



DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES **NOTICE OF MEETING and AGENDA**
BOARD OF MENTAL HEALTH
PRACTICE

Jim Pillen, Governor

This meeting will be held in person. The public is welcome to attend any Open Session discussion in the Nebraska State Office Building, Lower Level, Otoe Room. This meeting will also be available to the public by Microsoft Teams using this link:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/285731742008221?p=AUQgXnEYMD3BSW7YAD>

Meeting ID: 285 731 742 008 221

Passcode: Jx6Fz7zP

Call-in information: 1-402-257-5560; Phone Conference ID #: 897 363 998#

PLEASE NOTE: members of the public who wish to join via Microsoft Teams will need to wait in the lobby while the meeting is in closed session. We recommend that you wait in the lobby until the closed session portion of the meeting has ended and the meeting has been unlocked by the host.

AGENDA		Posted: 10/23/2026
<u>Date:</u>	1. ROLL CALL AND CALL MEETING TO ORDER	<u>Announcement:</u> There is a current copy of the Open Meetings Act posted on the door to the meeting room and available at the link listed below.
Friday, November 6, 2026 9:00 a.m.	2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA	
<u>Location:</u>	3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 2, 2026	
301 Centennial Mall S Nebraska State Office Building Lincoln, NE 68508	4. Board Hearing – Lisa White (approx. 9:15 a.m.)	
<u>For Information Contact:</u>	5. Hearing Review – CLOSED SESSION	
Jessica Dean 402-471-4918 Jessica.Dean@nebraska.gov	6. Hearing Review – OPEN SESSION	
	7. CLOSED SESSION (approx. 11:15 a.m.): Investigative Reports and Confidential Information <u>Purpose:</u> to hear discussions of an investigative and confidential nature, and for the prevention of needless injury to individual reputations.	
	8. OPEN SESSION: (approx. 12:30 p.m.): Review, Recommendations, and Applications	
	9. UPDATES, NEW BUSINESS, AND REPORTS:	
	- Legislation (if applicable) - Regulations (if applicable) - Association and Committee Updates - American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB) https://aascb.org/ - American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy Boards (AMFTRB) https://amftrb.org/ - Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) https://www.aswb.org/ - International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC) https://internationalcredentialing.org/	
	- Licensing Compacts - Social Work Compact - Counseling Compact	
	- Art Therapy Implementation - Email Ballots (if applicable) - Reports: disciplinary and non-disciplinary actions, licensure statistics, examination pass/fail report (included with agenda)	
	10. PUBLIC COMMENT (if applicable)	
	11. ADJOURN (approx. 3 p.m.)	

Nebraska Open Meetings Act: 84-1407 through 84-1414 <https://ago.nebraska.gov/open-meetings>

All items known at the time of distribution of this agenda are listed. A current agenda is available at the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, Licensure Unit and at the following website: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx> If auxiliary aids or reasonable accommodations are needed for attendance at a meeting, please call Jessica Dean at (402) 471-4918 (voice), or for persons with hearing impairments, please call the Nebraska Relay System, 711 TDD, prior to the meeting date. Advance notice of seven days is needed when requesting an interpreter.

2026 Meeting Dates

1/16/26
3/6/26
5/1/26
6/5/26
7/10/26

(cont'd)

8/14/26
10/2/26
11/6/26
11/4/26

Agenda Item 3

These minutes have not been approved by the Board

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
Board of Mental Health Practice
October 2, 2026

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Board of Mental Health Practice was called to order by Rebecca Czaja-Stevens, Chair, at 9:01 a.m. in the Lower Level Otoe Room, Nebraska State Office Building, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE. In accordance with §84-1411 of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, copies of the agenda were 1) emailed to the Board members and other interested parties, 2) posted on the DHHS web site at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>, and 3) posted on the bulletin board in the Nebraska State Office Building Lobby on September 25, 2026.

