

NEBRASKA BOARD OF NURSING

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

April 9, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Nebraska Board of Nursing was called to order by Brenda Smidt, Board President, at 8:30 a.m., April 9, 2026, at the Best Western Plus Conference Room, 2201 Wildcat Circle, Lincoln NE 68521. Copies of the agenda were emailed to the Board members, emailed to interested parties, posted in the east entryway of the Nebraska State Office Building, and posted on the Department of Health & Human Services website on March 27, 2026. Copies of the revised agenda were emailed to the Board members, emailed to interested parties, posted in the east entryway of the Nebraska State Office Building, and posted on the Department of Health & Human Services website on April 7, 2026. Smidt announced that a copy of the Open Meetings Act was available in the room.

ROLL CALL

The following board members were present and answered roll call:

- Holly Chandler, APRN-CRNA
- Theresa Delahoyde, RN
- Kathy Harrison, RN, *Board Secretary*
- Angela Kula, LPN
- Patricia Motl, RN
- Eric Rogat, RN, *Board Vice-President*
- Kristin Ruiz, RN
- Jules Russ, *Public Member*
- Brenda Smidt, RN, *Board President*

The following Board member arrived after roll call Kandis Lefler, LPN (arrived at 8:38 a.m.).

The following Board member was absent: Clay Jordan, RN.

One board position was vacant.

The following staff members from the Department and the Attorney General's Office were present during all or part of the meeting:

- Ann Oertwich, RN, *Executive Director*
- April Minster, RN, *Nursing Education Consultant*
- Danielle Dohrmann, RN, *Nursing Practice Consultant*
- Sherri Joyner, *Health Licensing Coordinator*
- Jessie Enfield, *DHHS IT Systems Analyst*
- Marley Sandberg, *DHHS Legal*
- Abigail Hoy Nissen, *Assistant Attorney General*
- Tricia Allen, *Investigations Program Manager*
- Andrea Cramer, RN, *Investigator*
- Veronica Hahn, RN, *Investigator*
- Susan Held, RN, *Investigator*
- Mendy Mahar-Clark, RN, *Investigator*

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Motl made the motion, seconded by Delahoyde, to adopt the agenda for the April 9, 2026, Board of Nursing meeting.

Voting Yes: Chandler, Delahoyde, Harrison, Kula, Motl, Rogat, Ruiz, Russ, and Smidt. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Jordan and Lefler. Motion carried.

These minutes were approved by the
Board of Nursing on May 14, 2026.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION: Ruiz made the motion, seconded by Chandler, to approve the consent agenda.

Voting Yes: Chandler, Delahoyde, Harrison, Kula, Motl, Rogat, Ruiz, Russ, and Smidt. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Jordan and Lefler. Motion carried.

PBI PRESENTATION

Representatives from PBI Education attended the meeting virtually and presented on coursework offered by the company to address unprofessional conduct by licensed health care professionals. Courses offered include 1) Elevating Civility and Communication, 2) Professional Boundaries, 3) Proper Prescribing, 4) Risk Management Essentials, 5) Medical Record Keeping, and 6) Ethics and Professionalism. Courses last 1-3 days and are conducted virtually. An optional “Maintaining Accountability” seminar can be added any of the courses, which involves twelve weekly follow-up sessions after the course concludes. Board members expressed approval for using PBI courses for remediation in discipline cases.

CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: Chandler made the motion, seconded by Delahoyde, 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: Chandler, Delahoyde, Harrison, Kula, Lefler, Motl, Rogat, Ruiz, Russ, and Smidt. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Jordan. Motion carried.

Smidt 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.

9:01 a.m. Meeting went into closed session.
 9:02 a.m. Kula left the meeting.
 9:11 a.m. Kula returned to the meeting.
 9:26 a.m. Delahoyde left the meeting.
 9:55 a.m. Delahoyde returned to the meeting.
 10:28 a.m. Meeting went into recess.
 10:43 a.m. Meeting reconvened.
 11:08 a.m. Meeting returned to open session.

LICENSURE RECOMMENDATIONS**ADRIAN GARCIA MOYA – RN APPLICANT**

MOTION: Delahoyde made the motion, seconded by Chandler, to recommend denying Adrian Garcia Moya’s application for an RN license based on aiding and abetting the unlicensed practice of medicine, pharmacy, and nursing.

Voting Yes: Chandler, Delahoyde, Harrison, Kula, Lefler, Motl, Rogat, Ruiz, Russ, and Smidt. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Jordan. Motion carried.

WENDY K. MCCONNELL – RN APPLICANT

MOTION: Ruiz made the motion, seconded by Harrison, to recommend issuing Wendy McConnell an RN license under the probation terms and conditions that were placed on her LPN license on May 16, 2024.

Voting Yes: Chandler, Delahoyde, Harrison, Kula, Lefler, Motl, Rogat, Ruiz, Russ, and Smidt. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Jordan. Motion carried.

OLIVER WANG – RN REINSTATEMENT FROM DISCIPLINE

MOTION: Chandler made the motion, seconded by Ruiz, to recommend reinstating an unrestricted RN license to Oliver Wang based on his completion of required education.

Voting Yes: Chandler, Delahoyde, Harrison, Kula, Lefler, Motl, Rogat, Ruiz, Russ, and Smidt. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Jordan. Motion carried.

NCSBN MIDYEAR MEETING

Staff and members who attended the National Council of State Boards of Nursing's Midyear Meeting reported on their experiences. One item discussed at the conference was the proposal to raise the NCLEX registration fee from \$200 to \$350. Delegates at NCSBN's Annual Meeting in August will vote on whether to approve the increase. If approved, the new fee would go into effect in February 2027. Oertwich noted that it has been 25 years since NCSBN has increased the NCLEX fee, and that without the increase, NCSBN will need to cut services. Although the proposed increase is substantial, Oertwich thought it was reasonable when considering inflation, increases in testing costs charged by Pearson, and other factors. Motl said that ensuring cyber security has also increased the cost of administering NCLEX. Delayhode noted that the proposed fee seems appropriate when compared with fees for other professional licensing exams.

