

**NEBRASKA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**  
**MINUTES – September 16, 2024**

**ATTENDANCE NOTIFICATION.** David Reese, Board of Health Chair, called a regular meeting of the State Board of Health to order at 1:03 PM on September 16, 2024, in the Goldenrod Conference Room in the Lower Level of the Nebraska State Office Building in Lincoln. Copies of the agenda were mailed electronically to board members and other interested parties prior to the meeting and posted on the Health and Human Services website and bulletin board. The following members were present: J. Paul Cook, MD; Heather Cramer, RN; Russell Crotty, OD; Jaime Dodge, MD; Diane Jackson, APRN; Brett Lindau, DO; Connie Petersen, PhD; David Reese, MHA; Doug Vander Broek, DC. Quorum was met.

Staff and others in attendance: Monica Gissler Webb, Caryn Vincent, Maggie Mills  
Board members not in attendance: Daniel Rosenthal, PE; Dan Vehle; Jeffrey Wienke, Jr, DPM

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES.** Mr. Reese asked if there were any changes to the agenda for the meeting today. Dr. Cook made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Ms. Jackson; voting yes: 9 (Cook, Cramer, Crotty, Dodge, Jackson, Petersen, Reese, Vander Broek); voting no: 0; not voting: 0. Motion carried. Ms. Jackson made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 10, 2024 regular meeting, seconded by Dr. Cook; voting yes: 9 (Cook, Cramer, Crotty, Dodge, Jackson, Petersen, Reese, Vander Broek); voting no: 0; not voting: 0. Motion carried.

**UPDATES, REPORTS**

Dr. Tim Tesmer, Chief Medical Officer, Division of Public Health reported on behalf of Director Menefee.

- Sometime in October DHHS will go live with their upgraded Respiratory Dashboard showing statistics for influenza, RSV, and Covid. It will be easier to navigate and have more relevant information for both the public and providers.
- The Vitals Dashboard is planned to go live September 23, 2024. Wideranging review of birth data from 2005 forward. It will be updated on a weekly basis.
- Dental Healthcare Workforce – they are meeting with the Deans of two dental schools. There is a subcommittee about changing statutes relevant to the dental practicing licensing exam. The goal is to not lose dentists leaving the state due to the exam.
- H5N1 Avian Flu cases: 202 dairy cow herds in 14 states. 14 confirmed cases in humans, mainly from poultry farm workers.
- Mr. Reese asked what the forecast is for this flu season. Dr. Tessmer said it is ok to get the flu vaccine at the same time as the new Covid vaccine.
- The search for a new State Epidemiologist is still underway.

Licensure Unit – Lindsay Braddock, Unit Administrator, reported on the licensing system and gave updates on implementation of legislative bills affecting the Licensure Unit.

- Their staffing level is nearly full.
- RN renewal post cards are delayed 2 weeks in the printshop but will go out soon.
- Behavior Analysts has just started licensing with emergency regulations, 172 NAC 86.

Board of Health Chair – Mr. Reese reported the following:

1. Asked if anyone attended any professional board meetings, and reminded members of the importance of letting Monica know in advance when they plan to attend a meeting. staff, and then to the full Board as the Board of Health liaison. This applies to both in-person and WebEx meetings.
2. Mark Patefield, PharmD, has resigned from the Board of Health and Mike Kotopka, DDS, finished his term on August 1<sup>st</sup> and won't be attending any more meetings. We currently have 12 members serving on the Board of Health so attendance is crucial.
3. At our November meeting the annual reports will be presented so please work with your assigned DHHS staff for that. Also in November we will elect our leadership for 2025. Let Monica know if you would like your name added to the ballot.
4. Maggie Mills is a new staff person who will be working with the Credentialing Review Program. Caryn Vincent introduced her and explained that Maggie will staff the Credentialing Review Program and highlighted some of their goals with this program.
5. Congratulations to DHHS Division of Public Health on their Reaccreditation. Caryn Vincent explained the multi-year process through PHAB, the Public Health Accreditation Board.

