

Board of Respiratory Care Practice Minutes for August 27, 2025, Meeting

1. ROLL CALL

Marcy Wyrens, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Board of Respiratory Care Practice to order at 1:10 pm on August 27, 2025, in the Goldenrod 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 14, 2025.

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, Chair
Rene Botts, Vice-Chair
Dr. Maria Michaelis, Secretary
Jill Sand, Member

Staff Present:

Claire Covert-ByBee, DHHS Program Manager
Kim Hitzel, DHHS Health Licensing Coordinator
Katherine Amyot, DHHS Staff Attorney
Mark Meyerson, DHHS Investigations
Abigail Nissen, Assistant Attorney General
Tricia Allen, DHHS Investigations
Jen Wolf, DHHS IT

Member of the Public

Heather Nichols, Nebraska Society for Respiratory Care (NSRC) Heather.Nichols@unmc.edu

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION: Sand moved, seconded by Michaelis, to adopt the agenda. Voting aye: Wyrens, Michaelis, Sand, and Botts. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

3. REAFFIRMATION OF MAIL BALLOT

The following mail ballots were brought before the Board:

Approval of the March 6, 2025, Board meeting minutes. Voting to approve, Botts, Sand, Michaelis, and Wyrens. Voting nay, none. Minutes approved March 12, 2025.

Application for Tashameek Morgan. Voting to recommend approving the application: Michaelis, Botts, Sand, and Wyrens. Voting to recommend to not approve the application: none. Recommendation to approve application by mail ballot completed on March 13, 2025.

Application for Kyra Farewell. Voting to recommend approving the application: Botts, Michaelis, Sand, and Wyrens. Voting to recommend not approving the application, none. Recommendation to approve application by mail ballot completed on April 1, 2025.

4. SharePoint Partners- Jen Wolf

Jen Wolf from the DHHS I.T. Department gave a presentation to the Board on the new SharePoint Partners site. DHHS staff and Board Members will be using the new site to share documents for meetings. This will replace the current system of Citrix. The handbook was sent to Board members under a separate e-mail.

5. INVESTIGATIONAL & CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION/REPORTS – CLOSED SESSION

Purpose: To hear discussions regarding confidential information and to protect the reputation of individuals named or referenced in such discussions.

MOTION: Botts moved, seconded by Sand to move into closed session. Voting aye: Botts, Michaelis, Wyrens, and Sand. Voting nay, None. Motion Carried. Board went into closed session at 1:22 pm.

The Board returned to open session at 1:30 pm.

6. BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS ON APPLICATIONS – OPEN SESSION

The Board did not make any recommendations.

7. RESPIRATORY CARE COMPACT

Heather Nichols from the NSRC updated the Board about the Respiratory Care Compact. The model legislation of the Respiratory Care Interstate Compact has been finalized and is now available for state enactment. The model legislation can be found on the website <https://compacts.csg.org/compact-updates/respiratory-therapy-licensure-compact>.

8. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

LB 660 passed this year and that will require all state agencies to do a review of statutes and regulations every five years and submit a report to the Clerk of the Legislature.

9. LICENSURE APPLICATION PROCESSING REPORT

Covert-ByBee stated this report is for informational purposes to provide a snapshot of licensure statistics.

10. UPDATE OF NEW LICENSURE DATABASE

The new Licensure database My Licensure Office or MLO went live in late February. The update of the database went smoothly and the department looks forward to more modernization to the system in the future.

11. SCHEDULING MEETING DATES FOR 2026

The meeting dates for 2026 will be January 28, 2026, April 1, 2026, and August 26, 2026.

12. TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING

Respiratory Care Compact, Legislative Update, Voting for Officers, Notice of Meeting Publication, Licensure Application Processing Report, Per Diem Discussion, and Public Comment.

15. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

16. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signature on File with the Department)

Rene Botts, Vice Chair
Board of Respiratory Care Practice