

## Minutes of the September 6, 2023, Board of Registered Environmental Health Specialists Meeting

### **1. ROLL CALL**

Sarah Pistillo, Vice-Chairperson, called the meeting of the Board of Registered Environmental Health Specialists to order at 2:23p.m. on September 6, 2023, 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 23, 2023.

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

**Members Present:** The following members answered roll call:

Sarah Pistillo, Vice-Chairperson  
Nathan Hartman, Secretary  
Jeremy Collinson, Member  
Michael Wentink, Member

**Members Absent:**

Kathy King, Chairperson  
Larry Hardesty, Member

**Staff Present:**

Shanerika Fleming, DHHS Legal (via Webex)  
Claire Covert-ByBee, Program Manager  
Amy Blinston, Health Licensing Coordinator  
TJ O'Neill, Assistant Attorney General

### **2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Wentink moved, seconded by Collinson, to adopt the agenda. Voting aye: Collinson, Pistillo, Wentink, and Hartman. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

### **3. CLOSED SESSION**

The Board did not enter closed session.

### **4. BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS ON APPLICATIONS**

The Board did not make any recommendations.

## **5. FOOD INSPECTIONS**

The Board discussed food establishments and inspections. It was determined that the Nebraska Pure Food Act does not include nursing homes, health care organizations, schools, in the definition of a food establishment, and does not require inspections by Registered Environmental Health Specialists.

## **6. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Covert-ByBee advised that LB 262 had amendment 719 introduced, which stated: *(4) All inspections conducted pursuant to the act shall be performed by persons who (a) meet the requirements of section 8-402.10 of the Food Code and, within thirty-six months after being hired to conduct such inspections, pass a certified professional food safety credential examination approved by the department that meets the requirements of Option 2 of Standard 2, Trained Regulatory Staff, of the 2022 United States Food and Drug Administration's Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards or (b) are provisional environmental health specialists or registered environmental health specialists as defined in section 38-1305 or 38-1306.* This bill and amendment were carried over to the next legislative session.

## **7. SCHEDULE MEETINGS FOR 2024**

The Board scheduled meetings for January 17, and September 4, 2024.

## **8. UPDATE ON LICENSURE DATABASE**

Covert-ByBee advised that the Department secured a contract with System Automation to stabilize the current licensure database. The project kicked off on June 15, 2023, and is slated to be 100% operational by January 1, 2025. The stabilized database will be cloud-based instead of terminal-based, which will allow for great stability. The Department is simultaneously working on creating a request for proposal (RFP) to expand the online services for licensure.

## **9. APPLICATION PROCESSING REPORT (APR)**

Blinston stated that the application processing report was provided for informational purposes only.

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:13p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nathan Hartman, Secretary