion carried.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

A member of the public whose application for licensure is currently pending joined the public comment to ask about the status of their application. It was explained to them that Licensure Unit staff would be in touch with them once review of their application was completed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:17 p.m.

Board of Mental Health Practice
Summarized by: Jessica Dean, Licensure Unit

Agenda Item 7

**NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH, LICENSURE UNIT**



SUMMARY COUNT OF LICENSES BY LICENSE STATUS

Mental Health Practice

	Active	Active-Military	Application File Closed	Closed	Deleted	Denied	Denied Renewal	Expired	Expired Credential	Expired-Military	Inactive	Lapsed	
EO 20-27 Prov Independent MHP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
EO 20-27 Prov Mental Health Pra	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	
Independent Mental Health Pract	3,761	7	299	3	89	17	0	471	0	0	174	0	
Marriage & Family Therapist	147	0	25	1	2	3	0	75	0	0	36	1	
Master Social Worker	1,492	0	91	1	9	4	1	416	0	1	425	43	
Master Social Worker - CMSW	70	0	20	0	10	1	0	39	0	0	24	0	
Mental Health Practitioner	2,310	2	242	3	155	19	1	2,426	0	4	1,127	70	
Non-License (Exam applicant onl)	23	0	42	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Preliminary Conviction Review	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Professional Counselor	1,241	1	116	0	21	7	0	910	0	0	542	65	
Provisional Master Social Worker	545	0	31	1	4	1	0	78	231	0	11	0	
Provisional Mental Health Practiti	1,626	0	161	8	25	21	0	519	1,339	0	53	1	
Social Worker	611	1	77	0	49	9	0	1,063	0	0	777	205	
Supervised Marriage & Family Th	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	
Temporary Cert Marriage Family	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
Temporary Mental Health Practiti	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	
Total	11,828	11	1,109	16	364	82	2	6,015	1,570	5	3,171	385	1,799

	NonDisc Revocation	Null and Void	Pending	Reinstatement Pending	Revocation	Suspension	Voluntary Surrender	Withdrawn	Total
	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
	10	45	2	18	6	14	94	5,010	
	1	5	0	0	0	1	16	329	
	25	10	2	9	1	4	32	2,758	
	15	0	0	0	0	0	11	202	
	55	6	4	34	5	36	124	6,963	
	0	6	0	0	0	0	1	72	
	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	5	
	46	15	3	19	5	20	63	3,336	
	1,348	12	0	2	0	1	12	2,277	
	5,412	18	0	19	7	9	63	9,281	
	25	11	3	4	1	1	37	3,850	
	51	0	0	0	1	0	2	75	
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Total	6,989	131	14	105	26	86	455	34,163	

EXAMINATION STATISTICS SUMMARY REPORT

Profession: Mental Health Practice
Date Range: 01/01/2026 to 02/20/2026

Exam Battery	Exam Name	Result	Number of Candidates
ASWB-Clinical	ASWB-Clinical (formerly AASSWB)	Pass	2
ASWB-Clinical total:			2
Jurisprudence Exam	Jurisprudence	Pass	5
Jurisprudence Exam total:			5
NBCC-NCE	NCE (NBCC)	Pass	8
NBCC-NCE total:			8
Report total:			15

Compliance Listing Report

Sort Name	License No	License Type	License Status	Sanction	Sanction Start	Sanction End
Conrad, Roy Carl	5944	Mental Health Practitioner	Revocation	Civil Penalty	12/31/2025	12/31/2027
Cross, Kate Kathleen LaRaine	1221	Independent Mental Health Practitioner	Revocation	Civil Penalty	01/07/2026	01/07/2028
Kercher, Julia Diane	1079	Independent Mental Health Practitioner	Suspension	Civil Penalty	05/01/2025	05/01/2028
Kercher, Julia Diane	2245	Mental Health Practitioner	Suspension	Civil Penalty	05/01/2025	05/01/2028
Kercher, Julia Diane	1253	Professional Counselor	Suspension	Civil Penalty	05/01/2025	05/01/2028
Lierz, Krista Lee	8307	Provisional Master Social Worker	Active	Probation	12/09/2025	12/09/2028
Lierz, Krista Lee	14704	Provisional Mental Health Practitioner	Active	Probation	12/09/2025	12/09/2028