

NEBRASKA BOARD OF NURSING

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

May 14, 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., May 14, 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 May 4, 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*
- Clay Jordan, RN
- Angela Kula, LPN
- Eric Rogat, RN, *Board Vice-President*
- Kristin Ruiz, RN
- Jules Russ, *Public Member*
- Brenda Smidt, RN, *Board President*

The following Board members were absent: Kandis Lefler, LPN, and Patricia Motl, 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*
- Jeanette Peterson, *DHHS Compliance Monitor*
- Marley Sandberg, *DHHS Legal*
- Mindy Lester, *Assistant Attorney General*
- Tricia Allen, *Investigations Program Manager*
- Brittany Bigham, RN *Investigator*
- Veronica Briggs, RN, *Investigator*
- Andrea Cramer, RN, *Investigator*
- Mendy Mahar-Clark, RN, *Investigator*

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Theresa Delahoyde noted that the Education Committee was scheduled to meet following the conclusion of the Board meeting and not the Practice Committee, which was incorrectly listed on the agenda.

MOTION: Delahoyde made the motion, seconded by Kula, to adopt the corrected agenda for the May 14, 2026, Board of Nursing meeting.

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

These minutes were approved by the
Board of Nursing on June 11, 2026.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

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

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

LPN APPRENTICESHIP PROPOSAL

Cindy Kadavy and Connie Siefkes from the Nebraska Health Care Association (NHCA) gave a presentation on the Association's proposed LPN apprenticeship program. They cited data from U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Nebraska Center for Nursing projecting a significant shortage of LPNs in upcoming years. NHCA has applied for a grant through the Nebraska Department of Labor to establish an apprenticeship program with the goal of increasing the number of LPNs in the workforce. They plan to partner with an existing LPN education program and provide students with paid on-the-job training, including experiences in long-term care, as well mentorship and other forms of support.

MOTION: Ruiz made the motion, seconded by Harrison, that the Board write a letter of support for the Nebraska Health Care Association's proposed LPN apprenticeship program.

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

CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: Kula 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, Jordan, Kula, Rogat, Ruiz, Russ, and Smidt. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Lefler and Motl. 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.

8:48 a.m. Meeting went into closed session.
9:24 a.m. Smidt left the meeting.
9:27 a.m. Smidt returned to the meeting.
9:35 a.m. Meeting went into recess.
9:45 a.m. Meeting reconvened.
10:33 a.m. Chandler left the meeting. Meeting returned to open session.

LICENSURE RECOMMENDATIONS**RAYMOND DELEON – LPN APPLICANT**

MOTION: Jordan made the motion, seconded by Harrison, to recommend denying Raymond Deleon's application for an LPN license based on criminal convictions rationally related to the profession, prior disciplinary action taken against his privilege to practice nursing in Nebraska, and misrepresentation of material facts on a license application.

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

10:36 a.m. Chandler returned to the meeting.

ANN MARIE HAUPTMAN – RN REINSTATEMENT FROM DISCIPLINE

MOTION: Ruiz made the motion, seconded by Delahoyde, to recommend reinstating Ann Marie Hauptman's RN license on probation for three years with the following terms and conditions: abstain from alcohol; abstain from controlled substances and other prescription drugs unless prescribed by the treating practitioner; verification from treating practitioner of all prescription medications; report all prescription medications taken; submit to random body fluid screens; advise Department of any professional counseling and submit reports; comply with treatment recommendations including recommendations for attendance at support group meetings and sponsor; active practice for 3120 hours; provide notice of disciplinary proceedings to employer and other states where licensed; provide quarterly employer reports; shall not provide nursing services for staffing agencies or in home health care; provide written notice to Department of any employment, address or phone changes within seven (7) days; comply with all reports, notices or other documentation from the Department; promptly respond to Department regarding compliance during probation; obey all state and federal laws, rules and regulations regarding practice of nursing and must report any violations of the above to Department within seven days; pay any costs associated with ensuring compliance, and appear at any meetings of the Board of Nursing when requested. The recommendation for probation is based on a diagnosis of a substance use disorder and criminal convictions. The recommendation for reinstatement is based on applicant's compliance with treatment recommendations, active involvement in the substance abuse/addiction recovery process, reported period of sobriety of three years, and positive letters of reference.

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

TIA B. STEVENSON – RN REINSTATEMENT FROM DISCIPLINE

MOTION: Delahoyde made the motion, seconded by Kula, to recommend reinstating Tia Stevenson's RN license on probation for three years with the following terms and conditions: abstain from alcohol; abstain from controlled substances and other prescription drugs unless prescribed by the treating practitioner; verification from treating practitioner of all prescription medications; report all prescription medications taken; submit to random body fluid screens; advise Department of any professional counseling and submit reports; comply with treatment recommendations including recommendations for attendance at support group meetings and sponsor; active practice for 3120 hours; provide notice of disciplinary proceedings to employer and other states where licensed; provide quarterly employer reports; shall not provide nursing services for staffing agencies or in home health care; provide written notice to Department of any employment, address or phone changes within seven (7) days; comply with all reports, notices or other documentation from the Department; promptly respond to Department regarding compliance during probation; obey all state and federal laws, rules and regulations regarding practice of nursing and must report any violations of the above to Department within seven days; pay any costs associated with ensuring compliance, and appear at any meetings of the Board of Nursing when requested. The recommendation for probation is based on a prior disciplinary action due to impaired practice and refusal to test. The recommendation for reinstatement is based on positive letters of reference from faculty coworkers and completion of a substance use evaluation.

