

**PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
July, 24, 2020**

**ROLL CALL**

The meeting of the Physician Assistant Committee was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Tamara Dolphens, PA-C, Chairperson in the Licensure Unit LU 1 Meeting Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor of the Nebraska State Office Building, located at 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska. The meeting was held by WebEx. The Agenda was sent to the Committee members and other interested parties and was posted on the bulletin board on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the NSOB prior to the meeting. The following members answered the initial roll call:

Tamara Dolphens, PA-C, Chairperson  
Kathleen Tonkin, PA-C, Vice-Chairperson  
Merle Henkenius, Secretary  
Corrigan McBride, MD  
John Massey, MD

Absent: None

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened. Present from the Department was Jesse Cushman, Program Manager and Jan Gadeken-Harris, Health Licensing Coordinator; Mindy Lester, Assistant Attorney General, Jeff Newman, Investigator with the Investigation Unit and Anna Harrison, Compliance Monitor, from Licensing and Investigations.

Dolphens announced that there is a copy of all the public documents being reviewed at this meeting available in the meeting room pursuant to the Open Meetings Act.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Tonkin moved, seconded by Massey, to adopt the agenda as presented. Voting aye: Dolphens, Henkenius, Massey, McBride and Tonkin. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Tonkin moved, seconded by McBride, to approve the meeting minutes of May 15, 2020 as written. Voting aye: Dolphens, Henkenius, Massey, McBride and Tonkin. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

**2020 LEGISLATION UPDATES**

The 106th Legislature, 2nd Session, is back in session as of July 20, 2020 following the break due to COVID-19

The following is a list of some of the legislative bills that are being followed by the Physician Assistant Committee:

LB772 - Change the scope of practice for physician assistants  
Current Status: Notice of hearing for January 24, 2020  
For recent updates and to learn more about LB772, please visit:  
<https://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/106/PDF/Intro/LB772.pdf>

LB922 - Require electronic issuance of prescriptions for controlled substances as prescribed  
Current Status: Notice of hearing for January 30, 2020.  
For recent updates and to learn more about LB922, please visit:  
<https://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/106/PDF/Intro/LB922.pdf>

## **REGULATIONS UPDATE**

At this time a Public Hearing has not been scheduled for Title 172 Chapter 90, proposed amendments to the Licensure and Supervision of Physician Assistants.

For updates on the schedule for Public Hearing Notices for Draft Regulations, please visit the Secretary of State website link listed below:

<https://www.nebraska.gov/nesos/rules-and-regs/regtrack/index.cgi>

## **INVESTIGATIONAL REPORTS – CLOSED SESSION**

Henkenius moved, seconded by Tonkin, to go into closed session at 2:05 p.m. for the purpose of review and discussion of investigative reports, licensure applications, and other confidential information, and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of the individuals. Voting aye: Dolphens, Henkenius, Massey, McBride and Tonkin. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Tonkin moved, seconded by Henkenius, to open the session at 2:36 p.m. Voting aye: Dolphens, Henkenius, Massey, McBride and Tonkin. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

## **APPLICATION(S) REVIEW – OPEN SESSION**

There were no applications for the Committee to review.

## **COVID-19 DISCUSSION**

The State of Nebraska, Governor's office has issued Executive Orders No.20-10 (EO), effective March 27, 2020 and EO No.20-27, effective June 17, 2020.

Visit the DHHS website to see listed updates regarding COVID-19, the EO's, frequently asked questions (FAQ's) related to the EO's and the FAQ's related to the Continuing Competency Waiver, the State's Directed Health Measures and County Directed Health Measures.

<http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

<http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/COVID-19-Directed-Health-Measures.aspx>

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business Tonkin moved, seconded by Massey to adjourn the meeting at 2:40 p.m. Voting aye: Dolphens, Henkenius, Massey, McBride and Tonkin. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

\*signature available upon request\*

Merle Henkenius, Secretary  
Physician Assistant Committee