

**NEBRASKA BOARD OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**August 14, 2026**

**ROLL CALL**

The meeting of the Board of Medicine and Surgery was called to order by Chairperson, Wesley Zeger, DO, at 9:00 a.m. on August 14, 2026, at the Hampton Inn & Suites, 7343 Husker Circle, Lincoln, Nebraska 68504. The meeting was conducted In-Person and by WebEx. The following members answered the roll call:

Wesley Zeger, DO, Chairperson  
Mark Goodman, MD, Vice-Chairperson  
Jeffrey Howorth, Secretary  
Rachel Blake, MD  
Jodanne Hedrick, DO  
Brian Keegan, MD  
Adam Kuenning, JD, LLM

Absent: John Massey, MD – joined the Meeting @9:05 am

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

Also present to participate in the meeting: Vonda Apking, Program Manager and Jan Gadeken-Harris, Health Licensing Coordinator with the Licensure Unit; Mindy Lester, Assistant Attorney General; Randy Clark, Hayle Alvarado and Brittany Bigham Investigators with the Investigation Unit; Tricia Allen, Program Manager with the Investigation Unit; Ellie Rohr, DHHS Department Attorney and Jeanette Peterson, RN, BSN with Compliance Monitoring via WebEx.

Zeger 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 Board 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 July 31, 2026 and revisions posted August 11, 2026.

**REVIEW OF AGENDA**

Kuenning moved, seconded by Hedrick, to approve adoption of the agenda with the Chair having the authority to rearrange agenda items as needed. Voting aye: Blake, Goodman, Hedrick, Howorth, Keegan, Kuenning and Zeger. Voting nay: None. Absent: Massey. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

**ADOPTION OF THE APPLICATION(S) CONSENT AGENDA**

The following application(s) were pulled from the Consent Agenda.

Jang, Woohyuck, DO

Dr. Massey joined the meeting at 9:05 am

**LEGISLATION UPDATES**

Morgan Kristensen, JD, Vice President Advocacy & Regulation, In-house Counsel, Amy Reynoldson, Executive Vice President and Eric Sutton, JD, Director of Health Policy via WebEx all with the NMA (Nebraska Medical Association) were present to discuss and provide updates to the Board for the 109<sup>th</sup> Legislature.

CMS has posted the Medicare fee schedule for 2027. Public comments are due by September 14, 2026.

Morgan said that there are three major 407 Credentialing Reviews that the NMA is following:

- Athletic Trainers – the 407 application has not been filed to date.

There is a national initiative for athletic trainers to essentially act as a surgical first assistant in the operating room and to close the surgical site allowing the physician to go on to other procedures.

The NMA is waiting to review the application. There is some potential that the application language would include duties that Nebraska current Statute does not allow. Current Nebraska Statute for Surgical First Assistants states that closure of a surgical site needs the personal supervision of the physician in the operating room.

So that there is no confusion with the current Statute Vonda Apking, Program Manager stated that she would have the DHHS public website for Surgical First Assistant flagged with a notice to reiterate to Physicians, Surgical First Assistants and Hospitals of the requirement for the personal supervision by a physician during the performance of a surgical procedure as stated in the Statute. Vonda further stated that she and Department Legal Counsel, Ellie Rohr would draft a letter to be sent to the NMA and the Hospital Association clarifying the Statute to be distributed to their members.

<https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Surgical-First-Assistant.aspx#docaccess-ab6db8cff029471f549b84972078643d>

**38-3508. Personal supervision by a physician, defined.**

*Personal supervision by a physician means the physical attendance of a physician in the room during the performance of a surgical procedure.*

Source: Laws 2016, LB721, § 8.