The following members answered roll call:

Members Present:

Sara Batter, Vice Chair
Rebecca Czaja-Stevens, Chair
Tammy Erickson
Victor Gehrig
Renea Gernant
Yasmin Henderson
Adrian Martin
Jen McNally
Susan Meyerle
Colton Nisley

Members Absent:

Paul Davies, Secretary
Amanda Milander-Mace

Staff and Others Present:

Maiya Baumann, Program Manager, Licensure Unit
Jessica Dean, Health Licensing Coordinator, Licensure Unit
Mindy Lester, Assistant Attorney General
Ellie Rohr, DHHS Department Legal
Ashley Hunter, LIMHP/PCMSW
Sara Baker, LIMHP/CMSW/LADC

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION: Gehrig moved, seconded by Batter, to adopt the agenda for the meeting. Voting yes: Batter, Czaja-Stevens, Erickson, Gehrig, Gernant, Henderson, Martin, McNally, Meyerle, and Nisley. Absent: Davies and Milander-Mace. Motion carried.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – AUGUST 14, 2026

MOTION: Gehrig moved, seconded by Martin, to approve the minutes for the meeting on August 14, 2026. Voting yes: Batter, Czaja-Stevens, Erickson, Gehrig, Gernant, Henderson, Martin, McNally, Meyerle, and Nisley. Absent: Davies and Milander-Mace. Motion carried.

4. CLOSED SESSION – CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

MOTION: Meyerle moved, seconded by Gernant, to enter into closed session at 9:04 a.m. to hear discussions of a confidential nature, and for the prevention of needless injury to individual reputations. A voice vote was taken. Voting yes: Batter, Czaja-Stevens, Erickson, Gehrig, Gernant, Henderson, Martin, McNally, Meyerle, and Nisley. Absent: Davies and Milander-Mace. Motion carried.

Closed session at 9:04 a.m.
Break at 10:17 a.m.
Returned at 10:30 a.m.
Break at 12:51 p.m.
Back at 12:56 p.m.
Open session at 1:03 p.m.
Baker entered at 1:03 p.m.
Hunter entered at 1:03 p.m.
Baker and Hunter exited at approximately 1:15 p.m.
Meyerle exited at 1:17 p.m.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ashley Hunter, LIMHP/PCMSW, addressed the Board along with her supervisor, Sara Baker, LIMHP/CMSW/LADC. Hunter submitted an application for her Provisional Mental Health Practitioner (PLMHP) license to the DHHS Licensure Unit in August of 2023. She graduated with a master's in social work from the University of Nebraska-Omaha (UNO) in 2022, but when completing her application for provisional licensure, she did not mark the box on the application indicating that she wanted to apply for the PCMSW. She was told by her employer at the time that she would qualify for a Certified Master Social Worker (CMSW) credential because of her master's degree. She says that when Baker notified her in 2025 that she did not have a PCMSW credential, she contacted the Licensure Unit and was told that when she applied for the full CMSW credential, she should submit a note with her application explaining that she hadn't been aware she needed to apply for the PCMSW. When she submitted her application, she was told by Licensure Unit staff that she did not qualify for the CMSW because she had not applied for and received a provisional license first. Hunter has since applied for and received the PCMSW credential but wanted to ask the board if the hours she had completed prior to the license being issued would be counted.

Czaja-Stevens asked Hunter if she had ever applied for the PCMSW, and Hunter said that she had since applied for and been issued the credential so that she could complete her hours. Martin asked when she had applied for the PCMSW, and she said that it had been issued in September of 2026. Baker said that she had been supervising Hunter since January of 2025 and that Hunter's previous supervisor was also qualified as a supervisor. Baker said that it was unfortunate that when Hunter called the Licensure Unit in 2025 and was told she did not need the PCMSW, she did not make a note of who she had spoken to so that the conversation could be verified. Baker also noted that the application process could be very confusing. Meyerle asked Hunter where she had received her MSW degree; she said that she graduated from the University of Nebraska-Omaha (UNO) in 2022. McNally asked Hunter what she loved about her current employment, as she seemed very passionate about it. Hunter said that she had previously worked with outpatient clients and became interested in working with inpatient clients; she was interested in hearing their stories. Hunter said that she had brought copies of her hours and her exam scores to the meeting; Rohr explained that while the board could receive the documents, since there is not a pending application before them for review, they couldn't make any recommendations. Baker asked about next steps and Rohr said that in order for the board to weigh in, there would need to be a pending application for them to review. Hunter said that she was concerned about a disciplinary action as a result of coming to speak to the board, and Rohr said that DHHS would not take action. Baker said that in one of Hunter's conversations with Licensure Unit staff there had been a discussion of whether Hunter had ever represented herself as a social worker, which she would not be allowed to do per state statute, since she did not hold a social work credential. Baker said that Hunter had not represented herself as a social worker. Lester asked if she had withdrawn her application for the CMSW. Hunter said that after discussion with Licensure Unit staff, the application "was withdrawn"; Lester asked if the CMSW certificate had been issued and then rescinded and Hunter said no. Baker asked what would happen if Hunter submitted another application for the CMSW and Baumann said that the application would be presented to the board for review.

