

NEBRASKA BOARD OF NURSING

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

June 11, 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., June 11, 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 29, 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
- Kandis Lefler, LPN
- Patricia Motl, RN
- Eric Rogat, RN, *Board Vice-President*
- Kristin Ruiz, RN
- Jules Russ, *Public Member*
- Brenda Smidt, RN, *Board President*

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*
- Milissa Johnson-Wiles, *Assistant Attorney General*
- Tricia Allen, *Investigations Program Manager*
- Brittany Bigham, RN *Investigator*
- Jessica Bowman, RN, *Investigator*
- Andrea Cramer, RN, *Investigator*

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Chandler made the motion, seconded by Delahoyde, to adopt the agenda for the June 11, 2026, Board of Nursing meeting.

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

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

These minutes were approved by the Board of Nursing on July 9, 2026.

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

CENTER FOR NURSING DATA

Juan-Paulo Ramirez, Statistical Consultant for the Nebraska Center for Nursing, gave a presentation on the Center's Nebraska Health Dashboard, which can be accessed at <https://center4nursing.ne.gov/resources/>. The dashboard uses data from the Centers for Disease Control's PLACES surveys, and it allows users to find data on a variety of health indicators in Nebraska down to the county level. The dashboard includes an artificial intelligence (AI) component that allows users to ask questions about the data, such as which county has the highest obesity rate. Ramirez is also working on a dashboard for Nebraska's nursing workforce data.

CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: Kula made the motion, seconded by Lefler, 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, Lefler, Motl, Rogat, Ruiz, Russ, and Smidt. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. 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.

8:59 a.m. *Meeting went into closed session.*
 9:20 a.m. *Smidt left the meeting.*
 9:38 a.m. *Smidt returned to the meeting.*
 10:03 a.m. *Ruiz left the meeting.*
 10:05 a.m. *Ruiz returned to the meeting.*
 10:08 a.m. *Rogat left the meeting.*
 10:17 a.m. *Rogat returned to the meeting.*
 10:30 a.m. *Meeting returned to open session. Meeting went into recess.*
 11:00 a.m. *Meeting reconvened.*

HEARING

The reinstatement hearing requested by Jason Irlanda convened at 11:01 a.m. Marley Sandberg, Department Attorney, served as the hearing officer. Mr. Irlanda appeared *pro se*. The Department was represented by Milissa Johnson-Wiles, Assistant Attorney General. A court reporter was present. Exhibits were presented, and Mr. Irlanda provided testimony regarding his request to have limitations removed from his registered nurse license.

11:48 a.m. Chandler left the meeting.

MOTION: Delahoyde made the motion, seconded by Lefler, for the Board to go into closed session for the purpose of deliberating upon the hearing.

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

Sandberg announced that the Board was in closed session for the purpose of deliberating on the hearing.

12:04 p.m. *Meeting went into closed session.*

1:08 p.m. Meeting returned to open session. Chandler and Johnson-Wiles returned to the meeting.

MOTION: Delahoyde made the motion, seconded by Lefler, to recommend modifying the limitations on Jason Irlanda's RN license to impose the following limitations: 1) shall not provide nursing services in any home setting or for any home health care staffing agency; 2) shall not be employed as a travel nurse; and 3) must practice under the direct supervision of an RN during the first year of active nursing practice, and must practice under indirect supervision of an RN during the second year of active nursing practice.

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

LICENSURE RECOMMENDATIONS

ROBIN J. WOOD – LPN STANDARD REINSTATEMENT APPLICANT

MOTION: Jordan made the motion, seconded by Harrison, to table Robin Wood's LPN reinstatement application in order to obtain additional information.

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

TRACY L. CIRO – LPN APPLICANT

MOTION: Delahoyde made the motion, seconded by Lefler, to recommend issuing an unrestricted LPN license to Tracy Ciro.

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

JACKELINE FERNANDEZ – RN REINSTATEMENT FROM DISCIPLINE

MOTION: Ruiz made the motion, seconded by Harrison, to recommend reinstating Jackeline Fernandez'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; have no access to controlled substances during the first year of practice followed by access to controlled substances under direct supervision for an additional one year; 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 previous disciplinary actions. The recommendation for reinstatement is based on applicant's active participation in treatment, compliance with treatment recommendations, active involvement in the substance abuse/addiction recovery process, reported period of sobriety since August 2025, attendance at support group meetings, and positive letters of reference from co-workers and supervisors.

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

ROBBI A. JOHNSON – RN REINSTATEMENT FROM DISCIPLINE

MOTION: Jordan made the motion, seconded by Harrison, to table Robbi Johnson's RN reinstatement application..

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

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MOTION: The Education Committee moved, seconded by Harrison, that the Board approve the following curriculum syllabi from Northeast Community College: NURS 1135 Concepts of Pathophysiology & Pharmacology II; NURS 1145 Nursing Concepts I; NURS 1155 Nursing Concepts I Clinical; and NURS 1165 Professional Nursing Concepts I.

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

MOTION: The Education Committee moved, seconded by Harrison, that the Board approve the Surveyor's Report for the site visit conducted at Union Adventist University on April 14-15, 2026.

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

PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Dohrmann reported that the Practice Committee will meet via video following the board meeting. They will likely have several advisory opinions for the Board to review in July. They would like more APRN feedback on several other Advisory Opinions, so they are waiting for the three new APRN members to join the Board before moving forward.

REVISION OF APRN REGULATIONS

Oertwich reported that DHHS leadership will only approve proposals to revise regulations this year if the revisions are mandated. Approval has been obtained to pursue revisions to 172 NAC 98, the Regulations Governing Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Licensure. Revisions to these regulations are considered necessary in order to establish education and training requirements for APRN-Nurse Practitioners who wish to use fluoroscopy. Oertwich said that she has already met with DHHS' Office of Radiological Health for their feedback. Nebraska's professional society for radiologic technologists would also like to meet with Oertwich.

NCSBN UPDATES

Oertwich reported that she is still working to obtain funding from NCSBN for Kula to attend the NCSBN Annual Meeting in August. Funding has already been secured to cover travel and registration fees for the others planning to attend the meeting (Smidt, Rogat, Motl, Oertwich, Minster, and Dohrmann).

COMMUNICATION

Nursing News –Oertwich said that publisher of *Nursing News* has not expressed willingness to change the way that they distribute the Board's newsletter via email. Many Nebraska nurses have reported not getting

an email with the link to the newsletter. Apparently, the publisher can only send 4,500 emails per week, and Nebraska has approximately 40,000 licensed nurses.

Scope Savvy – Dohrmann reported that the first Scope Savvy webinar was held on May 21st on the topic of LPN scope of practice. Sixty-five people registered for the webinar, and fifty people logged in. Viewership may have been greater because some people watched in groups. Due to a glitch, the session did not get recorded, but they may revisit questions related to LPN scope of practice in a future Scope Savvy. The next webinar is scheduled for June 25th on the topic of transition to practice. Dohrmann will add a QR code to the Scope Savvy flyer to make it easier for people to access the registration page.

Staff Updates – Oertwich reported that Licensure Unit currently has three vacancies for staff who process occupational license applications, including a vacancy in the Nursing Section. Oertwich also reported that she, Dohrmann, and Minster are prepping for the upcoming RN renewal period.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were received.

CONCLUSION

The meeting adjourned at 1:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sherri Joyner
Health Licensing Coordinator