Board of Respiratory Care Practice
Meeting Minutes August 26, 2026,

1. ROLL CALL

Marcy Wyrens, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Board of Respiratory Care Practice to order at 9:04 a.m. on August 26, 2026, in the Otoe Conference Room at the Nebraska State Office Building located at 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska. 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 website at https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx, and posted in the Licensure Unit on August 10, 2026.

Wyrens announced that this is an open meeting, and the Open Meetings Act is posted.

Members Present: The following members answered roll call:

Marcy Wyrens, LRCP, RRT, Chairperson
Rene Botts, Vice-Chairperson
Rachel Shirk, Member
Maria Michaelis, MD Secretary at 9:12 am

Staff Present:

Amy Blinston, DHHS Program Manager
Kim Hitzel, DHHS Health Licensing Coordinator
Katherine Amyot, DHHS Staff Attorney
Tyler Walvoord, DHHS Staff Attorney
Abigail Hoy Nissen, Assistant Attorney General
Alexandria Belcher, DHHS Investigations
Randy Clark, DHHS Investigation
Tricia Allen, DHHS Investigations
Hayle Alvarado, DHHS Investigations

Member of the Public Present

Heather Nichols, NSRC heather.nichols@unmc.edu
Darcy O'Brien Genrich, NSRC DOBrien-Genrich@Nebraksamed.com

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION: Botts moved, seconded by Shirk, to adopt the agenda with the following changes Item 3 will now be item 6. Voting aye: Botts, Shirk, Wyrens. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

3. CLOSED SESSION

Bott moved, seconded by Shirk moved, to move into closed session at 9:04 am to hear discussions regarding confidential information and to protect the reputation of individuals named or referenced in such discussions. Voting aye: Botts, Wyrens, and Shirk. Voting nay, None. Motion Carried.

5. BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board returned to Open session at 9:31 am.

There were no recommendations.

6. REAFFIRMATION OF MAIL BALLOT

There were two mail ballots submitted to the Board.

1. The meeting minutes from the April 1, 2026, meeting. Voting to approve: Botts, Michaelis, Shirk, and Wyrens. Voting nay: none. Minutes approved April 16, 2026.
2. Review of the reinstatement application for Pamela Underhill. Voting to reinstate the unrestricted license for Pamela Underhill: Michaelis, Botts, Shirk, and Wyrens. Voting nay: none. License reinstated.

7. NSRC UPDATES

Nichols stated there are no updates on the compact. 13 states have enacted the legislation to join the compact.

8. RESPIRATORY CARE COMPACT

Amy Blinston stated that she completed and submitted the necessary paperwork to the Respiratory Compact on August 10, 2026, advising that she has been appointed as Respiratory Care Interstate Compact Commissioner for the State of Nebraska. The Compact map is included in meeting documents for informational purposes. The link for the website is www.nbrc.org.

9. REGULATION REVISION

The NBRC exam is changing, and the implementation will begin in January 2027. The new exam will be called the Respiratory Therapy Examination. It will be a single, multi-choice examination, and scores will determine if you have earned a CRT or RRT credential. This change will make it necessary to open the regulations to define the new changes and any change that may affect continuing education.

10. LICENSURE APPLICATION PROCESSING REPORT

The Lisensure Application Processing Report is a snapshot in time of licensure activity and was prepared for informational purposes only.

11. SCHEDULE MEETINGS FOR 2027

The Board scheduled the next meeting for December 16, 2026 at 9:00 am.
The Board meetings for 2027 will be:
January 27, 2027, June 30, 2027, and September 29, 2027 all 9:00 am.

12. TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING

Topics to be on the agenda for the next meeting include Compact Update, Public Comment, Regulation Review discussion, and Nebraska Society for Respiratory Care.

15. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

16. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:07 am.

Respectfully submitted,
(signature on file)

Maria Michaelis, Secretary