

NEBRASKA BOARD OF NURSING
DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING

July 9, 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., July 9, 2026, at the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment's Hearing Office, 245 Fallbrook Blvd., 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 June 26, 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:

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| • Holly Chandler, APRN-CRNA | • Patricia Motl, RN |
| • Gina Crudden, APRN-CNS | • Eric Rogat, RN, <i>Board Vice-President</i> |
| • Theresa Delahoyde, RN | • Kristin Ruiz, RN |
| • Kathy Harrison, RN, <i>Board Secretary</i> | • Jules Russ, <i>Public Member</i> |
| • Kandis Lefler, LPN | • Brenda Smidt, RN, <i>Board President</i> |
| • Elizabeth Mollard, APRN-CNM | • Indra Sukhram, APRN-NP |

The following board member was absent: Angela Kula, LPN.

Two board positions were vacant.

The following staff members from the Department and the Attorney General's Office were present during all or part of the meeting:

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| • Ann Oertwich, RN, <i>Executive Director</i> | • Abigail Nissen, <i>Assistant Attorney General</i> |
| • April Minster, RN, <i>Nursing Education Consultant</i> | • Marley Sandberg, <i>Attorney, DHHS Legal</i> |
| • Danielle Dohrmann, RN, <i>Nursing Practice Consultant</i> | • Katy Blue, <i>Clerk, DHHS Legal</i> |
| • Sherri Joyner, <i>Health Licensing Coordinator</i> | • Nick DeFrank, <i>Clerk, DHHS Legal</i> |
| • Jeanette Peterson, <i>DHHS Compliance Monitor</i> (attended virtually) | • Tricia Allen, <i>Investigations Program Manager</i> |
| • Milissa Johnson-Wiles, <i>Assistant Attorney General</i> | • Brittany Bigham, RN <i>Investigator</i> |
| | • Andrea Cramer, RN, <i>Investigator</i> |
| | • Susan Held, RN, <i>Investigator</i> |
| | • Mendy Mahar-Clark, <i>Investigator</i> |

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Motl made the motion, seconded by Delahoyde, to adopt the agenda for the July 9, 2026, Board of Nursing meeting.

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

These minutes have not been approved by the Board of Nursing.
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APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION: Chandler made the motion, seconded by Delahoyd, to approve the consent agenda.

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

CLOSED SESSION

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

8:37 a.m. Meeting went into closed session.
 8:52 a.m. Ruiz left the meeting.
 8:59 a.m. Ruiz returned to the meeting.
 10:26 a.m. Meeting went into recess.
 10:39 a.m. Meeting reconvened.
 10:55 a.m. Smidt left the meeting.
 10:57 a.m. Smidt returned to the meeting.
 11:37 a.m. Rogat left the meeting.
 11:47 a.m. Rogat returned to the meeting.
 11:57 a.m. Meeting returned to open session.

LICENSURE RECOMMENDATIONS**JOSEPH A. AMPONG – APRN-NURSE PRACTITIONER APPLICANT**

MOTION: Rogat made the motion, seconded by Motl, to recommend denying Joseph Ampong's application for an APRN-Nurse Practitioner license based on misrepresentation of material facts on a license application and failure to cooperate with an investigation.

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

ANGELA M. ECHEVARRIA (AKA ANGELA M. DUPUIS, AKA LETICIA M. ECHEVERRIA) – RN APPLICANT

MOTION: Ruiz made the motion, seconded by Harrison, to recommend denying Angela Echevarria's application for an RN license based on misrepresentation of material facts on a license application, failure to cooperate with an investigation, and impersonating a licensed health care professional.

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

PATRICIA L. FULTON – LPN APPLICANT

MOTION: Chandler made the motion, seconded by Delahoyde, to recommend issuing an unrestricted LPN license to Patricia Fulton.

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

VANESSA L. JARAMILLO-ARAIZA – LPN APPLICANT

MOTION: Chandler made the motion, seconded by Delahoyde, to recommend issuing Vanessa Jamarmillo-Araiza an LPN license on probation for one year 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; active practice for 1040 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 misdemeanor convictions rationally related to the profession.

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

CHERISE M. MESTETH – RN APPLICANT

MOTION: Delahoyde made the motion, seconded by Chandler, to recommend issuing Cherise Mesteth an RN license on probation for two year 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; active practice for 2080 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 substance use disorder and misdemeanor convictions rationally related to the profession.

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

DARIEN B. FOSTER – RN APPLICANT

MOTION: Motl made the motion, seconded by Ruiz, to recommend issuing an unrestricted RN license to Darien Foster.

