

NEBRASKA BOARD OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY

MEETING MINUTES

April 10, 2026

ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Board of Medicine and Surgery was called to order by Chairperson, Wesley Zeger, DO, at 9:00 a.m. on April 10, 2026, at the Hampton Inn & Suites, 7343 Husker Circle, Lincoln, Nebraska 68504. The meeting was conducted In-Person and by WebEx. The following members answered the roll call:

Wesley Zeger, DO, Chairperson
Mark Goodman, MD, Vice-Chairperson
Jeffrey Howorth, Secretary
Rachel Blake, MD
Jodanne Hedrick, DO
Brian Keegan, MD
Adam Kuenning, JD, LLM
John Massey, MD

Absent: None

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

Also present to participate in the meeting: Vonda Apking, Program Manager and Jan Gadeken-Harris, Health Licensing Coordinator with the Licensure Unit; Mindy Lester, Assistant Attorney General; Randy Clark, Mark Meyerson, Andrea Cramer and Veronica Briggs, Investigators with the Investigation Unit; Ellie Rohr, DHHS Department Attorney and Jessie Enfield, DHHS Licensure Support.

Zeger 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 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 on the Bulletin Board at the entrance to the Nebraska State Office Building March 30, 2026.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

Kuenning moved, seconded by Blake, to approve adoption of the agenda with the Chair having the authority to rearrange agenda items as needed. Voting aye: Blake, Goodman, Hedrick, Howorth, Keegan, Kuenning, Massey and Zeger. Voting nay: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

ADOPTION OF THE APPLICATION(S) CONSENT AGENDA

Kuenning moved, seconded by Blake, to have the following applications removed from the consent agenda:

Ali, Wazir, MD – Initial Physician application
Evans, Joshua, MD – Reinstatement after Discipline application
Simchuk, Dariia, MD – Temporary Visiting Faculty Permit Initial application

Voting aye: Blake, Goodman, Hedrick, Howorth, Keegan, Kuenning, Massey and Zeger. Voting nay: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

LEGISLATION UPDATES

Paul Henderson, JD, Vice President, Advocacy & Regulation, In-House Counsel and Eric Sutton, JD, Director of Health Policy via WebEx with the NMA (Nebraska Medical Association) were present to discuss and provide updates to the Board for the 109th Legislature.

LB1212 - Provide for licensure of internationally trained physicians under the Uniform Credentialing Act
Paul indicated that this Bill is expected to pass.

To learn more regarding this Bill go to:

https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=63078&docnum=LB1212&leg=109 **LB955** –

LB955 - Provide for practice agreements between pharmacists and physician assistants

Paul indicated that this Bill is expected to pass.

To learn more regarding this Bill go to:

https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=62703&docnum=LB955&leg=109

LB958 - Provide for implementation of a home and community-based services waiver, retroactive coverage of certain benefits, and reimbursement of doula services and change reporting requirements under the Medical Assistance Act, change provisions relating to the Nebraska Prenatal Plus Program, and provide limits for crisis assistance payments under the low-income home energy assistance program

This Bill has several Amendments that have been adopted and is expected to pass.

To learn more regarding this Bill go to:

https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=63301&docnum=LB958&leg=109

LB912 - Adopt the Community Health Worker Training Endorsement Act, the Athletic Trainer Compact, and the Respiratory Care Interstate Compact, change provisions relating to child care licensing and the practice of athletic training, respiratory care, massage therapy, medical radiography, nurse practitioners, pharmacy, and pharmacists, provide for liens for physical therapy services and automated pickup kiosks for certain prescription medication, and eliminate provisions relating to physician liability for physician assistants

April 7, 2026, the Bill was placed on Final Reading.