**38-3511. Licensed surgical first assistant; activities authorized.**

*A licensed surgical first assistant may engage in the practice of surgical assisting, including, but not limited to, the following:*

- (1) *Assisting in the intraoperative care of a surgical patient;*
- (2) *Positioning the patient;*
- (3) *Preparing and draping the patient for the surgical procedure;*
- (4) *Providing visualization of the operative site;*
- (5) *Assisting with hemostasis;*
- (6) *Assisting with closure of body planes, including the following:*
  - (a) *Inserting running or interrupted subcutaneous sutures with absorbable or nonabsorbable material;*
  - (b) *Utilizing subcuticular closure technique with or without adhesive skin closure strips; and*
  - (c) *Closing skin with method indicated by surgeon, including, but not limited to, suture and staples;*
- (7) *Applying appropriate wound dressings;*
- (8) *Providing assistance in securing drainage systems to tissue;*
- (9) *Preparing specimens, such as grafts; and*
- (10) *Performing other tasks during a surgical procedure delegated by and under the personal supervision of a physician appropriate to the level of competence of the surgical first assistant.*

Source: Laws 2016, LB721, § 11.

- Certified Nurse Midwives – to see the letter of intent, the application and letters of support go to:  
[https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Credentialing-Review-\(407\)-Certified-Nurse-Midwives.aspx](https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Credentialing-Review-(407)-Certified-Nurse-Midwives.aspx)
- NE Breast Feeding Coalition – they are preparing to file the 407 application

Amy discussed the need in Nebraska for a Professional Health Program (PHP) that would encompass multiple credential holders not just physicians. The NMA is exploring funding to look forward to the development of a PHP for Nebraska.

## **REGULATIONS UPDATE**

LB 1212 - Provide for licensure of internationally trained physicians under the Uniform Credentialing Act and change provisions of the Engineers and Architects Regulation Act

To learn more, go to: <https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/109/PDF/Slip/LB1212.pdf>

With the passing of LB 1212, the Regulations have been opened for updates. Ellie Rohr, Department Legal and Vonda Apking, Program Manager are in the process of drafting proposed language to be presented to the Board for approval.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

Blake moved, seconded by Howorth to approve June 12, 2026, meeting minutes as written. Voting aye: Blake, Goodman, Hedrick, Kuenning, and Massey. Voting nay: None. Absent: None. Abstain: Keegan and Zeger. Motion carried.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments at this time of the meeting.

## **INVESTIGATIONAL REPORTS, DISCIPLINARY REPORTS, APPLICATION REVIEW – CLOSED SESSION**

Kuenning moved, seconded by Hedrick, to go to closed session at 9:38 a.m. for the purpose of review and discussion of investigative reports, disciplinary reports, licensure applications, and other confidential information, and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of the individuals. Voting aye: Blake, Goodman, Hedrick, Howorth, Keegan, Kuenning, Massey and Zeger. Voting nay: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

The Board members returned to Open Session at 11:42 a.m.

## **APPLICATION REVIEW – OPEN SESSION**

### **BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS ON APPLICATIONS FOR LICENSURE AND REGISTRATION**

Physician Initial Application(s) (1)

**JANG, WOOHYUCK, DO** – application for initial license to practice medicine and surgery. Hedrick moved, seconded by Kuenning to recommend denial of the license to practice medicine and surgery. Basis for the denial is previous probationary action during a post graduate educational program and breach of expected professional and ethical conduct.

## **EMAIL BALLOTS SINCE LAST MEETING**

There were no Email Ballots to present for this meeting.

## **DISCUSSION(S)**

- A. Battlefield Acupuncture techniques performed by licensed nurses at a Federal healthcare system.

The Board recognizes and supports licensures in the state of Nebraska that allow acupuncture and the Board understands that the VA is a Federal institution.

- B. APRN-Nurse Practitioner Authority regarding DNR Orders

The Board acknowledges receipt of this document.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments at this time of the meeting.

### **BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE**

The next meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2026, in the Husker Conference Room at the Hampton Inn & Suites. To see a complete list of the projected schedule for the 2026 schedule, visit the DHHS website:

<https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Zeger, Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

\*signature available upon request\*

Jeffrey Howorth, Secretary  
Board of Medicine and Surgery