

**PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
September 29, 2023**

**ROLL CALL**

The meeting of the Physician Assistant Committee was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Nicole Schwensow, PA-C, Chairperson in the Husker Conference Room, of the Hampton Inn & Suites, located at 7343 Husker Circle, Lincoln, Nebraska 68504. The meeting was held In-Person and by WebEx. The following members answered the initial roll call:

Nicole Schwensow, PA-C, Chairperson via WebEx  
Tamara Dolphens, PA-C, Vice-Chairperson  
Merle Henkenius, Secretary  
Corrigan McBride, MD via WebEx  
Rachel Blake, MD

Absent: None

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened. Present from the Department was Vonda Apking, Interim Program Manager and Jan Gadeken-Harris, Health Licensing Coordinator; Mindy Lester, Assistant Attorney General; Abigail Nissen, Assistant Attorney General; Suzanna Glover-Ettrich, Department Attorney, via WebEx; Kathleen Krueger, Investigator with the Investigation Unit and Anna Harrison, Compliance Monitor, with the DHHS Licensing and Investigations by WebEx

Schwensow announced that there is a copy of all the public documents being reviewed at this meeting available in the meeting room pursuant to the Open Meetings Act.

In accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411 of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, copies of the agenda were e-mailed to the Committee members and other interested parties, posted on the DHHS web site at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>, and posted in the Licensure Unit on September 14, 2023 and revision posted on September 18, 2023.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

McBride moved, seconded by Dolphens, to adopt the agenda as presented. Voting aye: Blake, Dolphens, Henkenius, McBride and Schwensow. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Blake moved, seconded by Henkenius to approve the meeting minutes of July 14, 2023, as corrected after the following edits have been made:

Page 2 under PRACTICE QUESTION(S); line 3 insert “procedure for the” before the word “administration”; delete the words “can be limited through” and replace with “is to be determined by”; and line 4 insert “with the physician” before the words “or the facility”

After the corrections it now states:

*It is the opinion of the PA Committee that the procedure for the administration of minimal sedation is to be determined by the collaborative agreement with the physician or the facility policies or credentialing.*

Voting aye: Blake, Dolphens, Henkenius, McBride and Schwensow. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

## **2023 LEGISLATION UPDATES**

Tami Dolphens mentioned that she attended the Hearing for LR233, the Interim study to examine the plausibility of the State of Nebraska joining the Physician Assistant Licensure Compact. It is an interim study only and it is not legislation as of this date. The Committee questions were mainly concerning procedures and what oversight changes there may be and associated costs.

To learn more, go to: <https://fastdemocracy.com/bill-search/ne/108/bills/NEB00011679/>

## **REGULATIONS UPDATE**

There were no updates for discussion currently.

## **INVESTIGATIONAL REPORTS – CLOSED SESSION**

Dolphens moved, seconded by Blake to go into closed session at 2:04 p.m. for the purpose of review and discussion of investigative reports, licensure applications, and other confidential information, and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of the individuals. Voting aye: Blake, Dolphens, Henkenius, McBride and Schwensow. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

The committee members returned to Open Session at 2:22 p.m.

## **APPLICATION(S) REVIEW – OPEN SESSION**

VONDERFECHT, SCOTT, MD - application requesting supervision for two (2) additional physician assistants. Dolphens moved, seconded by McBride, to recommend denial of the request to supervise two (2) additional physician assistants. Basis was insufficient evidence to support the waiver request. Voting aye: Dolphens, Henkenius, McBride and Schwensow. Voting nay: None. Abstain: Blake. Absent: None. Motion carried.

## **EMAIL BALLOT(S) SINCE LAST MEETING**

There was an Email Ballot from May 2, 2023, for Vonderfecht, Scott, MD requesting a waiver for the PA supervision requirement. The vote was to bring the request to the next meeting for discussion.

## **COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE**

The next Physician Assistant Committee meeting is scheduled November 17, 2023 @ 2:00 p.m.

The remaining schedule for 2023 and the projected schedule for 2024 is listed on the DHHS website: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business Schwensow, Chairperson, adjourned the meeting at 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

\*signature available upon request\*

Merle Henkenius, Secretary  
Physician Assistant Committee