



**NOTICE OF MEETING and AGENDA
BOARD OF MENTAL HEALTH PRACTICE**

This meeting will be held in person. The public is welcome to attend any Open Session discussion in the Nebraska State Office Building, Lower Level, Otoe Room. This meeting will also be available to the public by WEBEX using this link: <https://sonvideo.webex.com/sonvideo/j.php?MTID=m9ff4e417f07f7faea8222ffb5d84c16a>.

Call-in information: 1-408-418-9388; meeting number (access code): 2489 178 8173

PLEASE NOTE: members of the public who wish to join via Webex will need to wait in the lobby while the meeting is in closed session. We recommend that you wait in the lobby until the closed session portion of the meeting has ended and the meeting has been unlocked by the host.

AGENDA		Posted: 6/26/26
<p>Date: Friday, July 10, 2026 9:00 a.m.</p> <p>Location: NSOB Otoe Room, Lincoln, Nebraska</p> <p>For Information Contact: Jessica Dean 402-471-4918 or Jessica.dean@nebraska.gov</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ROLL CALL AND CALL MEETING TO ORDER <u>Announcement:</u> There is a current copy of the Open Meetings Act posted on the door to the meeting room and available at the link listed below. 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 5, 2026 4. CLOSED SESSION (approx. 9:15 a.m.): Investigative Reports and Confidential Information <u>Purpose:</u> to heardiscussions of investigative and confidential nature, and for the prevention of needless injury to individual reputations. 5. OPEN SESSION: (approx. 12:00 p.m.): review, recommendations, email ballots, and applications 6. UPDATES, NEW BUSINESS, AND REPORTS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislation • Regulations • Association and Committee Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AASCB https://aascb.org/ ○ AMFTRB https://amftrb.org/ ○ ASWB https://www.aswb.org/ • Licensing Compacts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Social Work Compact ○ Counseling Compact • Email Ballots (if applicable) • Reports: disciplinary and non-disciplinary actions, licensure statistics, examination pass/fail report (included with agenda) • Nebraska Department of Education Mandatory Assurance Statement (included with agenda) • Susan Reay – LIMHP/LMHP Licensure Discussion 7. PUBLIC COMMENT 8. ADJOURN (approx. 2 p.m.) 	

Nebraska Open Meetings Act: 84-1407 through 84-1414 <https://ago.nebraska.gov/open-meetings>

All items known at the time of distribution of this agenda are listed. A current agenda is available at the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, Licensure Unit and at the following website: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx> If auxiliary aids or reasonable accommodations are needed for attendance at a meeting, please call Jessica Dean at (402) 471-4918 (voice), or for persons with hearing impairments, please call the Nebraska Relay System, 711 TDD, prior to the meeting date. Advance notice of seven days is needed when requesting an interpreter.

2026 Meeting Dates

1/16/26
2/3/26
2/12/26
5/14/26
6/5/26
7/10/26
TBD

Agenda Item 3

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

Agenda Item 6



NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH, LICENSURE UNIT

SUMMARY COUNT OF LICENSES BY LICENSE STATUS

Alcohol and Drug Counselor

	Active	Application File Closed	Closed	Deleted	Denied	Expired	Inactive	Lapsed	NonDisc Revocation
Alcohol and Drug Counselor	931	45	1	29	15	410	275	1	30
Alcohol/Drug Prelim Conviction R2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Provisional Alcohol and Drug Cou	500	63	1	16	29	595	37	0	114
Total	1,433	108	2	48	45	1,005	312	1	144

Null and Void	Pending	Reinstatement Pending	Revocation	Suspension	Voluntary Surrender	Withdrawn	Total
23	3	4	27	1	11	47	1,853
0	3	0	0	0	0	0	7
1,164	14	2	22	10	9	44	2,622
1,187	20	6	49	11	20	91	4,482

SUMMARY COUNT OF LICENSES BY LICENSE STATUS

Mental Health Practice

	Active	Active-Military	Application File Closed	Closed	Deleted	Denied	Denied Renewal	Expired	Expired Credential
EO 20-27 Prov Independent MHP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EO 20-27 Prov Mental Health Pra	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Independent Mental Health Pract	3,921	7	302	3	89	18	0	469	0
Marriage & Family Therapist	155	0	25	1	2	3	0	75	0
Master Social Worker	1,561	0	92	0	9	4	1	413	0
Master Social Worker - CMSW	71	0	20	0	10	1	0	39	0
Mental Health Practitioner	2,376	2	243	3	155	19	1	2,423	0
Non-License (Exam applicant onl	23	0	42	0	0	0	0	0	0
Preliminary Conviction Review	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Professional Counselor	1,285	1	118	0	21	8	0	908	0
Provisional Master Social Worker	544	0	31	1	4	1	0	96	227
Provisional Mental Health Practiti	1,655	0	164	8	24	21	0	587	1,323
Social Worker	635	1	78	0	50	9	0	1,058	0
Supervised Marriage & Family Th	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	16	0
Temporary Cert Marriage Family	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Temporary Mental Health Practiti	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	12,228	11	1,120	16	364	84	2	6,086	1,550

