

## Board of Respiratory Care Practice Meeting Minutes of April 1, 2026,

### **1. ROLL CALL**

Marcy Wyrens, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Board of Respiratory Care Practice to order at 9:15 a.m. on April 1, 2026, in the Otoe 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 March 17, 2026.

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, LRCP, RRT, Board Chair  
Rene Botts, Board Vice-Chair  
Rachel Shirk, Board Member

### **Member Absent:**

Maria Michaelis, MD

### **Staff Present:**

Claire Covert-ByBee, DHHS Program Manager  
Kim Hitzel, DHHS Health Licensing Coordinator  
Katherine Amyot, DHHS Staff Attorney  
Abigail Hoy Nissen, Assistant Attorney General  
Alexandria Belcher, DHHS Investigations  
Veronica Hahn-Briggs, DHHS Investigations  
Trevor Klaassen, DHHS Investigations  
Tricia Allen, DHHS Investigations  
Tyler Walvoord, DHHS Staff Attorney

### **Member of the Public**

Heather Nichols, NSRC [heather.nichols@unmc.edu](mailto:heather.nichols@unmc.edu)

### **2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

### **3. REAFFIRMATION OF MAIL BALLOT**

The following mail ballots were brought before the Board:

Approval of January 28, 2026, Board meeting minutes. Voting to approve, Botts, Wyrens, Shirk, and Michaelis. Voting nay, none. Minutes approved February 10, 2026.

### **4. INVESTIGATIONAL & CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION/REPORTS – CLOSED SESSION**

*Purpose: To hear discussions regarding confidential information and to protect the reputation of individuals named or referenced in such discussions.*

**MOTION:** Bott moved, seconded by Shirk moved, to move into closed session. Voting aye: Botts, Wyrens, and Shirk. Voting nay, None. Motion Carried. Board went into closed session at 9:017 am.

**The Board returned to open session at 10:15 am.**

### **5. BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS ON APPLICATIONS – OPEN SESSION**

In the matter of the initial application for a Respiratory Care license for Jayda Tiller the Board recommends issuing a license. Motion made by Botts, seconded by Shirk. Voting aye: Botts, Shirk, Wyrens. Voting Nay: none. Motion carried.

### **6. NBRC EXAM UPDATES**

The changes to the exam that are outlined in the handout will impact Nebraska practitioners. One exam will be given for all students. The changes are slated to go into effect in 2027. The Board may need to open the Regulations for review to define these changes and any changes that may affect continuing education. The handout from the NBRC has more information. That document may be found in the public documents.

### **7. NSRC UPDATES**

Heather Nichols gave an update to the Board about LB912, part of this bill is the Respiratory Care Compact. The vote was March 31, 2026, so it will now move forward for a final vote in the legislature.

### **8. RESPIRATORY CARE COMPACT**

Items 7 and 8 were discussed at the same time.

**9. RENEWAL UPDATES**

The renewal process is going well. 224 Respiratory Care Practitioners have renewed their license as of March 23, 2026.

**11. LICENSURE APPLICATION PROCESSING REPORT**

Covert-ByBee stated this report is for informational purposes only. It is a snapshot in time of licensure activity.

**12. TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Topics to be on the agenda for the next meeting include Legislative Update, Application Processing report, Compact Update, Public Comment, Regulation Review discussion, and Nebraska Society for Respiratory Care.

**15. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:31 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
(signature on file)

Rene Botts, Vice Chair