

These minutes have not been approved by the Board

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
Board of Mental Health Practice
July 10, 2026

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Board of Mental Health Practice was called to order by Rebecca Czaja-Stevens, Chair, at 9:02 a.m. in the Lower Level Otoe Room, Nebraska State Office Building, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE. 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 June 26, 2026.

The following members answered roll call:

Members Present:

Sara Batter, Vice Chair
Rebecca Czaja-Stevens, Chair
Paul Davies, Secretary
Victor Gehrig
Renea Gernant
Yasmin Henderson
Adrian Martin
Susan Meyerle
Amanda Milander-Mace
Colton Nisley

Members Absent: (if applicable)

Tammy Erickson
Jennifer McNally

Staff and Others Present:

Maiya Baumann, Program Manager, Licensure Unit
Jessica Dean, Health Licensing Coordinator, Licensure Unit
Abigail Hoy Nissen, Assistant Attorney General
Milissa Johnson Wiles, Assistant Attorney General
Katherine Amyot, DHHS Legal
Ellie Rohr, DHHS Legal

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JUNE 6, 2026

MOTION: Martin moved, seconded by Batter, to approve the minutes with corrections. Voting yes: Batter, Czaja-Stevens, Davies, Henderson, Martin, Meyerle, and Milander-Mace. Abstained: Gehrig, Gernant, and Nisley. Absent: Erickson and McNally. Motion carried.

4. LIMHP/LMHP LICENSURE DISCUSSION – SUSAN REAY, EdD., LICSW

Susan Reay requested to appear before the board to discuss proposals for changing the licensure of mental health practitioners in Nebraska. Reay is the School Director and John E. Christensen Chair of Social Work at the Grace Abbott School of Social Work at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. She wanted to discuss the possibility of changing the structure of licensure for mental health practitioners in order to streamline the licensure process and bring Nebraska's mental health license types more in line with licensure in other states and jurisdictions, as well as making it easier for Nebraska to participate in licensure compacts.

Reay provided outlines for two different proposed options to change the current licensure model. The first option would be to eliminate the Licensed Mental Health Practitioner (LMHP) credential altogether in favor of issuing one type of mental health license, the Licensed Independent Mental Health Practitioner (LIMHP.) The other option would be to transition to a discipline-specific licensure model. Under this option, upon completing their education and supervised practice requirements, provisional mental health practitioners would apply for one of several discipline-specific licenses, including a Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor (LMHC) license, a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT), a Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW), and a Licensed Independent Social Worker (LISW). The Certified Social Worker (CSW) bachelor's level license currently in place would not be changed.

Amyot noted that for any change to licensure structure or scope of practice, the 407 Credentialing Review Process is required. Reay said that she will look into that process more in detail once the initial proposal is ready. Baumann noted that information on the Credentialing Review Program is available on the DHHS website:

<https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Credentialing-Review.aspx>. The page includes information, instructions, and relevant paperwork for initiating the 407 process.

MOTION: Meyerle moved, seconded by Gernant, for a report of all dually licensed LIMHP and LMHP licensees to be generated by Licensure Unit staff and included in the next board meeting agenda. Voting yes: Batter, Czaja-Stevens, Davies, Gehrig, Gernant, Henderson, Martin, Meyerle, Milander-Mace, and Nisley. Absent: Erickson and McNally. Motion carried.

5. CLOSED SESSION – CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

MOTION: Meyerle moved, seconded by Gernant, to enter into closed session at 10:02 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, Gehrig,

Gernant, Henderson, Martin, Meyerle, Milander-Mace, and Nisley. Absent: Erickson and McNally. Motion carried.

Break at 11:11 a.m.

Break at 12:57 p.m.

Henderson exited at 1:29 p.m.

Open session at 2:03 p.m.

Gehrig exited at 2:15 p.m.

6. APPLICATION REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Christine Perkumas, Independent Mental Health Practitioner

The application for Christine Perkumas was tabled for more information.

Andrew Ashby, Independent Mental Health Practitioner

The application for Andrew Ashby was tabled for more information.

Jessica Duda, Provisional Mental Health Practitioner

MOTION: Davies moved, seconded by Martin, to recommend approval of the application.

Voting yes: Batter, Czaja-Stevens, Davies, Gehrig, Gernant, Henderson, Martin, Meyerle, Milander-Mace, and Nisley. Absent: Erickson and McNally. Motion carried.

Jenna Kennedy, Reinstatement Following Revocation

MOTION: Gehrig moved, seconded by Davies, to recommend denial of the application due to insufficient evidence of a change in circumstances. Voting yes: Batter, Czaja-Stevens, Davies, Gehrig, Gernant, Henderson, Martin, Meyerle, Milander-Mace, and Nisley. Absent: Erickson and McNally. Motion carried.

Nathaniel Meegan, Preliminary Conviction Review (PLADC)

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

Nicholas Powers, Provisional Alcohol and Drug Counselor

MOTION: Gernant moved, seconded by Martin, to recommend approval of the application.

Voting yes: Batter, Czaja-Stevens, Davies, Gehrig, Gernant, Henderson, Martin, Meyerle, Milander-Mace, and Nisley. Absent: Erickson and McNally. Motion carried.

Austain Standley, Provisional Alcohol and Drug Counselor

The application for Austain Standley was tabled for more information.

