

These minutes have not been
approved by the Board of Health.

NEBRASKA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

DRAFT MINUTES – June 16, 2025

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL. David Reese, Board of Health Chair, called a regular meeting of the State Board of Health to order at 11:00 AM on June 16, 2025, in the Goldenrod Conference Room in the Lower Level of the Nebraska State Office Building in Lincoln. Copies of the agenda were mailed electronically to board members and other interested parties prior to the meeting and posted on the Health and Human Services website and bulletin board. The following members were present: Mark Bertch, DPT; J. Paul Cook, MD; Russell Crotty, OD; Staci Hubert, PharmD; Patricia Kucera, RN; Connie Petersen, PhD; David Reese, MHA; Dan Rosenthal; Kimberly Stuhmer, RN, MT; Doug Vander Broek, DC. Members not in attendance: Jaime Dodge, MD; Brett Lindau, DO; Kenneth Tusha, DDS; Dan Vehle; Jeffrey Wienke, Jr, DPM. Quorum was met. Staff and others in attendance: Monica Gissler Webb, Maggie Mills, Caryn Vincent. A copy of the Open Meetings Act is available in the meeting room.

Credentialing Review Process Changes and New Manual – Caryn Vincent provided overview of changes to the process. Recent process improvements include:

- More efficient turnaround time from meeting to meeting
- Updated procedure manual to reflect suggestions and feedback from 20+ stakeholder groups
 - Clarification on the role of DHHS staff in the process, including providing a separate orientation and training meeting for TRC members
 - Expectation that applicant groups share and communicate about proposal with other stakeholder groups prior to review process
 - Language clarifications and plain language explanation of the overall process
- Increase in number of Technical Review Committee Pool Members; both public and professional
- Revised training materials for Technical Review Committee members to clearly outline the review process
- Changes to the Technical Review Committee meeting format: number of meetings, scheduling of meetings, format of meetings

The meeting recessed at 12:02 PM.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL. David Reese, Board of Health Chair, reconvened the regular meeting of the State Board of Health at 1:00 PM on June 16, 2025. The following members were present: Mark Bertch, DPT; J. Paul Cook, MD; Russell Crotty, OD; Staci Hubert, PharmD; Patricia Kucera, RN; Brett Lindau, DO; Connie Petersen, PhD; David Reese, MHA; Dan Rosenthal; Kimberly Stuhmer, RN, MT; Doug Vander Broek, DC; Dan Vehle; Jeffrey Wienke, Jr, DPM. Members not in attendance: Jaime Dodge, MD; Kenneth Tusha, DDS. Quorum was met. Staff and others in attendance: Monica Gissler Webb, Maggie Mills, Caryn Vincent.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT MINUTES. Mr. Reese asked if there were any changes to the agenda for the meeting today. Dr. Vander Broek made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Dr. Cook; voting yes: 13 (Bertch, Cook,

Crotty, Hubert, Kucera, Lindau, Petersen, Reese, Rosenthal, Stuhmer, Vander Broek, Vehle); voting no: 0; not voting: 0. Motion carried. Dr. Vander Broek made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2025 meeting, seconded by Mr. Vehle; voting yes: 13 (Bertch, Cook, Crotty, Hubert, Kucera, Lindau, Petersen, Reese, Rosenthal, Stuhmer, Vander Broek, Vehle); voting no: 0; not voting: 0. Motion carried.

UPDATES, REPORTS

Dr. Tim Tesmer, Chief Medical Officer, Division of Public Health reported.

- Ashley Newmyer is the new DHHS Interim Director of the Division of Public Health, but she was not able to attend today's meeting.
- Introduction of NE State Epidemiologist Dr. Sydney Stein
- Overview of recently released DHHS HANS—Measles, Tickborne Diseases, Alpha-Gal Syndrome, New-World Screwworm, Paraburkholderia fungorum, Multi-inflammatory Syndrome / Acute Flaccid Myelitis / Influenza Associated Encephalopathy
- You can visit the Chief Medical Officer's website and click on Health Alert Network for timely updates. <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/CMO-Communications.aspx>

Dr. Sydney Stein, State Epidemiologist. She started in her new role on March 17th.

- Measles in NE update: 1 case documented in May, 2025, none since. This is the first case in Nebraska since 2017. The exposure for this case is unknown, but 95% of cases are from unvaccinated individuals or of status unknown. Dr. Tesmer asked the Board of Health members to help spread the positive word about vaccinations.

