

**PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
March 29, 2024**

ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Physician Assistant Committee was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Nicole Schwensow, PA-C, Chairperson in the Husker Conference Room, of the Hampton Inn & Suites, located at 7343 Husker Circle, Lincoln, Nebraska 68504. The meeting was held In-Person and by WebEx. The following members answered the initial roll call:

Nicole Schwensow, PA-C, Chairperson
Tamara Dolphens, PA-C, Vice-Chairperson
Merle Henkenius, Secretary

Absent: Rachel Blake, MD
Corrigan McBride, MD

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened. Present from the Department was Vonda Apking, Program Manager and Jan Gadeken-Harris, Health Licensing Coordinator; Mindy Lester, Assistant Attorney General; Abigail Nissen, Assistant Attorney General; Teresa Hampton, Department Attorney and Kathleen Krueger and Mendy Mahar-Clark, Investigators with the Investigation Unit.

Schwensow announced that there is a copy of all the public documents being reviewed at this meeting available in the meeting room pursuant to the Open Meetings Act.

In accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411 of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, copies of the agenda were e-mailed to the Committee members and other interested parties, posted on the DHHS web site at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx> and posted on the Bulletin Board at the entrance to the Nebraska State Office Building on March 15, 2024.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Dolphens moved, seconded by Henkenius, to adopt the agenda as presented. Voting aye: Dolphens, Henkenius and Schwensow. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Blake and McBride. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dolphens moved, seconded by Henkenius to approve the meeting minutes of January 19, 2024, as presented. Voting aye: Dolphens, Henkenius and Schwensow. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Blake and McBride. Motion carried.

2024 LEGISLATION UPDATES

LB823 - Adopt the Physician Assistant (PA) Licensure Compact and change provisions relating to criminal background checks has been amended into **LB1215**.

LB1215 - Adopt the Dietitian Licensure Compact and the Physician Assistant (PA) Licensure Compact, change provisions relating to prescriptions, death certificates, credentialing of barbers, nurses, pharmacies, pharmacy professionals, and certain health care facilities and services, treatment of individuals with communicable tuberculosis, and telehealth consultations, and provide for abstracts of death and coverage under the medical assistance program for certain breast pumps and lactation visits

LB1215 was presented to the Governor on March 28, 2024

Final Reading: <https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/108/PDF/Final/LB1215.pdf>

Nebraska is the seventh State to join the PA Compact.

REGULATIONS UPDATE

There were no updates for discussion currently.

INVESTIGATIONAL REPORTS – CLOSED SESSION

Dolphens moved, seconded by Henkenius to go into closed session at 2:04 p.m. for the purpose of review and discussion of investigative reports, licensure applications, and other confidential information, and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of the individuals. Voting aye: Dolphens, Henkenius and Schwensow. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Blake and McBride. Motion carried.

The committee members returned to Open Session at 2:52 p.m.

APPLICATION(S) REVIEW – OPEN SESSION

There were no applications for the Committee to review currently.

COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

The next Physician Assistant Committee meeting is scheduled May 31, 2024 @ 2:00 p.m.

The projected schedule for 2024 is listed on the DHHS website:
<https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business Schwensow, Chairperson, adjourned the meeting at 2:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

signature available upon request

Merle Henkenius, Secretary
Physician Assistant Committee