

## Minutes of the September 17, 2024, 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 1:19 p.m. on September 17, 2024, 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, 2024.

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, Chair

Nathan Hartman, Secretary

Jeremy Collinson, Vice-Chair

Larry Hardesty, Member

**Members Absent:**

Michael Wentink, Member

**Staff Present:**

Kim Hitzel, Health Licensing Coordinator

Ann Oertwich, Program Manager

Danielle Sund, DHHS Legal

Jeanne Burke, Assistant Attorney General

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

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

### **3. REAFFIRMATION OF MAIL BALLOT**

Hitzel indicated there had been one mail ballot since the last the Board meeting held January 17, 2024.

Approval of the January 17, 2024 Board meeting minutes. Voting to approve, Collinson, Hardesty, Pistillo, and Hartman. Minutes approved January 25, 2024.

### **4. CLOSED SESSION**

The Board did not move into Closed Session.

## **5. BOARD RECOMENDATIONS ON APPLICATIONS**

There were no recommendations made by the Board.

## **6. STAKEHOLDERS COMMUNICATION**

There were no updates at this meeting.

## **7. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

The LB16 bill passed this year. One section of the law impacts the convictions that may be considered if the Board wishes to disqualify (deny) an applicant an initial license based on convictions. It essentially defines “disqualifying convictions”. This does not impact the Board’s ability to consider all convictions in matters where a license is issued with probation or limitations. Only denials.

LB 262 passed and was signed into law July 21, 2024. This bill contained language that provides an alternative to being credentialed as a Registered Environmental Health Specialists or a Provisional Environmental Health Specialist.

## **8. LICENSURE DATABASE UPDATE**

Hitzel stated all tasks are on time and the new database should be operational by the end of 2024 or early 2025.

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

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

## **10. 2025 MEETING DATES**

After discussion the Board decided to meet one time next year, in person. That meeting will be held September 16, 2025 at 1 pm. The Board did agree there may be a need for another meeting depending on an proposed legislation or other important topics and they would be open to scheduling one in that event. A discusson was also held to try to find new Board Members as several members have recently left the Board. Hardesty indicated this was his last term and all members thanked him for his service to the Board.

## **11. TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Topics identified for the next meeting include Legislative Update, License Application Processing Report, Licensure Database Update, Stakeholder Communication, Election of Officers, Notice of Publication, Meeting dates for 2026, and Public Comment.

**12. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no Public Comment.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned 1:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nathan Hartman, Secretary