Licensure Unit – Lindsay Braddock, Unit Administrator, reported on the following:

- My License System is now in Phase II of the System Automation Project. Next they will integrate facilities and hope to have that online in 2027.
- Maya Baumann will start soon as Program Manager in a new position. The Mental Health programs are being split out from Medical and Specialized Health.
- All program areas of the Licensure Unit are impacted by legislation this year. Meetings and action on bill implementation have already started.

Board of Health Chair – Mr. Reese reported the following:

1. Has anyone attended any professional board meetings that they would like to report on?

It is important that you let Monica know in advance when you plan to attend a meeting, and if you plan to attend the entire meeting or just a portion. When you arrive at the meeting, please make a point of introducing yourself to the Board staff, and then to the full Board as the Board of Health liaison. This applies to both in-person and WebEx meetings.

2. You just heard from the new DHHS State Epidemiologist, Dr Sydney Stein. Dr. Stein is a veterinary epidemiologist who has been supporting DHHS since July 2023 as a Centers

for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) officer. She started her State Epidemiologist role in March.

3. Charity Menefee's last day with DHHS was May 8th. Welcome to Ashley Newmyer, Interim Director for the Division of Public Health.
4. Congrats to Dan Vehle on his recent retirement! Please note on the board roster that Monica sent out that Dan has a new email address.
5. The September 14th Professional Board interviews and the September 15th Board of Health committee and public meetings will be held at Madonna Rehabilitation in Lincoln. It's important for all committee members to participate.
6. At the September meeting we will set our meeting dates for 2026. Proposed dates are:
January 26
March 16
June 15
September 21
(Professional Board interviews on September 20)
November 16

Credentialing Review – Mr. Rosenthal, Committee Chair, presented.

<https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Credentialing-Review.aspx>

Nurse Practitioners – Nebraska Nurse Practitioners proposes to update the Medical Radiography Statute to include nurse practitioners as “licensed providers”. This would allow nurse practitioners to supervise and/or perform fluoroscopy after didactic and clinical training requirements have been met.

The committee's motion is to approve the committee report. Voting yes: 13 (Bertch, Cook, Crotty, Hubert, Kucera, Lindau, Petersen, Reese, Rosenthal, Stuhmer, Vander Broek, Vehle, Wienke); voting no: 0; not voting: 0. Motion carried.

Rules and Regulations Committee – Dr. Wienke, Committee Vice Chair, reported.

<https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/DHHS-Regulations.aspx>

The following proposed regulations were presented for approval:

Title 175 NAC 9 – Hospitals. The proposed changes clarify language for change of ownership; update federal citations; remove outdated reporting requirements; set requirements for hospital pharmacies biennial reporting of Controlled Substances Inventory; add requirements for submitting a plan of correction if deficiencies are found; remove section citations; and correct punctuation, grammatical, and typographical errors.

A public hearing was held on February 24, 2025, there were three email comments, and one oral comment received. The Department will make one minor edit to the regulations, based on comments received.

The word “dietician” will be replaced by the preferred spelling of “dietitian.” This change will be in line with the statutes that outline the requirements and scope of practice for a licensed dietitian nutritionist.

The committee’s motion is to approve the proposed regulations. Voting yes: 13 (Bertch, Cook, Crotty, Hubert, Kucera, Lindau, Petersen, Reese, Rosenthal, Stuhmer, Vander Broek, Vehle, Wienke); voting no: 0; not voting: 0. Motion carried.

172 NAC 94, Independent Mental Health Practitioners, Mental Health Practitioners, Marriage and Family Therapists, Professional Counselors, Art Therapists, and Social Workers. The proposed changes update chapter name; add art therapy to the regulations’ scope and authority; update definitions; update statutory references; add acceptable electronic transcript service as a method for submitting transcripts; expand provisional certificate requirements for art therapists; add requirements for certified art therapist; set educational, examination, and supervision requirements for art therapist; correct punctuation and typographical errors; remove section citations, acronyms, redundant and unnecessary language; add clarification language; and renumber the regulatory chapter.

A public hearing was held on June 12, 2025, no comments were received.

The committee’s motion is to approve the proposed regulations with the caveat that no changes or opposition be made by the Board of Mental Health Practice at their June 20, 2025 meeting. Voting yes: 13 (Bertch, Cook, Crotty, Hubert, Kucera, Lindau, Petersen, Reese, Rosenthal, Stuhmer, Vander Broek, Vehle, Wienke); voting no: 0; not voting: 0. Motion carried.

