

These minutes have not been approved by the Board

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
Board of Mental Health Practice
June 5, 2026

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Board of Mental Health Practice was called to order by Rebecca Czaja-Stevens, Chair, at 9:11 a.m. via Webex. 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, 2) posted on the DHHS web site at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>, and 3) posted on the bulletin board in the Nebraska State Office Building Lobby on May 21, 2026.

The following members answered roll call and attended via Webex:

Members Present:

Sara Batter, Vice Chair
Rebecca Czaja-Stevens, Chair
Paul Davies, Secretary
Yasmin Henderson
Adrian Martin
Jennifer McNally
Susan Meyerle
Amanda Milander-Mace

Members Absent:

Renea Gernant

Staff and Others Present:

Maiya Baumann, Program Manager, Licensure Unit
Jessica Dean, Health Licensing Coordinator, Licensure Unit
Milissa Johnson Wiles, Assistant Attorney General
Katherine Amyot, DHHS Legal (via Webex)
Jeanette Peterson, Compliance Monitor, Licensure Unit
Hayle Alvarado, DHHS Investigator

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION: Meyerle moved, seconded by Batter, to adopt the agenda for the meeting. A voice vote was taken. Voting yes: Batter, Czaja-Stevens, Davies, Erickson, Henderson, Martin, McNally, Meyerle, and Milander-Mace. Absent: Gernant. Motion carried.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MAY 1, 2026

MOTION: Martin moved, seconded by Batter, to approve the minutes. A voice vote was taken. Voting yes: Batter, Czaja-Stevens, Davies, Erickson, Henderson, Martin, McNally, Meyerle, and Milander-Mace. Absent: Gernant. Motion carried.

4. CLOSED SESSION – CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

MOTION: Meyerle moved, seconded by Martin, to enter into closed session at 9:15 a.m. to hear discussions of a confidential nature, and for the prevention of needless injury to individual reputations. A voice vote was taken. Voting yes: Batter, Czaja-Stevens, Davies, Erickson, Henderson, Martin, McNally, Meyerle, and Milander-Mace. Absent: Gernant.

Erickson left the meeting at 11:03 a.m.
Open session at 11:20 a.m.
Johnson Wiles left the meeting at 11:25 a.m.
Peterson left the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

5. APPLICATION REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Jessica Duda, Provisional Mental Health Practitioner

The application review for Jessica Duda was tabled for more information.

Toby Mooring, Provisional Mental Health Practitioner/Provisional Master Social Worker

The application review for Toby Mooring was tabled for more information.

Christine Perkumas, Independent Mental Health Practitioner

The application review for Christine Perkumas was tabled for more information.

Shylia Riley, Independent Mental Health Practitioner

MOTION: Meyerle moved, seconded by McNally, to recommend approval of the application with a two (2) year probation including no solo practice, quarterly employer reports; completion of the Mental Health jurisprudence examination; and two hours each of coursework in anger management, emotional self-regulation, and de-escalation. Voting yes: Batter, Czaja-Stevens, Davies, Henderson, Martin, McNally, Meyerle, and Milander-Mace. Absent: Erickson and Gernant. Motion carried.

Ashley Tittle, Provisional Mental Health Practitioner

MOTION: Batter moved, seconded by Martin, to recommend approval of the application. Voting yes: Batter, Czaja-Stevens, Davies, Henderson, Martin, McNally, Meyerle, and Milander-Mace. Absent: Erickson and Gernant. Motion carried.

6. UPDATES

a. Legislation

1. Baumann reported that the following bills were indefinitely postponed and did not make it out of committee: LB 1040, related to civil commitments for the mentally ill; LB 961, establishing the Collateral Sanction Relief Act; and LB 860, related to Medicaid waiver behavioral health services for individuals under 21 years of age. She said that LB 825 was absorbed into LB 912, which was passed and approved by the Governor on April 14, 2026. LB 912 establishes a requirement for domestic violence training for mental health providers. LB 722, which allows use of the Behavioral Health Services Fund for individuals with a substance use disorder, was passed and approved by the Governor on April 14, 2026.

2. Chiles v. Salazar

This court case, which was heard by the United States Supreme Court during the current term, had been discussed in a prior board meeting. The case involved a discussion of whether conversion therapy constitutes protected free speech under the First Amendment; the Supreme Court struck down a Colorado law banning conversion therapy for placing an undue burden on therapists' free speech. Amyot said that after discussion with Mindy Lester of the Attorney General's Office, the Department feels that this ruling will not significantly impact discipline against Nebraska licenses within the mental health profession. This is because the majority of the disciplinary actions taken are based on following or failure to follow the appropriate standard of care, which is an act rather than speech and would therefore not be covered by the ruling.

3. Returning to the discussion of LB 912, Martin asked what the board's position was on monitoring the effects of that bill on licensees once it takes effect, in terms of the availability of training. Amyot said that the effect on the issuance of provisional licenses should be minimal since existing educational programs should be able to adjust fairly easily to meet the new educational requirements. Amyot said that the Department's legal analysis of the effects of the bill was distinctly different from the analysis completed by staff at the Nebraska Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, which had previously been distributed to all board members while the bill was pending. Czaja-Stevens said that, for example, the program at her university is already planning to meet the new requirements as part of their regular graduate program so that their students don't need to complete additional coursework. Martin asked about the requirements for instructors and Amyot clarified that the requirements for graduate level coursework in domestic abuse and the requirements for instructors teaching continuing education (CE) hours are different. Beginning September 1, 2027, to obtain a provisional mental health practitioner license, the requirements shall include "...three hours of training relating to domestic abuse, which shall include: (i) Appropriate screening tools for victims of domestic abuse; (ii) indicators of high lethality or risk; (iii) documentation standards; (iv) appropriate referrals to domestic abuse specific services, advocacy, and systems navigation professionals; (v) impact on

children; (vi) ethical practice and boundaries; and (vii) trauma-informed, victim-centered care and safety planning.” In addition to these new educational requirements, CE instructors will also be required to have a minimum of three years’ experience working with victims of domestic abuse or offenders and to have completed an additional forty hours in domestic abuse-related training. It should be fairly easy for educational programs to meet the new requirements using their existing curricula. Because of the September 2027 effective date, the first graduating class to be affected by the new requirements will likely be the class of 2028.

Following the discussion of LB 925, the board again discussed possible ways to address pending legislation. It has been proposed that following the first meeting of the year in January, the Board should meet again in February for a special session to discuss pending legislation; it has also been proposed that a legislative committee be formed.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Due to a loss of quorum, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:20 a.m.

Summarized by:
Jessica Dean, Licensure Unit