

These minutes have not been approved by the Board

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF FUNERAL DIRECTING AND EMBALMING**
August 20, 2026

1. ROLL CALL

The Board of Funeral Directing and Embalming was called to order by the Chair, Steven Brunken, at 9:00 a.m., at the Nebraska State Office Building, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lower-Level Morrill Room, Lincoln, Nebraska. The meeting was conducted In-Person and by WebEx. The following members answered roll call.

Steven Brunken, Chairperson
James Conner, Secretary
Jamie Dolan

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened. Also present were: Sean Loving, Program Manager; Heather Ord, Health Licensing Coordinator; Tyler Walvoord, Department Legal; and T.J. O'Neill, Assistant Attorney General.

Brunken 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 in the Licensure Unit on May 14, 2026.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Conner moved, seconded by Dolan, to approve the agenda as presented. Voting aye: Brunken, Conner, and Dolan Voting nay: none. Abstain: none Absent: none Motion carried.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 28, 2026

Conner moved, seconded by Dolan, to approve the agenda as presented. Voting aye: Brunken, and Conner Voting nay: none. Abstain: Dolan Absent: none Motion carried.

4. INVESTIGATIONAL REPORTS & OTHER CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION – CLOSED SESSION

Conner moved, seconded by Dolan, to enter into closed session at 9:01 a.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: Brunken, Conner, and Dolan Voting nay: none. Abstain: none Absent: none Motion carried.

5. OPEN SESSION Application review and recommendations (initial licensure, reinstatement, convictions, administrative penalties, and mail ballot reports)

The board returned to Open Session at 9:50 a.m.

6. UPDATES AND REPORTS

a) Legislation:

No discussion at this time.

b) Nebraska Funeral Directing Association (NEFDA): <http://www.nefda.org->

Paul Seger raised strong concerns regarding self-inspections, arguing that the lack of in-person state inspections leaves the profession vulnerable to severe misconduct (mentioning issues observed in Colorado and Chicago). Because the inspector position was left vacant for several years and changed during Covid-19 executive orders, no dedicated inspector position currently exists at this time.

Walvoor mentions that reinstating inspections would require regulation changes. Pursuing a statutory/legislative change through a state senator is recommended as the most direct and effective path to mandate state inspections and force new regulatory rules and positions.

NeFDA will place the statute initiative on the agenda for their upcoming September 8th meeting and discuss it at district meetings to build member support alongside their lobbyist.

Paul Seger raised concerns regarding non-compliance with the 24-hour completion rule for medical portions of death certificates, as well as delays in transitioning fetal death records to an electronic system, which is currently delayed pending a new system rollout.

Loving and Walvoord explained the mandatory reporting requirements set out in NEB. REV. STAT. 38-1,125, which mandates that any credential holder with firsthand knowledge of unprofessional conduct or violations shall report the facts to the department within 30 days. Failure to report can put a licensee's own credentials at risk. While online complaints require a reporter's name to give investigators a starting point, complainant identities remain strictly confidential by statute.

c) International Conference of Funeral Service Examination Board (ICFSEB): <https://theconferenceonline.org/>

No discussion at this time

d) Reports: Disciplinary and Non-Disciplinary Actions; License Statistics; and Examinations:

No discussion at this time

7. MEETING SCHEDULE

The next regular meeting has not been scheduled at this time.

To see the list of meeting dates, agendas, and minutes, go to:
<https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

There are no public comments at this time.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting date will be August 20, 2026. There being no further business, the chair declared the meeting adjourned at 9:56 a.m.

Board of Funeral Directing and Embalming

Summarized by: Heather Ord, Health Licensing Coordinator, Licensure Unit