Expired-Military	Inactive	Lapsed	NonDisc Revocation	Null and Void	Pending	Reinstatement Pending	Revocation	Suspension	Voluntary Surrender	Withdrawn	Total
0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
173	0	0	10	54	2	18	7	15	99	5,187	5,187
36	1	16	1	3	0	0	0	1	16	335	335
424	43	193	25	7	2	9	1	5	34	2,824	2,824
24	0	12	16	0	0	0	0	0	11	204	204
1,125	70	340	55	14	4	34	6	36	124	7,033	7,033
0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	1	75	75
0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	5	5
541	65	262	46	24	2	19	6	20	64	3,390	3,390
11	0	0	1,396	10	0	2	1	1	12	2,337	2,337
54	1	0	5,543	25	2	19	8	9	63	9,506	9,506
777	205	976	25	12	3	4	2	2	39	3,876	3,876
0	0	0	51	0	0	0	1	0	2	75	75
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
3,167	385	1,799	7,169	161	15	105	32	89	465	34,852	34,852

Compliance Listing

Schrad, Ashley Kay	2468	Independent Mental Health Practitioner	Active	Civil Penalty	08/18/2025	08/18/2026
Schrad, Ashley Kay	5116	Mental Health Practitioner	Expired	Civil Penalty	08/18/2025	08/18/2026
Pasch, Brittany Michelle	P-2373	Provisional Alcohol and Drug Counselor	Active	Probation	10/14/2025	10/14/2026
Andersh, Karie Marie	2131	Independent Mental Health Practitioner	Suspension	Civil Penalty	11/19/2025	11/19/2026
Andersh, Karie Marie	2503	Professional Counselor	Suspension	Civil Penalty	11/19/2025	11/19/2026

Evans, Leontyne Lynnette	13016	Provisional Mental Health Practitioner	Suspension	Civil Penalty	11/26/2025	12/26/2026
Bhatti, Saira Imran	7738	Provisional Master Social Worker	Revocation	Civil Penalty	01/02/2025	01/02/2027
Bhatti, Saira Imran	13034	Provisional Mental Health Practitioner	Revocation	Civil Penalty	01/02/2025	01/02/2027
Leikam, Megan Ann	1399	Alcohol and Drug Counselor	Active	Civil Penalty	02/22/2024	02/22/2027
Hoyt, Erika Jacqueline	3450	Independent Mental Health Practitioner	Active	Civil Penalty	05/01/2025	05/01/2027
Hoyt, Erika Jacqueline	5518	Mental Health Practitioner	Expired	Civil Penalty	05/01/2025	05/01/2027
Toledo Francisquez, Fredy Jhovany	P-2309	Provisional Alcohol and Drug Counselor	Active	Civil Penalty	05/20/2026	05/20/2027
Fierro, Xavier Angel	7547	Provisional Master Social Worker	Suspension	Civil Penalty	06/08/2026	06/08/2027
Fierro, Xavier Angel	12343	Provisional Mental Health Practitioner	Suspension	Civil Penalty	06/08/2026	06/08/2027
Fierro, Xavier Angel	3170	Social Worker	Suspension	Civil Penalty	06/08/2026	06/08/2027
O'Brien, Leah K	2418	Independent Mental Health Practitioner	Active	Civil Penalty	06/12/2024	06/12/2027
O'Brien, Leah K	2595	Professional Counselor	Active	Civil Penalty	06/12/2024	06/12/2027
Hogan, Payton Jibri	2953	Independent Mental Health Practitioner	Active	Civil Penalty	02/25/2026	08/25/2027
Frerichs, Brandon J.	1567	Independent Mental Health Practitioner	Active	Civil Penalty	10/22/2025	10/22/2027
Frerichs, Brandon J.	2442	Professional Counselor	Expired	Civil Penalty	10/22/2025	10/22/2027
Toledo Francisquez, Fredy Jhovany	P-2309	Provisional Alcohol and Drug Counselor	Active	Probation	04/23/2025	10/23/2027
Conrad, Roy Carl	5944	Mental Health Practitioner	Revocation	Civil Penalty	12/31/2025	12/31/2027
Cross, Kate Kathleen LaRaine	1221	Independent Mental Health Practitioner	Revocation	Civil Penalty	01/07/2026	01/07/2028
Kercher, Julia Diane	1079	Independent Mental Health Practitioner	Suspension	Civil Penalty	05/01/2025	05/01/2028
Kercher, Julia Diane	2245	Mental Health Practitioner	Suspension	Civil Penalty	05/01/2025	05/01/2028
Kercher, Julia Diane	1253	Professional Counselor	Suspension	Civil Penalty	05/01/2025	05/01/2028
Connelly, James Donald	692	Independent Mental Health Practitioner	Active	Civil Penalty	05/28/2026	05/28/2028
Connelly, James Donald	3133	Mental Health Practitioner	Inactive	Civil Penalty	05/28/2026	05/28/2028
Connelly, James Donald	1627	Professional Counselor	Inactive	Civil Penalty	05/28/2026	05/28/2028
Lierz, Krista Lee	8307	Provisional Master Social Worker	Active	Probation	12/09/2025	12/09/2028
Lierz, Krista Lee	14704	Provisional Mental Health Practitioner	Active	Probation	12/09/2025	12/09/2028

**NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH, LICENSURE UNIT**



EXAMINATION STATISTICS SUMMARY REPORT

Profession: Alcohol and Drug Counselor

Date Range: 03/23/2026 to 06/25/2026

Exam Battery	Exam Name	Result	Number of Candidates
IC & RC Written Examination	IC & RC Written Examination	Pass	11
IC & RC Written Examination total:			11

Report total: 11

EXAMINATION STATISTICS SUMMARY REPORT

Profession: Mental Health Practice
 Date Range: 04/16/2026 to 06/25/2026

Exam Battery	Exam Name	Result	Number of Candidates
AMFTRB	AMFTRB	Pass	1
AMFTRB total:			1
ASWB-Clinical	ASWB-Clinical (formerly AASSWB)	Pass	10
ASWB-Clinical total:			10
Jurisprudence Exam	Jurisprudence	Pass	14
Jurisprudence Exam total:			14
NBCC-NCE	NCE (NBCC)	Pass	7
		Fail	1
NBCC-NCE total:			8
NBCC-NCMHCE	NBCC-NCMHCE	Pass	1
		Fail	1
NBCC-NCMHCE total:			2
Report total:			35

**MANDATORY ASSURANCE STATEMENT for
 Mental and Behavioral Health Services Discretionary Funding**

School districts and personnel providing mental or behavioral health services within Nebraska public schools shall comply with all applicable federal and state laws, regulations, and professional standards governing the provision of educational and related services to students. These laws include, but are not limited to the following sections of Neb. Rev. Stat:

- § 79-258. Administrative and teaching personnel; authorized actions.
- § 79-2,104. Access to school files or records; limitation; fees; disciplinary material; removed and destroyed; when; sharing of student data, records, and information.
- § 79-530. Involvement of parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers; term, defined; legislative findings.
- § 79-531. Involvement of parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers; public school district; adopt policy.
- § 79-532. Involvement of parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers; policy; contents.
- § 79-533. Involvement of parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers; policy; hearing; review.
- § 79-533.01. Involvement of parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers; policy; accessibility.
- § 79-533.02. Involvement of parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers; learning materials; availability.
- § 79-533.03. Involvement of parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers; noncompliance of school district; remedial action.
- § 79-11,159. Behavioral health points of contact; designation; qualifications; behavioral health training and resources; access; coordination; report.

And, the following federal laws:

- Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 C.F.R. Part 99.
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 U.S.C. § 1400–1482; 34 C.F.R. Part 300.

Individuals holding Nebraska educator certificates are subject to the professional practices criteria established by the State Board of Education under Rule 27 (Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 27). Alleged violations of these standards shall be investigated and adjudicated pursuant to the procedures set forth in Rule 28 (Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 28). If found to be in violation, sanctions shall include admonishment, reprimand, suspension, limitation, or revocation of a Nebraska teaching certificate.

When mental or behavioral health services are provided by individuals licensed under Nebraska health professions statutes, those individuals remain subject to the jurisdiction and disciplinary authority of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) under the Uniform Credentialing Act and applicable professional licensing statutes. Violations of licensure requirements, ethical standards, or scope of practice limitations may result in investigation and disciplinary action by the appropriate licensing authority. Any such violations shall be reported to DHHS by school personnel.

School districts retain responsibility for ensuring that all personnel providing services to students operate within the scope of their certification, licensure, and assigned professional responsibilities and all state statutes and federal laws on page one of this document. Districts must ensure that services are delivered in accordance with applicable legal requirements governing parental consent, confidentiality, procedural safeguards, and professional scope of practice. Failure of district personnel to comply with these requirements shall result in employment or disciplinary actions consistent with district policy and applicable law if found to be in violation.

Nothing in this document shall be construed to limit the rights of parents, students, employees, or other individuals to file complaints or seek remedies through administrative, regulatory, or judicial processes when violations of federal or state law are alleged.

As a condition of receiving funding from the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) for school mental health and behavioral health services, the undersigned superintendent certifies that the district will comply with all applicable federal and state laws, regulations, and professional standards governing the provision of educational and related student services.

If the NDE determines that a district is not in compliance with applicable requirements related to this program, the district shall be required to implement corrective actions within a specified timeframe. Failure to resolve identified noncompliance shall result in termination of funding for school mental and behavioral health services.

(Signed by superintendent)