6. APPLICATION REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Danielle Fellows, Provisional Alcohol and Drug Counselor (PLADC)

MOTION: Gernant moved, seconded by McNally, to table the application review for more information. Voting yes: Batter, Czaja-Stevens, Erickson, Gehrig, Gernant, Henderson, Martin, McNally, and Nisley. Absent: Davies and Milander-Mace. Abstained: Meyerle. Motion carried.

Jamon Condreay, Provisional Alcohol and Drug Counselor (PLADC)

MOTION: Nisley moved, seconded by Gehrig, to recommend issuance of the license with no conditions. Voting yes: Batter, Czaja-Stevens, Erickson, Gehrig, Gernant, Henderson, Martin, McNally, and Nisley. Absent: Davies and Milander-Mace. Motion carried.

Pamela Edwards, Provisional Alcohol and Drug Counselor (PLADC)

MOTION: Nisley moved, seconded by Batter, to recommend issuance of the license with a five year probationary period including the standard terms and conditions (abstain from alcohol, drugs and controlled substances unless prescribed, random body fluid screening, quarterly employer reports, monthly medication records reports.) Voting yes: Batter, Czaja-Stevens, Erickson, Gehrig, Gernant, Henderson, Martin, McNally, and Nisley. Absent: Davies and Milander-Mace. Motion carried.

Te'Reasa Phillips, Provisional Alcohol and Drug Counselor (PLADC)

MOTION: Martin moved, seconded by Erickson, to recommend issuance of the license with no conditions. Voting yes: Batter, Czaja-Stevens, Erickson, Gehrig, Gernant, Henderson, Martin, McNally, and Nisley. Absent: Davies and Milander-Mace. Motion carried.

James Rivera, Provisional Alcohol and Drug Counselor (PLADC)

MOTION: Henderson moved, seconded by McNally, to recommend issuance of the license with no conditions. Voting yes: Batter, Czaja-Stevens, Erickson, Gernant, Henderson, Martin, McNally, and Nisley. Voting no: Gehrig. Absent: Davies and Milander-Mace. Motion carried.

Bryer Shupe, Provisional Alcohol and Drug Counselor (PLADC)

MOTION: Nisley moved, seconded by Batter, to recommend issuance of the license with a five year probationary period including the standard terms and conditions (abstain from alcohol, drugs and controlled substances unless prescribed, random body fluid screening, quarterly employer reports, monthly medication records reports.) Voting yes: Batter, Czaja-Stevens, Erickson, Gehrig, Gernant, Henderson, Martin, McNally, and Nisley. Absent: Davies and Milander-Mace. Motion carried.

Joshua Weinfurter, Provisional Mental Health Practitioner/Provisional Certification as a Master Social Worker (PLMHP/PCMSW)

MOTION: Nisley moved, seconded by Martin, to recommend issuance of the license with no conditions. Voting yes: Batter, Erickson, Gehrig, Gernant, Henderson, Martin, McNally, and Nisley. Abstained: Czaja-Stevens. Absent: Davies and Milander-Mace. Motion carried.

