

**PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
July 26, 2024**

ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Physician Assistant Committee was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Nicole Schwensow, 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:

Nicole Schwensow, PA-C, Chairperson
Tamara Dolphens, PA-C, Vice-Chairperson
Merle Henkenius, Secretary
Rachel Blake, MD
Corrigan McBride, MD via WebEx

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened. Present from the Department was Vonda Apking, Program Manager; T.J. O'Neil, Assistant Attorney General; Suzanna Glover-Etrich, Department Legal via WebEx and Mark Meyerson, Investigator with the Investigation Unit.

Schwensow 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 15, 2024.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Henkenius moved, seconded by Blake to approve the meeting minutes of May 31, 2024, as presented. Voting aye: Blake, Dolphens, Henkenius, McBride, and Schwensow. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

2024 LEGISLATION UPDATES

LB1215 - Adopt the Dietitian Licensure Compact and the Physician Assistant (PA) Licensure Compact, change provisions relating to prescriptions, death certificates, credentialing of barbers, nurses, pharmacies, pharmacy professionals, and certain health care facilities and services, treatment of individuals with communicable tuberculosis, and telehealth consultations, and provide for abstracts of death and coverage under the medical assistance program for certain breast pumps and lactation visits

Slip law: <https://nebraskalegislation.gov/FloorDocs/108/PDF/Slip/LB1215.pdf>

Introduced: January 16, 2024

Amended from LB1373 to LB1215: April 25, 2024

This legislative bill was enacted, and the Initial Compact meeting will be held in Washington, DC the end of September. Currently, Apking will be designated as the Compact Commissioner as they suggested that the Commissioner at this time be someone that is familiar with the State's rules and regulations.

REGULATIONS UPDATE

Apking has located the last draft of regulations that the Committee members reviewed and will bring them back for approval to the next Committee meeting.

INVESTIGATIONAL REPORTS – CLOSED SESSION

Dolphens moved, seconded by Blake to go into closed session at 2:04 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: Blake, Dolphens, Henkenius, McBride, and Schwensow. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

The committee members returned to Open Session at 2:42 p.m.

APPLICATION(S) REVIEW – OPEN SESSION

BARBER, JOSEPH, PA – Initial application for action in the state of Alabama. Dolphens moved, seconded by McBride, to recommend denying the physician assistant application of Joseph Barber. The basis for this denial is action in another state. Voting aye: Dolphens, Henkenius, McBride and Schwensow. Voting nay: None. Abstain: Blake. Absent: None. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments at this time.

COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

The next Physician Assistant Committee meeting is scheduled September 27, 2024 @ 2:00 p.m.

The projected schedule for 2024 is listed on the DHHS website:
<https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business Schwensow, Chairperson, adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

signature available upon request

Merle Henkenius, Secretary
Physician Assistant Committee