

**PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
May 15, 2020**

ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Physician Assistant Committee was called to order at 2:16 p.m. by Tamara Dolphens, PA-C, Chairperson in the Licensure Unit LU 1 Meeting Room, 1st Floor of the Nebraska State Office Building, located at 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska. The meeting was held by WebEx. The Agenda was sent to the Committee members and other interested parties and was posted on the bulletin board on the 1st floor of the NSOB prior to the meeting. The following members answered the initial roll call:

Tamara Dolphens, PA-C, Chairperson
Kathleen Tonkin, PA-C, Vice-Chairperson
Merle Henkenius, Secretary
Corrigan McBride, MD

Absent: John Massey, MD

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened. Present from the Department was Jesse Cushman, Program Manager and Jan Gadeken-Harris, Health Licensing Coordinator; Mindy Lester, Assistant Attorney General and Dennis Scott, Program Manager, Investigation Unit.

Dolphens 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.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Tonkin moved, seconded by McBride, to adopt the agenda as presented. Voting aye: Dolphens, Henkenius, McBride and Tonkin. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Massey. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tonkin moved, seconded by McBride, to approve the meeting minutes of February 7, 2020 as written. Voting aye: Dolphens, Henkenius, McBride and Tonkin. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Massey. Motion carried.

2020 LEGISLATION UPDATES

The 106th Legislature, 2nd Session, is not in session.

Check the calendar to see legislative activity.

The Legislature is adjourned until the speaker calls.

In light of growing public safety concerns regarding the coronavirus pandemic, the 2020 legislative session and all public hearings have been suspended until further notice. Session will remain adjourned until the situation has stabilized and the Speaker of the Legislature deems it safe to reconvene.

During this pause in the legislative session, senators and their offices continue their work. The health, safety and well-being of all of our neighbors are the top priorities.

Updates will be announced as they become available.

The following is a list of some of the legislative bills that are being followed by the Physician Assistant Committee:

LB772 - Change the scope of practice for physician assistants

Current Status: Notice of hearing for January 24, 2020

For recent updates and to learn more about LB772, please visit:

<https://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/106/PDF/Intro/LB772.pdf>

LB922 - Require electronic issuance of prescriptions for controlled substances as prescribed

Current Status: Notice of hearing for January 30, 2020.

For recent updates and to learn more about LB922, please visit:

<https://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/106/PDF/Intro/LB922.pdf>

REGULATIONS UPDATE

At this time a Public Hearing has not been scheduled for Title 172 Chapter 90, proposed amendments to the Licensure and Supervision of Physician Assistants.

For updates on the schedule for Public Hearing Notices for Draft Regulations, please visit the Secretary of State website link listed below:

<https://www.nebraska.gov/nesos/rules-and-regs/regtrack/index.cgi>

INVESTIGATIONAL REPORTS – CLOSED SESSION

Henkenius moved, seconded by Tonkin, to go into closed session at 2:21 p.m. for the purpose of review and discussion of investigative reports, licensure applications, and other confidential information, and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of the individuals. Voting aye: Dolphens, Henkenius, McBride and Tonkin. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Massey. Motion carried.

Henkenius moved, seconded by McBride, to open the session at 2:50 p.m. Voting aye: Dolphens, Henkenius, McBride and Tonkin. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Massey. Motion carried.

APPLICATION(S) REVIEW – OPEN SESSION

CARTHEL, JASON LYN, PA - application for an Initial Physician Assistant License: Tonkin moved, seconded by McBride to Table for additional information. Voting aye: Dolphens, Henkenius, McBride and Tonkin. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Massey. Motion carried.

COVID-19 DISCUSSION

The State of Nebraska, Governor's office has issued Executive Order No.20-10 (EO), effective March 27, 2020.

Visit the DHHS website to see listed updates and to learn more about COVID-19, the EO, frequently asked questions (FAQ's) related to the EO, the State's Directed Health Measures and County Directed Health Measures.

<http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

<http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/COVID-19-Directed-Health-Measures.aspx>

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business Tonkin moved, seconded by Henkenius to adjourn the meeting at 2:53 p.m. Voting aye: Dolphens, Henkenius, McBride and Tonkin. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

signature available upon request

Merle Henkenius, Secretary
Physician Assistant Committee