7. EDUCATION: 270 HOURS PRE-APPROVAL FOR ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELORS

Baumann said that there is a pre-approved list of schools who have submitted their alcohol and drug counseling coursework to the DHHS Licensure Unit for review and approval as meeting the 270 hours of initial coursework required for licensure. The person who had previously reviewed pre-approval education submissions had been a member of the Board of Alcohol and Drug Counselors, which was terminated effective July 1, 2026, so DHHS is in need of another licensee to review these submissions. Baumann said that a licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor (LADC) would be preferred as an education reviewer. Gehrig volunteered to accept the role.

MOTION: Gernant moved, seconded by Henderson, to approve Gehrig as the education reviewer for Alcohol and Drug Counseling education pre-approvals. Voting yes: Batter, Czaja-Stevens, Erickson, Gehrig, Gernant, Henderson, Martin, McNally, and Meyerle. Abstained: Nisley. Absent: Davies and Milander-Mace. Motion carried.

8. UPDATES

a. Legislation

Baumann did not have any updates on legislation. She asked board members to provide updates to the board at any time if they hear of pending legislation that might come for discussion before the board. Rohr reminded board members that they are welcome to comment on any pending legislation as an individual, but that they should not provide opinions as a board member unless there has been a vote by the Board to authorize them to do so.

McNally said that previously passed legislation related to grant funding for mental health has begun to be implemented. The legislation allowed for the cash fund to be used for mental health and behavioral health training in public schools. She said that the Nebraska Department of Education has approved the funding, so board members might hear of colleagues providing training in public school settings, or they might be asked to provide trainings, particularly on mental health conditions such as depression and bipolar disorder.

Baumann reminded the board that with the creation of the board's legislative committee, committee members will be contacted about meeting scheduling.

b. Regulations

The recently created regulation committee has held one meeting so far. Gernant asked board members who have specific suggestions for the committee to submit those in writing so they can keep track of them. Batter said that she had not been notified of the first meeting, so Baumann will follow up to be sure that all committee members receive notifications for future meetings.

Since Henderson did not attend the previous meeting at which the regulations for art therapy were discussed, there was a brief recap. Baumann explained that the proposed regulations which included information on art therapy credentialing had been withdrawn, and that the Licensure Unit was working on updates to the licensing system in order to start issuing art therapy credentials. Staff are working on beta testing in preparation for applications to go live. Rohr explained that the updated regulations had been rejected because the statute for art therapy was self-enacting and updates to the regs were not needed in order for credentials to be issued. She said that when the regulations are next open for review, in order to update language related to marriage and family therapy licensure, an acknowledgement of the art therapy credentials will also be added. Henderson asked why regulations wouldn't be added if there were sections of the regulations for marriage and family therapy, professional counseling, and social work, which are certifications like the new art therapy credential. Rohr said that the proposed regulations for art therapy had included information that was already in statute and were rejected for being duplicative. There was nothing in the proposed regulations that had not already been included in statute when the bill was passed. Gernant said that the regulations currently being drafted will add references to art therapists along with the other certification types currently in the regulations. Henderson asked how soon credentials could be issued and Baumann said that the licensing system vendor was working on finalizing updates in order for that process to begin and that the vendor had been notified that Licensure Unit was anxious to begin issuing the credentials as soon as possible. Henderson asked how the credentials will be issued and Baumann explained that existing applications for provisional and full licensure will be updated to include sections for art therapy.

c. Association and Committee Updates

i. American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB) <https://aascb.org/>

There were no updates, as Meyerle was not present. Baumann said that there is an upcoming member hangout meeting scheduled in October.

ii. American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy Boards (AMFTRB) <https://amftrb.org/>

Martin attended the 40th Annual Meeting of State Delegates, which took place in Portland, OR on September 13th and 14th, 2026. The main focus was on maintaining clinical competency. Discussions included post-grad supervision, the lack of formal training for supervisors and what education might assist students in attaining clinical competency separate from core education, including whether there should be courses specific to practice issues and how post-grad supervision can increase clinical competency and fill in gaps not covered in educational programs. A specific statistic mentioned was a pattern of an increase in disciplinary actions taken around 10 to 14 years after obtaining licensure, and there was a discussion of what could be done to address this issue. Suggestions included a post-licensure supervision model similar to that used in the United Kingdom, mandatory peer support and case consultation, and requiring additional coursework for licensees to fill in educational gaps rather than a simple continuing education (CE) model. He said that Texas has started an open hours program where they hold a Zoom meeting once a month during which licensees can ask questions and pose hypotheticals with board members and licensure staff; licensees earn ethics CE hours for participating. Another topic included possibly reducing the number of post-grad supervision hours for provisional marriage and family therapists. The executive director of the California Board of Behavioral Sciences gave a presentation on the recently passed California bill (SB903) regulating which types of services can be provided by AI chatbots and which services must be provided by a licensed human. At the time, the bill was still pending signature by California governor Gavin Newsome but has since been vetoed.