Motl reported that the Leadership and Succession Committee is considering adding new committees and developing membership for NCSBN's Board of Directors. Motl noted that it has not been unusual for people to serve on the Board of Directors for twenty or more years, which might stymie the ability of new people to join leadership positions. Oertwich said there was a proposal to eliminate the geographical regions that currently determine some committee appointments, but people were concerned the proposal would negatively impact geographical diversity.

Oertwich said that attendees at Midyear seemed to support revisions to the proposed APRN Compact. With the growth in telehealth, more people seem to understand the need to implement a compact for APRNs.

Both Chandler and Smidt appreciated learning more about how NCSBN works and how boards in other states operate.

Smidt said there was a good discussion about hydration spas, and that states seemed to concur about the need for additional oversight of the industry. Some states are now able to take more robust action because they have data and documentation of people being harmed at hydration spas.

Oertwich said she discussed e-Notify with Brendan Martin, NCSBN's "tech guru." There is a possibility that nurses in the future may be automatically enrolled in e-Notify. NCSBN uses e-Notify to collect workforce data. NCSBN asks the same questions on its workforce surveys that Nebraska asks during the license renewal process. Nebraska's renewal surveys, however, include additional question which Oertwich discussed with Martin. She hopes that Nebraska's unique questions might be included on future NCSBN workforce surveys.

Oertwich said that with the dissolution of Nebraska's APRN Board, Nebraska will only be able to have two voting delegates at NCSBN's Annual Meeting in August. Oertwich said that traditionally the Board's Executive Director and either the Board's President or Vice-president serve as delegates, but she will not be able to be a delegate this year because she is on the NCSBN's Board of Directors.

Oertwich also announced that NCSBN's Midyear Meeting will be held in Kansas City in 2017 and suggested that arrangements might be made to have all of Nebraska's board members attend.

PRACTICE COMMITTEE UPDATES

MOTION: The Practice Committee made the motion, seconded by Rogat, to approve the revised *Wound Debridement Advisory Opinion*.

Voting Yes: Chandler, Delahoyde, Harrison, Kula, Lefler, Motl, Rogat, Ruiz, Russ, and Smidt. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Jordan. Motion carried.

11:37 a.m. *Russ left the meeting.*

CENTER FOR NURSING

Members reviewed the proposed budget for the Nebraska Center for Nursing for the 2026/27 fiscal year. The total amount of the recommended allocation was \$120,000.00, which includes the salary for the Center's statistician, fees to maintain and update the Center's website, annual dues to the National Workforce Forum, the cost for distributing the Center's biennial report, as well as some money to cover meeting expenses in the event that the Governor appoints a sufficient number of members to the Center's Board.

MOTION: Ruiz made the motion, seconded by Kula, to approve the 2026/2027 fiscal year budget for the Center for Nursing.

Voting Yes: Chandler, Delahoyde, Harrison, Kula, Lefler, Motl, Rogat, Ruiz, and Smidt. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Jordan and Russ. Motion carried.

11:43 a.m. *Russ returned to the meeting.*

2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Oertwich reported that LB912 was approved. Language from LB936 allowing nurse practitioners who have completed approved education to utilize fluoroscopy did get added to LB912. The Board of Nursing and DHHS will now need to decide what will count as approved education. LB912 also included one of DHHS's highest priority items, the Community Health Worker Training Endorsement Act, passage of which was vital to implementation of the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP).

COMMUNICATION

Nursing News – Oertwich reported that content for the next edition of Nursing News is due at the publisher on April 13th. Sandberg asked about publication of the letter, which the Board approved in March, on the need for Board approval of any pre-licensure nursing program operating in Nebraska, including programs run through partnerships with hospitals. April reported that the letter has not been sent because shortly after the March Board meeting, the school in question reached out to her to arrange a meeting.

Scope Savvy Update – Dohrmann reported that DHHS has approved the proposed monthly webcast/podcast series on nursing practice. Dohrman, Minster, Oertwich, and Sandberg will serve on the webcast's panel. The first part of each webcast will be devoted to a particular scope of practice topic, followed by an open session where attendees can ask questions. It is expected that recordings of each session will be posted on the DHHS website.

Staff Updates – Oertwich reported that she and David Stokes, who was recently hired as supervisor for the Licensure Unit's Nursing Support team, have decided that nursing students who have completed their program's pharmaceutical course requirement can be placed on the Medication Aide registry without having

to take the medication aide examination. They will also allow nursing students who have completed certain coursework to be placed on the Nurse Aide Registry without testing.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The floor was opened to comments from the public. No comments were received.

12:10 p.m. *Meeting went into recess.*

12:30 p.m. *Meeting reconvened.*

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND COMMITTEE STRUCTURES

Members discussed how the Board's committees will operate with the transfer of the APRN Board's duties to the Board of Nursing effective July 1, 2026. Members agreed that subject matter experts can serve as non-voting members of a committee by providing their CV and obtaining the committee's approval. Members wanted people to have the option of transferring to different boards, but they also acknowledged that the productivity of a committee could be hampered unless members commit to a minimum term of at least one or two years. The Practice Committee and the Education Committee plan to meet monthly. Meeting frequency for the two new committees can be determined after the committees become active. In terms of deciding which members will serve on which committee, Chandler recommended waiting until new members are appointed to the Board before announcing committee assignments.

CONCLUSION

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sherri Joyner
Health Licensing Coordinator