**Credentialing Review** – Dr. Vander Broek, Committee Vice Chair, presented.

<https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Credentialing-Review.aspx>

DHHS has received the intent to submit an application for a credentialing review for Occupational Therapy to update the state statutes to be more in line with the OT model practice act approved by their national organization in 2022; dry needling; and promoting the use of the OT Assistant. The Committee is recommending the following members be presented to the Director of Public Health to serve on the Technical Review Committee:

- Jeffrey Howorth
- Jennifer Dreibelbis
- Sue Eells
- David Deemer, NHA
- Ryan Flugge, PharmD
- Marcy Wyrens, RRT
- Allison Dering-Anderson, PharmD - alternate
- Deborah Hoffnung - alternate

The Board of Health member chairing this committee will be Dr. Connie Petersen.

Voting yes to recommend the above applicants to serve on the Occupational Therapy Technical Review Committee and for Dr. Petersen to serve as Chair: 9 (Cook, Cramer, Crotty, Dodge, Jackson, Lindau, Petersen, Reese, Vander Broek); voting no: 0; not voting: 0. Motion carried.

In November we will recommend Technical Review Committee members and leadership for the Nurse Practitioner review.

Board of Health representative for Senator Hansen's interim study.

Dr. Vander Broek made a committee motion to approve Dr. Russell Crotty to speak on behalf of the Nebraska State Board of Health regarding the recommendations previously approved by the Board, at the interim study regarding the Credentialing Review process, to be held on September 25, 2024, or any subsequent meetings.

Dr. Crotty asked if there is any follow-up on the Subcommittee on the Credentialing Review Process. Caryn Vincent explained what the Division is doing in these efforts, such as hiring new staff, updating procedure manuals, and increasing transparency.

**Rules and Regulations Committee** – Dr. Dodge, Committee Chair, reported.

<https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/DHHS-Regulations.aspx>

Title 175 NAC 1 – General Facility and Services Regulations. The proposed changes remove the definition of Palliative Care as the definition can be found in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-424.04; update other safety measures; correct typographical errors; and renumber the regulatory chapter.

Voting yes: 9 (Cook, Cramer, Crotty, Dodge, Jackson, Lindau, Petersen, Reese, Vander Broek); voting no: 0; not voting: 0. Motion carried.

At the morning Committee meeting members were informed about regulations changes which will be required from the 2023-24 Legislative session.

**Professional Boards Committee.** Dr. Crotty, Committee Chair, reported. They reviewed 46 applications and conducted 28 interviews on Sunday and recommend the following appointments. An asterisk indicates an incumbent.

*Board of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses*

Indra Sukhram, DNP, EJD, APRN-NP, from Lincoln

*Board of Alcohol and Drug Counseling*

\* Terry Duffy, ADC, from Norfolk

*Board of Athletic Training*

Jennifer Krueger, MA, LAT, ATC, from Lincoln

*Board of Audiology and Speech Language Pathology*

\* Michelle Leenerts, AuD, from Papillion

\* Samantha Penas, MS, CCC-SLP, from Waverly

*Board of Chiropractic*

\* Scott Misek, DC, from Omaha

\* Dave Henske, from Lincoln, as Public Member

*Board of Cosmetology*

- \* Harold "Buddy" Sims, from Omaha

*Board of Funeral Directing and Embalming*

- James Conner, FDE, from North Platte

*Board of Medical Radiography*

- \* Brandon Holt, from Kearney

*Board of Medicine and Surgery*

- \* Brian Keegan, MD. From Neligh
- \* Adam Kuenning, JD, LLM, from Omaha, reappointed as Public member

*Board of Mental Health Practice*

- Tammy Erickson, MS, LIMHP, LMFT, from Palmer
- \* Scott Stocking, MDiv, BA, from Omaha, reappointed as Public Member

*Board of Nursing*

- \* Kathy Harrison EdD, MSN, RN, from North Platte
- \* Eric Rogat, RN, from Battle Creek
- \* Kristin Ruiz, EdD, MN, RN, from Beatrice

