

NEBRASKA BOARD OF NURSING

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

April 11, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Nebraska Board of Nursing was called to order by Theresa Delahoyde, Board President, at 8:30 a.m., April 11, 2024, at the Best Western Plus Conference Room, 2201 Wildcat Circle, Lincoln NE 68521. Copies of the agenda were emailed to the Board members on April 1, 2024, emailed to interested parties on April 1, 2024, posted in the east entryway of the Nebraska State Office Building on April 1, 2024, and posted on the Department of Health & Human Services website on April 1, 2024. Copies of the revised agenda were emailed to the Board members on April 10, 2024, emailed to interested parties on April 10, 2024, posted in the east entryway of the Nebraska State Office Building on April 10, 2024, and posted on the Department of Health & Human Services website on April 10, 2024. Delahoyde announced that a copy of the Open Meetings Act was available in the room.

ROLL CALL

The following board members were present answered roll call:

- Theresa Delahoyde, RN, *Board President*
- Mary Guthrie, *Public Member*
- Clay Jordan, RN
- Lisa Kollasch-Parker, APRN-NP
- Angela Kula, LPN, *Board Secretary*
- Patricia Motl, RN
- Eric Rogat, RN
- Kristin Ruiz, RN
- Jules Russ, *Public Member*
- Brenda Smidt, RN, *Board Vice-President*

The following Board member arrived after roll call: Kandis Lefler, LPN (arrived at 8:32 a.m.)

The following Board member was absent: Kathy Harrison, RN.

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*
- Jacci Reznicek, RN, *Nursing Education Consultant* (attended virtually)
- Ginger Rogers, APRN-NP, *Nursing Practice Consultant*
- Sherri Joyner, *Health Licensing Coordinator*
- Anna Harrison, *DHHS Compliance Monitor* (attended virtually)
- Teresa Hampton, *DHHS Legal*
- T. J. O'Neill, *Assistant Attorney General*
- Brittany Bigham, *Investigator*
- Andrea Cramer-Price, *Investigator*
- Susan Held, *Investigator*
- Patricia Lemke, *Investigator*
- Mendy Mahar-Clark, *Investigator* (attended virtually)
- Dennis Scott, *Investigations Program Manager*

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

Introductions were made on behalf of Eric Rogat, who was recently appointed to the Board.

These minutes were approved by the Board of Nursing on May 9, 2024.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Motl made the motion, seconded by Rogat, to adopt the revised agenda for the April 11, 2024, Board of Nursing meeting.

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

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

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

CLOSED SESSION

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

Delahoyde 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.

8:40 a.m. Meeting went into closed session.
9:33 a.m. Smidt left the meeting.
9:35 a.m. Smidt returned to the meeting.
10:03 a.m. Motl left the meeting.
10:05 a.m. Motl returned to the meeting.
10:07 a.m. Jordan left the meeting.
10:15 a.m. Jordan returned to the meeting.
10:17 a.m. Smidt left the meeting.
10:22 a.m. Smidt returned to the meeting.
10:24 a.m. Meeting returned to open session.

LICENSURE RECOMMENDATIONS

AMBER D. DEINES –LPN REINSTATEMENT FROM DISCIPLINE

MOTION: Ruiz made the motion, seconded by Jordan, to recommend reinstating an unrestricted LPN license to Amber Deines.

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

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MOTION: The Education Committee moved that the Board of Nursing approve the Surveyor's Report for the site visit conducted and the Creighton University College of Nursing on February 19-20, 2024.

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

NURSING NEWS

Oertwich reported that Nebraska was one of the last states to have all four quarterly issues of its newsletter mailed directly to all licensed nurses in the state by PCI Publishing. The May 2024 and November 2024 issues of *Nebraska Nursing News* will be mailed to all licensed nurses in Nebraska, but the Board will need to cover the mailing costs. The publisher will cover the mailing cost for the August newsletter since it is the renewal issue. Licensees will also receive an email when the May, August, and November editions are published notifying them that the newsletter is available online.

