

NEBRASKA BOARD OF NURSING

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

September 11, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Nebraska Board of Nursing was called to order by Theresa Delahoyde, Board President, at 8:30 a.m., September 11, 2025, at the Best Western Plus Conference Room, 2201 Wildcat Circle, Lincoln NE 68521. Copies of the agenda were emailed to the Board members and to interested parties on August 28, 2025, posted in the east entryway of the Nebraska State Office Building on August 28, 2025, and posted on the Department of Health & Human Services website on August 28, 2025. Delahoyde announced that a copy of the Open Meetings Act was available in the room.

ROLL CALL

The following board members were present and answered roll call:

- Theresa Delahoyde, RN, *Board President*
- Mary Guthrie, *Public Member*
- Kathy Harrison, RN
- Clay Jordan, RN
- Angela Kula, LPN, *Board Secretary*
- Kandis Lefler, LPN
- Patricia Motl, RN
- Eric Rogat, RN
- Kristin Ruiz, RN
- Jules Russ, *Public Member*
- Brenda Smidt, RN, *Board Vice-President*

No members were absent. One Board position was vacant.

The following staff members from the Department and the Attorney General's Office were present during all or part of the meeting:

- Ann Oertwich, RN, *Executive Director*
- Jacci Reznicek, RN, *Nursing Education Consultant*
- Sherri Joyner, *Health Licensing Coordinator*
- Anna Harrison, RN, *DHHS Compliance Monitor* (attended virtually)
- Marley Sandberg, *DHHS Legal*
- Mindy Lester, *Assistant Attorney General*
- Brittany Bigham, RN, *Investigator*
- Andrea Cramer, RN, *Investigator*
- Susan Held, RN, *Investigator*
- Patrica Lemke, *Investigator*
- Tricia Allen, *Investigations Program Manager*
- Alexandria Belcher, *Investigations Office Specialist*

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Motl made the motion, seconded by Rogat, to adopt the agenda for the August 7, 2025, Board of Nursing meeting.

Voting Yes: Delahoyde, Guthrie, Harrison, Jordan, Kula, Lefler, Motl, Rogat, Ruiz, Russ, and Smidt.

Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

These minutes were approved by the
Board of Nursing on October 9, 2025.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION: Ruiz made the motion, seconded by Smidt, to approve the consent agenda.

Voting Yes: Delahoyde, Guthrie, Harrison, Jordan, Kula, Lefler, Motl, Rogat, Ruiz, Russ, and Smidt.

Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: Kula made the motion, seconded by Lefler, for the Board to go into closed session for the purpose of reviewing and discussing investigative reports, licensure applications, and other confidential information, and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of the individuals.

Voting Yes: Delahoyde, Guthrie, Harrison, Jordan, Kula, Lefler, Motl, Rogat, Ruiz, Russ, and Smidt.

Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Delahoyde announced that the Board was in closed session for the purpose of reviewing and discussing investigative reports, licensure applications, and other confidential information, and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of the individuals.

8:35 a.m. Meeting went into closed session.
 8:36 a.m. Smidt left the meeting.
 8:39 a.m. Smidt returned to the meeting.
 8:58 a.m. Rogat left the meeting.
 9:02 a.m. Rogat returned to the meeting.
 9:08 a.m. Smidt left the meeting.
 9:19 a.m. Smidt returned to the meeting.
 9:35 a.m. Smidt left the meeting.
 9:38 a.m. Smidt returned to the meeting.
 9:43 a.m. Harrison left the meeting.
 9:51 a.m. Harrison returned to the meeting.
 9:51 a.m. Smidt left the meeting.
 9:54 a.m. Smidt returned to the meeting.
 9:54 a.m. Jordan left the meeting.
 9:58 a.m. Jordan returned to the meeting.
 10:02 a.m. Meeting went into recess.
 10:13 a.m. Meeting reconvened.
 10:44 a.m. Meeting returned to open session.

LICENSURE RECOMMENDATIONS**DAVID E. TORRES - LPN REINSTATEMENT**

MOTION: Lefler made the motion, seconded by Motl, to recommend issuing a temporary license to David Torres for the purpose of completing a Board-approved refresher program within 18 months, and following successful completion of the program, reinstating his LPN license without restrictions.

Voting Yes: Delahoyde, Guthrie, Harrison, Jordan, Kula, Lefler, Motl, Rogat, Ruiz, and Smidt. Voting No: Russ. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

BREAUNA WRIGHT – LPN REINSTATEMENT FROM DISCIPLINE

MOTION: Motl made the motion, seconded by Smidt, to recommend reinstating an unrestricted LPN license to Breauna Wright. The recommendation for reinstatement is based on applicant's completion of continuing education positive letters of reference.

Voting Yes: Delahoyde, Guthrie, Harrison, Jordan, Kula, Lefler, Motl, Rogat, Ruiz, Russ, and Smidt.
Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

NCSBN UPDATES

Members who attended the National Council of State Boards of Nursing's Annual Meeting reported on their experiences. Delahoyde found the meeting very informative and recommended that all members attend if feasible.

Rogat described the presentation on artificial intelligence (AI) as "eye opening," noting that AI will affect every aspect of life, and that not all of the ramifications are known. Some boards of nursing are already using the technology. Rogat said that NCSBN plans to use AI to analyze data and create reports. Delahoyde quoted the presenter as saying, "If you don't get on board with AI, you will be replaced."

Smidt reported that her workplace uses AI for compiling policies and data. Work that used to take hours can now be done in minutes. She noted, however, that the data still needs to be reviewed for accuracy, and that employees are only allowed to use a private AI system that was purchased by the employer. Delahoyde said that nurses who use ChatGPT and other public AI tools are at risk of unknowingly leaking confidential information. Oertwich suggested that the Board might try to hold a meeting at Nebraska Medicine in order to observe how extensively technology can be incorporated into healthcare settings.