*Board of Nursing Home Administration*

- \* Shannon Buckminster, LNHA, CALA, from Nebraska City
- \* David Deemer, NHA, from Oakland
- \* Theresa Parker, MAM, MA, NHA, FACHA, CSW, from Lincoln

*Board of Optometry*

- Christopher Wolfe, OD, FAAO, from Omaha

*Board of Physical Therapy*

- \* Kimberly Oliphant, PT, from Kearney

*Physician Assistants Committee*

- \* Merle Henkenius, from Lincoln, Reappointed as Public Member

*Board of Podiatry*

- \* Elizabeth Bailey, from Seward, Reappointed as Public Member

*Board of Psychology*

- \* Jennifer Dreibelbis, MPA, from Omaha, reappointed as Public Member
- \* Tomeka Johnson, from Omaha, reappointed as Public Member

*Board of Registered Environmental Health Specialists*

- \* Jeremy Collinson, REHS, from Grand Island
- Tomeka Johnson, from Omaha, appointed as Public Member

*Board of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery*

- \* Christopher Byars, DVM, from Omaha

Dr. Crotty made a committee motion to approve the proposed professional board appointments, with a second by Ms. Cramer. Voting yes: 9 (Cook, Cramer, Crotty, Dodge, Jackson, Lindau, Petersen, Reese, Vander Broek); voting no: 0; not voting: 0. Motion carried.

We are still seeking applicants for a few professional member positions.

<https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Board-Requirements-and-Vacancies.aspx>

Dr. Crotty revisited the LB 390 issue that Dr. Vandervort brought before the Board of Health in June, and shared recommendations from the Board of Optometry to amend NRS 38-129.02. Dr. Crotty will draft a letter from the Board of Health to DHHS Legal, Director Menefee, and to the Attorney General, and share it with the Board officers for review and discussion prior to the November 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. Dr. Cook made a motion to approve Dr. Crotty leading the efforts for this, with a second by Dr. Dodge. Voting yes: 9 (Cook, Cramer, Crotty, Dodge, Jackson, Lindau, Petersen, Reese, Vander Broek); voting no: 0; not voting: 0. Motion carried.

**Public Health, Education and Legislation** – Dr. Cook, Committee Chair, reported. In the morning committee meeting they reviewed the status of implementation for the legislative bills passed this session and affecting DHHS Division of Public Health. The Public Health Recognition Program has been dormant and there will be a committee discussion about resurrecting it.

**Approval of Committee Reports.** Mr. Reese asked for a motion to approval all committee reports. Ms. Cramer made a committee motion to approve them, with a second by Dr. Crotty. Voting yes: 9 (Cook, Crotty, Cramer, Dodge, Jackson, Lindau, Petersen, Reese, Vander Broek); voting no: 0; not voting: 0. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS.** None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS.** None.

**NEW BUSINESS.**

- Set Board of Health meeting dates for 2025.  
January 27  
March 17  
June 16  
September 15  
November 17

**TOPICS AND PREPARATION FOR NEXT MEETING.** The next regular Board of Health meeting will be Monday, November 18, 2024. Location will be Goldenrod conference room, Lower Level of the State Office Building, in Lincoln.

**ADJOURN.** There being no further business, Dr. Crotty made a motion to adjourn, with a second by Ms. Jackson; all in favor by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 2:53 PM. Minutes were taken by Monica Webb and were approved by the State Board of Health on November 18, 2024.

**NOTE:** If you would like to receive these minutes electronically, please send an email request to [monica.gissler@nebraska.gov](mailto:monica.gissler@nebraska.gov)

*If you would like any attachments mentioned in these minutes, or have other questions, please contact Monica Webb, 402/471-2948, or email at: [monica.gissler@nebraska.gov](mailto:monica.gissler@nebraska.gov).  
Board of Health: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Board-of-Health.aspx>*

11/18/24, mcg