2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Oertwich reported that LB1215, the Department's bill, was passed by the Legislature. The bill includes language that makes enrollment in the Nursys e-Notify system a renewal requirement for all RNs, LPNs, and APRNs. Oertwich has a meeting scheduled with the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN), which will help with the implementation of the new requirement.

Oertwich reported that LB1412, an appropriations bill, passed with language that expands the nursing scholarship program to include BSN students, in addition to the diploma and ADN students already covered by the program.

Oertwich reported LB1417, which proposed the consolidation of several board, including combining the APRN Board with the Board of Nursing, is still in committee and is unlikely to pass. A resolution was passed to conduct an interim study on the makeup of the Board of Nursing and the APRN Board and whether their memberships accurately represent the nursing field in Nebraska.

CENTER FOR NURSING UPDATES

Oertwich updated the Board on the status of the Center for Nursing and Nebraska Hospital Association's project to expand clinical sites for nursing students. The project includes a shared clinical model, housing for students, grants to schools and facilities for simulation equipment, internships for nursing students, and creating more uniform compliance training for students so the facilities can spend less time onboarding new students. Oertwich reported that almost \$500,000 has already been distributed to facilities to purchase simulation equipment.

The Center's marketing campaign to recruit and retain nurses has begun airing radio ads. Digital ads in both English and Spanish will be implemented soon. The Center's website has been updated to better accommodate inquiries from the public regarding nursing careers.

NCSBN PASSPORT ACCOUNTS

Oertwich reported that NCSBN is encouraging all board members to maintain active NCSBN Passport Accounts. Motl said that she has found the resources available through the NCSBN Passport account, such as free continuing education, ICRS courses, and discussion boards, to be valuable. Several board members noted technical difficulties they have encountered when trying to access their accounts.

NEW BOARD MEMBER ORIENTATION

In order to have sufficient time to set up the room for the scheduled hearing, members agreed to defer the orientation session for new board members to the May meeting

PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public requested to speak at the meeting.

10:35 a.m. Meeting went into recess.

11:00 a.m. Meeting reconvened.

11:11 a.m. Ruiz left the meeting.

BOARD HEARING

The reinstatement hearing requested by Jana Mullins, convened at 11:15 a.m. Teresa Hampton, Department Attorney, served as the hearing officer. Ms. Mullins was represented by Dustin Garrison. The Department was represented by T.J. O'Neill, Assistant Attorney General. A court reporter was present. Exhibits were presented, and testimony was provided.

12:34 p.m. Meeting went into recess.

12:29 p.m. Meeting reconvened.

12:54 p.m. Motl left the meeting.

MOTION: Lefler made the motion, seconded by Kula, for the Board to go into closed session in order to deliberate upon the hearing.

Voting Yes: Delahoyde, Guthrie, Jordan, Kollasch-Parker, Kula, Lefler, Rogat, Russ, and Smidt.

Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Harrison, Motl, and Ruiz. Motion carried.

12:55 p.m. Bigham, Garrison, Mullins, Oertwich, O'Neill, and witnesses left the meeting.
Meeting went into closed session.

12:57 p.m. Motl returned to the meeting.

1:37 p.m. Meeting returned to Open Session. Garrison, Oertwich, and O'Neill returned to the meeting.

MOTION: Jordan made the motion, seconded by Kollasch-Parker, to deny Jana Mullins' application for reinstatement based on insufficient evidence presented to substantiate that the applicant has addressed the behaviors that led to the suspension of her license.

Voting Yes: Delahoyde, Guthrie, Jordan, Kollasch-Parker, Kula, Rogat, Russ, and Smidt. Voting

No: Lefler and Rogat. Abstain: None. Absent: Harrison and Ruiz. Motion carried.

CONCLUSION

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sherri Joyner
Health Licensing Coordinator