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

CHRISTINE A. MORRIS – LPN STANDARD REINSTATEMENT

MOTION: Ruiz made the motion, seconded by Motl, to table Christine Morris' LPN reinstatement application.

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

SAMANTHA L. DOWNING – LPN REINSTATEMENT FROM DISCIPLINE

MOTION: Motl made the motion, seconded by Mollard, to recommend reinstating an unrestricted LPN license to Samanta Downing. The recommendation for reinstatement is based on the results of an alcohol/substance use assessment completed on March 9, 2026.

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

ROBBI A. JOHNSON – RN & APRN-CRNA REINSTATEMENT FROM DISCIPLINE

MOTION: Delahoyde made the motion, seconded by Chandler, to recommend reinstating Robbi Johnson's RN and APRN-CRNA licenses on probation for one year 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 access to controlled substances only under direct supervision during the first six months of practice while on probation, followed by access to controlled substances under indirect supervision for an additional six months; active practice for 1040 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 violation of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act. The recommendation for reinstatement is based on applicant's completion of treatment, compliance with treatment recommendations, and active involvement in the substance abuse/addiction recovery process.

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

EDUCATION ITEMS

Simulation in Nursing Education – The Board reviewed revisions to the *Simulation in Nursing Education* Advisory Opinion. Changes include stipulations regarding appropriate training of personnel. Minster also noted that the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) has recently updated its list of quality indicators for simulation in nursing education to include either accreditation or twelve months of training for simulation faculty. The Education Committee will revisit the Advisory Opinion when NCSBN issues more information. As noted by Ruiz, the Advisory Opinion only pertains to pre-licensure RN and LPN programs in Nebraska. Crudden noted that standards for APRN education do not allow for simulation to be used for clinical hours.

MOTION: The Education Committee moved, seconded by Harrison, that the Board approve the revised *Simulation in Nursing Education* Advisory Opinion.

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

Shared Clinical Model – Oertwich and Minister provided information on the Shared Clinical Model Innovative Approach, which was approved by the Board in 2023 for use in the Nebraska Center for Nursing's Collaborative. The Shared Clinical Model has allowed nurses at critical access hospitals who do not have master's degrees to serve as clinical instructors for nursing students under the mentorship of a nursing program faculty member. The clinical instructors have also been required to complete additional coursework. Funding for the initiative, which covered course fees and financial incentives for participants, ended on June 30th. Oertwich said that funding from the Department is not available because the Center for Nursing does not currently have an active board. The Board reviewed a proposal developed by Oertwich and Minister that would allow nursing programs to use a revised version of Shared Clinical Model. To apply for approval to use the innovative approach, schools need to establish a partnership with nearby facility, identify a nurse at the facility who will serve as clinical instructor, identify a faculty member who will serve as the mentor, and create tools for evaluating the effectiveness of the program. Schools and their practice partners will need to submit an annual report to the Board that includes data on number of clinical students, student outcomes, and feedback. Incentivization for clinical instructors and mentors is recommended but not required. Approved education coursework for clinical instructors is currently only available from Clarkson College, but Minster is researching other potential course providers.

MOTION: Ruiz made the motion, seconded by Delahoyde, to approve extending and revising the Shared Clinical Model.

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

PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Dohrmann reported that the Practice Committee is looking at a number of Advisory Opinions, including Safe Practice: Fitness to Practice, Safe Practice: Nursing Roles and Assignments; Analgesia, Sub-Anesthetic Ketamine, and Aesthetic Nursing. The Committee plans to work on an APRN-focused Advisory Opinion on DNR and DNI orders.

PHARMACEUTICAL CARE AGREEMENTS

The Board acknowledged receiving pharmaceutical care agreements from SpecialtyRx between Caitlin Carlson, APRN-NP, Brandon Hofland, APRN-NP, and Theresa Oltman, APRN-NP with Atlanta Ho, PharmD, Mary Crumley, RP, Aml Markous, RP, and Darshana Ullah, PharmD.

APRN ITEMS

172 NAC 98 – Oertwich reported that the process for revising the Regulations Governing the Practice of Advanced Practice Registered Nursing has officially opened. LB912, which was approved during the 2026 legislative session, allows nurse practitioners to utilize fluoroscopy upon completion of appropriate education and training. The APRN regulations now need to be revised in order to specify the education and training requirements. After Oertwich and Dohrmann met with staff from the DHHS Office of Radiological Health, the tentative proposal is to require nurse practitioners to complete forty hours of didactic training, forty hours of hands-on training, and obtain ARRT certification. Staff from Radiological Health thought ARRT certification was needed due to language in LB912 which states that a nurse practitioner “may” (instead of “shall”) direct fluoroscopy in collaboration with a medical radiographer. Oertwich noted that the University of Nebraska Medical Center offers a four-hour course in fluoroscopy for CRNAs, and they seem willing to create a course for nurse practitioners.