Oertwich reported on an Annual Meeting presentation on APRN education. About one-half of states in the U.S. have oversight over APRN education. A proliferation in the number of online Nurse Practitioner (NP) programs in recent years has raised concerns that more oversight is needed. While CRNA programs generally require applicants to have a minimum of two years of critical care experience, there are now NP programs that will accept students with no clinical experience outside of what they received as part of their RN education. Students in online NP programs are often expected to find their own preceptors for clinical experiences, raising concerns about the qualifications of the preceptors.

Oertwich suggested that the Board may need to look more closely at certification requirements for NPs. For CRNAs and Certified Nurse Midwives, the national certification requirements are clear cut. For Nurse Practitioners, however, there is a wide assortment of national certifications available. It is not always clear what type of certification an NP should have to work in a particular setting. Oertwich said that in some situations, it would be advisable for an NP to have multiple certifications.

Reznicek reported that she was surprised to learn at the Annual Meeting that the NCSBN's *Journal of Nursing Regulation* was recently ranked as the second most cited journal out of 192 nursing journals. She also reported on recent NCLEX statistics. There was an almost 12% drop in the number of candidates taking NCLEX-RN in 2024 compared to the number who tested in 2023. The average time it took a candidate in 2024 to take NCLEX was 2.6 hours. 75% of candidates took a break during the test.

During the Annual Meeting's award ceremony, Reznicek received the Exceptional Contribution Award for her work as the Education Consultant for the Nebraska Board of Nursing. Oertwich said that Reznicek has done a wonderful job using NCSBN resources to support the quality of Nebraska's nursing education programs.

PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Oertwich and Motl reported that the Practice Committee is considering drafting Advisory Opinions on caring for family members and on LPNs and IV therapy. On the latter topic, Oertwich noted that there was still a lot of misunderstanding on what LPNs can and cannot do.

JOINT BOARD COMMITTEE ON MEDICAL SPAS

Oertwich reported that the Joint Board Committee on Medical Spas will meet on September 12th. Most of the committee's active participants are from nursing and pharmacy fields. The Committee has gathered information relevant to the use of IV therapy in medical spas from a variety of sources including NCSBN, the Federation of State Medical Board (FSMB), and other state boards. Oertwich said that given how frequently pharmaceutical regulations are misinterpreted, the Committee will try to be very clear on what constitutes compounding. After the Committee issues its statement on IV therapy, it may also study other treatments commonly provided by medical spas such as hormone treatments and laser hair removal.

Motl noted that physicians are allowed to compound as part of their practice, but they cannot delegate the task to a non-physician. Delahoyde said that confusion on the topic is exacerbated when people work in settings where compounding is regularly performed by non-physicians.

NEBRASKA CENTER FOR NURSING

Oertwich reported that the Nebraska Center for Nursing (NCN) Board still exists but currently has no members. All its members have termed out, and new appointments have not been made to fill the vacancies. The bylaws for the Center's Foundation, however, allows its board members to continue to serve until they resign from the Foundation. Foundation members are working on organizing a letter writing campaign to encourage the Governor to appoint new members to the NCN Board. Harrison, noting how much the Center grew during her years on the NCN Board, said that the Governor might not be aware of the importance of its work.

Oertwich reported that the 2024 Workforce Report has just been posted to the NCN website. She also reported that an agreement may soon be reached for a new company to manage the website.

CHAPTER 97

Reznicek reported that final approval of the revised Regulations for Basic Nursing Program in Nebraska is still pending.

TRANSFER OF APRN BOARD DUTIES TO BOARD OF NURSING

Effective July 1, 2026, the duties of the APRN Board will be transferred to the Board of Nursing. At that time, three new APRN positions will be added to the Board of Nursing (in addition to the already existing APRN position, which is currently vacant). An additional public member position will also be created. Oertwich reported that the Board of Health is expected to interview candidates for the current APRN vacancy on August 14th. Interviews and selections for the new positions will be conducted in 2026. To prepare for the transition, Oertwich encouraged Board of Nursing members to learn more about the four APRN roles and to think about how to orient the new members.

LPN 2025 RENEWALS

Reznicek reported that 809 LPNs have renewed their licenses so far. Joyner thought that number was fairly typical for this point in the LPN renewal cycle. Negative feedback regarding the new e-Notify enrollment requirement has been minimal. When nurses enroll in e-Notify, they will see a map of all the states where they can practice. Joyner noted that the enrollment process seems to have raised awareness about the Nurse Licensure Compact.

2026 MEETING SCHEDULE

The Board's 2026 meetings will be held on the Board's traditional meeting date of the second Thursday of each month. The meeting dates for 2026 are January 8th, February 12th, March 12th, April 9th, May 14th, June 11th, July 9th, August 13th, September 10th, October 8th, November 12th, and December 10th.

COMMUNICATION

Nursing News – The most recent edition of *Nursing News* included instructions for enrolling in eNotify. Oertwich said that she has heard from several nurses who found the instructions helpful. Hard copies of the newsletter were mailed to all Nebraska-licensed nurses in early August. Oertwich said that she is working with the Department to ensure that up-to-date email lists of all Nebraska-licensed nurses will be available for future electronic distributions of the newsletter.

Staff Updates – Oertwich reported that a potential hire has been identified for the Practice Consultant position that was recently vacated by Ginger Rogers. The hiring process might be completed within a week.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The floor was opened to comments from the public. No comments were received.

CONCLUSION

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sherri Joyner
Health Licensing Coordinator