

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF FUNERAL DIRECTING AND EMBALMING**
May 15, 2025

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Board of Funeral Directing and Embalming was called to order by Steve Brunken, Chair, at 9:00 a.m., in the Lower Level Morrill Room, Nebraska State Office Building, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska. In accordance with § 84-1411 of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, copies of the agenda were 1) emailed to the Board members and other interested parties, and 2) posted on the DHHS web site at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx> and in the lobby of the Nebraska State Office Building on 5/5/2025.

The following members answered roll call:

Members Present (4):

Steven Brunken, Chair, Member
Amy Blinston, Vice-Chair, Member
James Conner, Secretary, Member
Leo Seger, Member

Members Absent (0):

Others Present (4):

TJ O'Neill, Assistant Attorney General
Sean Loving, Program Manager, Licensure Unit
Katherine Amyot, DHHS Legal
Jessica Dean, Health Licensing Coordinator, Licensure Unit
Paul Seger, Funeral Director and Embalmer
Public (via WebEx)

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION: Conner moved, seconded by Seger, to adopt the agenda. A voice vote was taken. Voting aye: Brunken, Blinston, Conner, Seger (4). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: None (0). Motion carried.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES 3/27/2025

MOTION: Blinston moved, seconded by Conner, to approve the minutes of 3/27/25. A voice vote was taken. Voting aye: Blinston, Brunken, Conner, Seger (2). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: None (0). Motion carried.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Public Comments

5. INVESTIGATIONAL REPORTS & OTHER CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION – CLOSED SESSION

There were no items for closed session.

6. OPEN SESSION

7. Updates and Reports

- a. 2025 Legislation
Loving: LB 555, relating to assistant funeral directors, is ready for governor's signature.
Discussion of pending bills LB 632 and LB 56, which deal with the cremation of fetal remains and blood draws from deceased bodies, respectively.
- b. Disciplinary and Non-Disciplinary Action Reports, Renewal, License and Examination Statistics (attached to agenda)
- c. Nebraska Funeral Directors Association
Stefanie Gonzalez stated that there are no new updates from the NeFDA; they are also keeping track of current legislation.

8.Public Comment

Stefanie Gonzalez, president of the Nebraska Funeral Director's Association, inquired how a member of the press would go about requesting data on licensees as relates to the current shortage of funeral directors. Loving explained that a public records request should be submitted to DHHS if they want data on licensees; noted that they could also contact the funeral directing schools for data as well.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2025 at 9 a.m. There being no further business, the chair declared the meeting adjourned at 9:33 a.m.

Board of Funeral Directing and Embalming

Summarized by: Jessica Dean, Health Licensing Coordinator, Licensure Unit