Chandler asked what obtaining ARRT certification would involve. Motl said the certification process generally takes one year. She noted that people sometimes fail to take radiation safety seriously enough until they get sued. Crudden said that on the federal level, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and residents receive the same training for radiography. She did not understand why nurse practitioners should be required to obtain ARRT certification in order to utilize fluoroscopy, when it is not required on the federal level and is not required for physician assistants and residents. Oertwich noted that requirements for physician assistants is complicated by the supervisory relationship between physicians and physician assistants in Nebraska.

Certified Nurse Midwives Credentialing Review – Mollard spoke about the application submitted by the Nebraska Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives to the DHHS Credentialing Review office. A Credentialing Review is often referred to as a “407 Review” Professional associations generally apply for a 407 Review when they are requesting changes to the scope of practice for a licensed profession. Nebraska’s Nurse Midwives association is proposing that Certified Nurse Midwives (CNMs) with over two thousand practice hours be allowed to practice independently and that CNMs be allowed to attend planned out-of-hospital births for low-risk pregnancies. Mollard noted that Nebraska is the only state with full practice authority for Nurse Practitioners that does not also have full practice authority for Certified Nurse Midwives. Groups that have provided letters of support for the CNM’s 407 application include the Nebraska Medical Association. Crudden said she is willing to testify on behalf of Certified Nurse Midwives’ application. Crudden noted that Nebraska is one of only nine states where APRN-Clinical Nurse Specialists do not have prescriptive authority.

MOTION: Chandler made the motion, seconded by Crudden, that the Board send a letter of support and provide oral testimony in support of the Nebraska Certified Nurse Midwives’ 407 Review application.

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

NCSBN UPDATES

Oertwich reported the Nebraska will send seven Board members and staff to the NCSBN Annual Meeting in August. Two members will serve as delegates and vote on behalf of the Board at the Delegate Assembly.

MOTION: Ruiz made the motion, seconded by Motl, to designate Brenda Smidt and Eric Rogat as the Board’s delegates to the NCSBN Annual Meeting and to designate Theresa Delahoyde as the alternate delegate.

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

2027 MEETING SCHEDULE

Joyner explained that the Board of Nursing has traditionally met on the second Thursday of each month. In 2027, this schedule conflicts with the NCSBN MidYear Meeting in March and with Veterans Day in November. A proposed meeting date on the first Thursday of March conflicts with a Nebraska Assembly of Nursing Deans and Directors meeting. Tentative meeting dates for 2027 are January 14th, February 11th, March 18th, April 8th, May 13th, June 10th, July 8th, August 12th, September 9th, October 14th, November 4th, and December 9th.

BOARD ORIENTATION

Oertwich said that the Licensure Unit has a PowerPoint presentation used for orientation of new board members that can be shown at a future meeting. Joyner described the two types of reimbursements available to board members: 1) per diems for each day a member attends a board meeting or conducts board business and 2) expense reimbursements for mileage and, if member travel overnight for board business, meals.

COMMUNICATION

Nursing News – Oertwich reported that copy for the next edition of *Nursing News* is due at the publisher on July 13th. The issue will include information on RN renewals. Because it is a renewal issue, hard copies of this edition will be mailed to all Nebraska-licensed nurses. The edition will also include an article by Mollard on the history of midwifery in Nebraska. Oertwich expressed interest in having other APRNs on the Board contribute articles related to their specific APRN role for future editions. Oertwich also reported that she is looking into potential alternatives for publishing the newsletter given the problems that have been encountered with distributing the newsletter electronically.

Scope Savvy – Dohrmann reported that the second Scope Savvy webinar was held on June 25th on the topic of transition to practice for RNs and LPNS. Sixty-three people attended the webinar, an increase from the fifty attendees for the first Scope Savvy in May. The July Scope Savvy will cover fitness to practice. Members suggested that future topics might include staffing platforms such as Shift-Key and the FBI's Operation Nightingale.

Staff Updates – Oertwich reported that the Licensure Unit has hired three Administrative Technicians to fill vacancies, including a vacancy in the Nursing Section. The positions were filled prior to Governor Pillen's recent memo requiring State agencies to obtain special permission to fill vacancies and placing a freeze on creation of new positions.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were received.

CONCLUSION

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sherri Joyner
Health Licensing Coordinator