Kendra Williams-Russell-EI, Alcohol and Drug Counselor Reinstatement

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

7. UPDATES

a. Legislation

Baumann noted that there were no recent updates to legislation; as noted at the last meeting, LB 912 passed, which added a requirement for domestic violence training for mental health practitioners. She noted that at the previous meeting, there was a discussion of the Chiles v. Salazer Supreme Court case, and that Licensure Unit staff will be distributing Amyot's written summary of the case and its effect on disciplinary actions in Nebraska to all board members via email.

b. Regulations

There were no updates.

c. Association and Committee Updates

Baumann noted that in the interest of saving time during meetings, Licensure Unit staff is considering including a written summary of association and committee updates in a newsletter format to be included with meeting agendas or possibly distributed separately to board members via email. In order for these updates to be included in the agenda for each meeting, they must be provided to Licensure Unit staff at least 24 hours prior to each meeting in order to allow time for the items to be posted to the website.

i. AASCB <https://aascb.org/>

Meyerle said that the next hangout meeting of AASCB is scheduled on Friday, July 24th, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. Their annual meeting is scheduled for February of 2027.

ii. Counseling Regulatory Boards Summit Meeting, June 2026

Susan Meyerle's written summary:

"Opening keynote, Dale Atkinson presenter:

- What authority does a supervisor have? How much authority should they have? If the supervisor doesn't sign the paperwork, they often get a new supervisor so what is supervision really doing?
- He recommends that the purpose of the board should be in statute and read at each board meeting.
- Reviewed Alameda v ASWB, 2026 which challenged the SW exam for discrimination. Also raises the question, "Is there a limit to the number of times someone can take an exam?" Each state sets that limit.

California's ED Steve Sodegren:

- How can we use technology to track supervision requirements? Is there a way to receive real time verification of compliance? ACES has Field X which also allows videos to be submitted within the portal for the supervision to review. Fifteen states use ACS credential through ACES.

PARC suggested we add association reports to our board agenda (ACA, NASW, AAMFT)

Keynote from Kevin Doyle:

- Why do we have the requirements we do? What is our rationale?
- Can we now limit supervision to LIPCs? Do we now have enough to limit the credentials of the supervisor?
- What are the requirements for group vs individual supervision hours? Why?

ACA Ethics Presentation:

- New Director of Ethics is Renee Evans. Self care and forensics/types of subpoenas have been added to Code of Ethics. Nearing final review.

Exam updates:

- NCE is now offered in Spanish. Work analysis for both exams ended last month (was begun in 2024). Scoring changes in July 2027 which will allow for incorporating the difficulty of the question.
- NCE now has 170 (was 200) questions with 40 unscored. There will now be only 3 responses for the test taker to choose from.
- NCMHCE now has 10 case studies, had 11 in previous version.
- Domain performance is provided.
- NOTE: July – October 2027, candidates will NOT receive their score immediately after testing. This allows the team time to ensure the grading operates as intended.

State updates:

- Minnesota social work credential has an alternative pathway to licensure that does not require a social work exam. Additional supervision is required to receive the SW credential.
- North Carolina requires a supervision contract be on file with the state before supervision begins and the supervisor submits a quarterly progress report. (consistent with other states) Mississippi has the most intense communication during the supervision process.
- Kentucky is moving to a checklist for supervision to track location site and supervisor as well as direct time and indirect time.
- Ohio has FAQs describing the differences between a work supervisor and a clinical supervisor.

- Arizona requires the supervisor to take/pass the jurisprudence **tutorial**, not an exam. The cost is \$25. The tutorial is 50 questions and they receive 3 CEUs for successful completion.

Questions for our Board:

- Can privileged providers serve as supervisors?
- Do we still complete an annual report? Who receives that?
- CACREP – are we currently allowing one graduate hour or three for each area?"

iii. AMFTRB <https://amftrb.org/>

Martin said that the annual conference is scheduled on September 14th, 2026 in Portland, OR.

MOTION: Meyerle moved, seconded by Batter, to approve funding for Martin to attend the annual AMFTRB conference. Voting yes: Batter, Czaja-Stevens, Davies, Gernant, Martin, McNally, Meyerle, Milander-Mace, and Nisley. Absent: Erickson, Gehrig, Henderson and McNally.

iv. ASWB <https://www.aswb.org/>

Batter said that she will be attending a Regulations and Standards committee meeting in New Mexico in August and will report back to the board.

Baumann said that the ASWB is making some changes to the licensing exam in August. If necessary, exam paperwork and information listed on the Licensure Unit website will be updated.

v. Licensing Compacts

1) Counseling Compact

Meyerle: "Pennsylvania is poised to become the 40th state to pass the Compact legislation. There are six states currently issuing credentials. As of 7/8/2026, 1839 privileges had been issued with nearly 600 of those being requested in the last month with the fifth and sixth states going live. More proposed rules are out for public comment. The Commission is still substantially funded through ACA and NBCC.

Nebraska could be considering beginning to allow LIPCs to complete the background check. This will be required to request a privilege to practice and only newly licensed LIPCs have completed this requirement.

The next virtual meeting of the Compact Commission is September 2nd. A meeting link will be received later."

Baumann noted that Licensure Unit has been conducting fingerprint background checks since 2023 and has internal records on which licensees have completed those checks if necessary.

2) Social Work Compact

Baumann said that there was a commission meeting on June 10th, 2026. The compact continues to work on implementation and the next meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2026.

vi. IC&RC <https://internationalcredentialing.org/>

Baumann provided a brief summary of the IC&RC and noted that the board delegate for Nebraska had been a former member of the Board of Alcohol and Drug Counselors, which has now been merged with the Board of Mental Health Practice. Baumann noted that the next IC&RC conference is scheduled for October 13th-16th, 2026, in Biloxi, MS. Nisley indicated that he might be interested in attending IC&RC meetings as a board delegate for Nebraska.

vii. Meyerle noted that the University of Nebraska-Omaha has begun accepting applications for a new program offering a degree in Rural Mental Health Counseling.

d. Licensure statistics (attached to agenda)

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:48 p.m..

Summarized by:
Jessica Dean, Licensure Unit