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

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MOTION: The Education Committee moved, seconded by Kula, that the Board approve Southeast Community College courses NURS 1100 Foundations of Nursing Practice, NURS 1110 Essentials of Patient Care 1, NURS 1130 Nursing Assessment, NURS 1150 Nursing Lab 1, and NURS 1160 Nursing Clinical 1.

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

Minster reviewed NCLEX pass rates for the first quarter of 2026. Overall, graduates of Nebraska LPN programs had a higher pass rate than the national average, with Metro Community College having a 100% pass rate for first-time NCLEX-PN takers. The pass rate for Nebraska's RN graduates was on par with the national average. Those programs with pass rates below the national average have taken steps to address the issue. After instituting changes several years ago to address below-average NCLEX pass rates, MidPlains Community College had the highest pass rate for Nebraska ADN programs during the first quarter of 2026.

PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Dohrmann reported that the Practice Committee will meet virtually on May 26th and review the current Advisory Opinions related to Spravato, ketamine, and cosmetic procedures. Chandler has arranged for Tracy Young from the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology to speak with the Committee about the use of ketamine. Schmidt has reached out to people for feedback on the Aesthetic Nursing Advisory Opinion. The Practice Committee is also considering an Advisory Opinion to clarify that nurse practitioners in Nebraska are authorized to sign DNR and DNI orders. Websites of some national organizations incorrectly indicate that Nebraska NPs cannot sign these orders.

Oertwich said that some med spas appear to use nitrous oxide and oxygen without the involvement of a pharmacy or pharmacist. She suggested that the topic might warrant an Advisory Opinion.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Oertwich reported that she will form a group to advise on regulations and recommendations for implementing the portion of LB912 that allows nurse practitioners to utilize fluoroscopy if they have completed approved education. The group will include the APRNs who will join the Board in July. The Nebraska Certified Nurse Midwives association has also applied with DHHS for a credentialing review of potential changes to the Certified Nurse Midwifery Practice Act with the goal of getting legislation introduced in future sessions that would allow CNMs to attend some out-of-hospital births.

COMMUNICATION

Nursing News –Oertwich noted that a high number of nurses have reported never receiving a link to *Nursing News* via email. Oertwich will press the publisher for a solution to the problem. She asked Board members to notify her whether or not they have received a link to the most recent edition.

NCSBN Annual Meeting – Oertwich reported that registration for the NCSBN Annual Meeting will open soon. Oertwich is making arrangements for Smidt and Rogat to serve as the Board's delegates. Funding for Motl and Oertwich to attend will come from the NCSBN committees they serve on. Oertwich will work with NCSBN to find funding to cover attendance costs for Delahoyde, Kula, Minster, and Dohrmann.

Staff Updates – Oertwich reported that the Licensure Unit is grieving the passing of Gina Bosak, who staffed the RN by Endorsement desk. Joyner described her as a hard worker and fast learner who always had a smile on her face.

Scope Savvy – Dohrmann reported that the first Scope Savvy webinar is scheduled for May 21st. The topic is LPN scope of practice. The webinar will be held on the Microsoft Teams platform, which allows for a maximum of 1,000 attendees. The platform requires attendees to enter their email in order to get a link to join the webinar. The expectation is that staff will present on the designated topic during the first half of the webinar, after which they will answer questions. People can either email questions before the webinar or submit them via the webinar's chat feature. Questions that cannot be answered during the meeting can be answered by staff at a later time. Information on Scope Savvy is posted on the Nure Licensing homepage - <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Nurse-Licensing.aspx>. Recordings of the sessions will be posted to YouTube.

The topic for the next Scope Savvy is transition to practice. Minster has a survey on the subject that she would like to send to people who work with new nurses. She will forward the survey to Board members.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The floor was opened to comments from the public. Erin Pemberton said she was excited about the forthcoming advisory opinions regarding med spas, noting that she also gets a lot of scope-of-practice questions on the issue. She also had contacts with Nebraska Nurse Practitioners who might be able to assist with Transition to Practice issues.

11:25 a.m. Meeting went into recess.

11:44 a.m. Jordan left the meeting.

11:46 a.m. Kula left the meeting.

12:01 p.m. Meeting reconvened.

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND COMMITTEE STRUCTURES

After the Board's merger with the APRN Board on July 1st, there will be four APRN positions on the Board of Nursing. Rather than assigning these new members to committees right away, Oertwich preferred having the Board's APRNs serve on a temporary workgroup to draft new regulations on the use of fluoroscopy by nurse practitioners. It was decided that the Education Committee and Practice Committee should continue to meet with their current members until December. Decisions on who will serve on which committee could be made in December, with the committees electing their chairs in January. Prior to December, the Board might decide on guidelines for the committees and gauge members' interests. Oertwich wanted to ensure that there was enough time at future meetings for each APRN member to give a presentation on their particular APRN role.

CONCLUSION

The meeting adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sherri Joyner
Health Licensing Coordinator