

**PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
July 24, 2026**

ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Physician Assistant Committee was called to order at 2:07 p.m. by Peter Hunt, PA-C, Chairperson in the Husker Conference Room, of the Hampton Inn & Suites, located at 7343 Husker Circle, Lincoln, Nebraska 68504. The meeting was held In-Person and by WebEx. The following members answered the initial roll call:

Peter Hunt, PA-C, Chairperson
Bethany Berg, PA-C, Vice-Chairperson
Merle Henkenius, Secretary
Vacancy, MD, PA Supervisor Position

Absent: Rachel Blake, MD

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened. Present from the Department were Vonda Apking, Program Manager; Jan Gadeken-Harris, Health Licensing Coordinator; Abby Nissan, Assistant Attorney General; Ellie Rohr, Department Attorney; Veronica Briggs and Brittany Bigham, Investigators with the DHHS Investigation Unit and Tricia Allen, Program Manager with the Investigation Unit.

Hunt 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.

In accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411 of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, copies of the agenda were e-mailed to the Committee members and other interested parties, posted on the DHHS web site at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx> and posted on the Bulletin Board at the entrance to the Nebraska State Office Building on July 10, 2026.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Henkenius moved, seconded by Berg, to adopt the agenda as presented. Voting aye: Berg, Henkenius and Hunt. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Blake. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Henkenius moved, seconded by Berg, to approve the meeting minutes of May 29, 2026, as presented. Voting aye: Berg, Henkenius and Hunt. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Blake. Motion carried.

2026 LEGISLATION UPDATES

No updates were presented.

REGULATIONS UPDATE

No updates were presented.

INVESTIGATIONAL REPORTS – CLOSED SESSION

Henkenius moved, seconded by Berg, to go into closed session at 2:09 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: Berg, Henkenius and Hunt. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Blake. Motion carried.

THESE MINUTES HAVE NOT BEEN APPROVED BY THE PA COMMITTEE

The Committee Members returned to Open Session at 2:41 p.m.

APPLICATION(S) REVIEW – OPEN SESSION

There were no applications for review for this meeting.

PRACTICE QUESTION(S)

- A. Can a Physician Assistant sign a DNR or DNI order with a patient?

It is the opinion of the Committee that the Physician Assistant can sign, however the PA would want to check with the facility they are practicing with because the facility may have other policies that they follow.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments at this time.

COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

The next Physician Assistant Committee meeting is scheduled September 25, 2026 @ 2:00 p.m.

The projected schedule for 2026 is listed on the DHHS website:
<https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business Hunt, Chairperson, adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

signature available upon request

Merle Henkenius, Secretary
Physician Assistant Committee