To learn more regarding this Bill go to:

https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=62787&docnum=LB912&leg=109

LB929 - Provide for managed care organizations to pay the deductible, cost sharing, or similar charges on behalf of Medicaid enrollees

April 8, 2026, the Bill was placed on Final Reading

To learn more regarding this Bill go to:

https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=63088&docnum=LB929&leg=109

LB933 - Provide immunity for health care practitioners under the Nebraska Medical Cannabis Patient Protection Act

Paul indicated that this Bill did not pass.

To learn more regarding this Bill go to:

https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=63001&docnum=LB933&leg=109

REGULATIONS UPDATE

Currently there are no updates for the Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Goodman moved, seconded by Massey to approve March 13, 2026, meeting minutes as written. Voting aye: Blake, Goodman, Hedrick, Howorth, Keegan, Kuenning, Massey and Zeger. Voting nay: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments at this time of the meeting.

INVESTIGATIONAL REPORTS, DISCIPLINARY REPORTS, APPLICATION REVIEW – CLOSED SESSION

Blake moved, seconded by Howorth, to go to closed session at 9:09 a.m. for the purpose of review and discussion of investigative reports, disciplinary reports, licensure applications, and other confidential information, and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of the individuals. Voting aye: Blake, Goodman, Hedrick, Howorth, Keegan, Kuenning, Massey and Zeger. Voting nay: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

Kuenning recused himself at 9:32 a.m.
Kuenning returned at 9:48 a.m.

The Board members returned to Open Session at 10:50 a.m.

APPLICATION REVIEW – OPEN SESSION

BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS ON APPLICATIONS FOR LICENSURE AND REGISTRATION

Physician Initial Application(s) (1)

ALI, WAZIR, MD – application for initial license to practice medicine and surgery. Goodman moved, seconded by Kuenning to recommend denial of the license to practice medicine and surgery. The basis for the denial is previous disciplinary action in another state. Voting aye: Blake, Goodman, Hedrick, Howorth, Keegan, Kuenning, Massey and Zeger. Voting nay: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

Physician Reinstatement after Discipline Application(s) (1)

EVANS, JOSHUA T., MD – Goodman moved, seconded by Hedrick to recommend reinstatement of the license subject to a three (3) year Probation, with the first year subject to a reentry license, and to include usual terms and conditions. Basis for the Probation is not having actively practiced medicine utilizing clinical skills for over two years and prior disciplinary action. Voting aye: Blake, Goodman, Hedrick, Howorth, Keegan, Kuenning, Massey and Zeger. Voting nay: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

Physician TVFP (Temporary Visiting Faculty Permit) Application(s) (1)

SIMCHUK, DARILIA, MD – application for a TVFP to practice medicine and surgery. Blake moved, seconded by Hedrick, to recommend approval of the license to practice medicine and surgery. Voting aye: Blake, Goodman, Hedrick, Howorth, Keegan, Kuenning, Massey and Zeger. Voting nay: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

EMAIL BALLOTS SINCE LAST MEETING

There were no Email Ballots to report.

PHARMACEUTICAL CARE AGREEMENTS

The Board recognizes the receipt of the Pharmaceutical Care Agreements from January and March 2026.

PRACTICE QUESTION(S)

A. Is it within the scope of practice of a Surgical First Assistant to close the skin without a physician in the room?

It is the opinion of the Board that the physician must be in the operating room based on Statute under “Personal Supervision”

UPDATE FROM NCBAHM (NATIONAL CERTIFICATION BOARD FOR ACUPUNCTURE AND HERBAL MEDICINE – FORMERLY KNOWN AS NCCAOM (NATIONAL CERTIFICATION COMMISSION FOR ACUPUNCTURE AND ORIENTAL MEDICINE)

Due to the name change the Regulations will need to be revised to reflect this update.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments at this time of the meeting.

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

The next meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2026, in the Husker Conference Room at the Hampton Inn & Suites. To see a complete list of the projected schedule for the 2026 schedule, visit the DHHS website:

<https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Zeger, Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 10:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

signature available upon request

Jeffrey Howorth, Secretary
Board of Medicine and Surgery