Update: At the Board of Mental Health Practice meeting on June 20, 2025, they did not adopt the proposed regulations. There was something stricken from unprofessional conduct that should not have been. These regulations will come back to the Board of Health.

Professional Boards Committee. Dr. Crotty, Committee Chair, reported. There were no interviews at the morning meeting.

- 2025 Appointments to Professional Boards. The vacancy website went live May 1, 2025 and a press release went out. Applications are due by August 1, 2025 and interviews will be held on Sunday, September 14, 2025 in Lincoln.
- LB346 – Merges the APRN Board into the Board of Nursing and merges ADC Board into the Mental Health Practice Board by July 1, 2026
- LB332 – Merges in LB154 (Hearing Instrument Specialists), and LB555 (Creates Assistant Funeral Directors)
- LB332 – Adds Pharmacy Technician position to the Board of Pharmacy
- LB605 (2024) – Add Art Therapist to Board of Mental Health Practice. 172 NAC 94 regs. The Public hearing was held June 12.

For information on current and upcoming professional board vacancies.

<https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Board-Requirements-and-Vacancies.aspx>

Public Health, Education and Legislation – Dr. Cook, Committee Chair, reported. In the morning committee meeting they reviewed the status of legislative bills on the BOH Tracker.

The Public Health Recognition Program has been dormant and there was a committee discussion in March about resurrecting it. The nomination form will be updated to be a fillable pdf. The program be highlighted on the main Division of Public Health or Licensure Unit webpage.

Approval of Committee Reports. Mr. Reese made a motion to acknowledge review of all committee reports, with a second by Dr. Crotty. Voting yes: 13 (Bertch, Cook, Crotty, Hubert, Kucera, Lindau, Petersen, Reese, Rosenthal, Stuhmer, Vander Broek, Vehle, Wienke); voting no: 0; not voting: 0. Motion carried. There was discussion about confusion between agenda items needing approval or just acknowledgement. Monica will follow up with Legal.

PUBLIC COMMENTS. None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

- §71-2611 (Liability of board of health members, 2003 update) – Annika Gleason Schoch, DHHS Legal followed up on this question from March. The statute reads, “No member of the State Board of Health shall be liable in damages to any person for slander, libel, defamation of character, breach of any privileged communication, or otherwise for any action taken or recommendation made within the scope of the functions of such board while acting as an agent of the state if such board member acts without malice and in the reasonable belief that such action or recommendation is warranted by the facts known to him or her after a reasonable effort is made to obtain the facts on which such action is taken or recommendation is made.”
- Report out on how many license approvals have occurred due to reciprocity, following up from LB390 (2021) – Annika Gleason Schoch DHHS followed up from a question in March about the effects of this bill. There have been six cases, five in Dentistry (2 were Dental Hygienists) and one in Pharmacy. Dr. Crotty suggested that Dr. Tusha follow up with the Board of Dentistry and Dr. Hubert follow up with the Board of Pharmacy.
- Ms. Gleason Schoch introduced Ellie Rohr who is the DHHS attorney assigned to assist the Board of Health.

NEW BUSINESS.

- **DHHS Data Office** – Caitie Schrotberger explained the goal to increase data literacy across DHHS and the State. They currently have over 700 ways that they receive data. The dashboard site is designed to bring greater access to the Department of Health and Human Services data, with a web-based platform delivering timely, accurate, accessible, and interactive data that informs planning and decision making. Public Health Data Dashboard:
<https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Public-Data-Dashboards.aspx>

TOPICS AND PREPARATION FOR NEXT MEETING. The next regular Board of Health meeting will be Monday, September 15, 2025. The location will be the Lincoln-Donlan Conference Center at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital, 5401 South Street in Lincoln. Professional board interviews will be held on Sunday, September 14th at that same location. Other meeting dates for 2025: November 17.

ADJOURN. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:19 P.M. Minutes were taken by Monica Webb and are scheduled for approval by the State Board of Health on September 15, 2025.

NOTE: If you would like to receive these minutes electronically, please send an email request to dhhs.boardofhealth@nebraska.gov

If you would like any attachments mentioned in these minutes, or have other questions, please contact dhhs.boardofhealth@nebraska.gov.

Board of Health: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Board-of-Health.aspx>

6/26/25, mgw