iii. Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) <https://www.aswb.org/>

The ASWB 2026 Delegate Assembly is scheduled to take place in Salt Lake City, UT, from November 5th through November 7th, 2026. Since ASWB provides funding for one voting delegate and one member board public member to attend, Gernant and Batter will both attend the conference.

Baumann noted that the ASWB website has recently been updated, including updates to the examination section.

iv. International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium (IC& RC) <https://internationalcredentialing.org/>

Baumann provided a brief overview of IC&RC meetings, in which member boards are separated into different groups for smaller breakout meetings; Nebraska is included in their "small boards" group. Gehrig said that since the next scheduled IC&RC meeting is not the annual conference, he will not attend as the Nebraska delegate.

d. Licensing Compacts

i. Social Work Compact

Baumann said that work is still being done on setting standard requirements, including the determination of rules for setting the home state for compact licensees. This compact will offer a multistate license.

ii. Counseling Compact

Baumann said that this compact follows the privilege to practice model as opposed to offering a multistate license; the licensee has a home state license and then purchases a privilege to practice in other states. Nebraska is currently working with the licensing system vendor on IT requirements for compact licenses; the next step will be beta testing.

e. Licensure statistics (attached to agenda)

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:58 p.m.

Summarized by:
Jessica Dean, Licensure Unit

Agenda Item 6

**NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH, LICENSURE UNIT**



SUMMARY COUNT OF LICENSES BY LICENSE STATUS

Alcohol and Drug Counselor

		Active	Active-Military	Application File Closed	Closed	Deleted	Denied	Expired	Inactive
Alcohol and Drug Counselor	868	1	48	1	29	18	466	298	1
Alcohol/Drug Prelim Conviction R3	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Provisional Alcohol and Drug Cou	526	0	64	1	18	30	603	37	0
Total	1,397	1	112	2	48	49	1,069	335	1

	Lapsed	NonDisc Revocation	Null and Void	Pending	Reinstatement Pending	Revocation	Suspension	Voluntary Surrender	Withdrawal	Total
	30	23	10	2	27	2	11	47	1,882	
	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	7	
	114	1,183	15	1	22	10	8	46	2,678	
	144	1,206	27	3	49	12	19	93	4,567	

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH, LICENSURE UNIT



SUMMARY COUNT OF LICENSES BY LICENSE STATUS

Mental Health Practice

	Expired Credential	Expired	Denied Renewal	Denied	Deleted	Closed	Application File Closed	Active-Military	Active	
EO 20-27 Prov Independent MHP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
EO 20-27 Prov Mental Health Pra	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Independent Mental Health Pract	0	0	638	0	20	89	3	314	6	3,881
Marriage & Family Therapist	0	0	88	0	3	2	1	27	0	143
Master Social Worker	1	0	529	1	4	9	0	95	3	1,479
Master Social Worker - CMSW	0	0	53	0	1	10	0	20	0	58
Mental Health Practitioner	3	0	2,808	1	21	155	3	248	3	1,981
Non-License (Exam applicant onl	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	42	0	23
Preliminary Conviction Review	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Professional Counselor	0	0	1,019	0	9	22	0	123	1	1,213
Provisional Master Social Worker	0	224	107	0	1	4	1	32	0	546
Provisional Mental Health Practiti	0	1,312	644	0	22	24	8	167	0	1,653
Social Worker	0	0	1,229	0	9	50	0	80	1	475
Supervised Marriage & Family Th	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	5	0	0
Temporary Cert Marriage Family	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Temporary Mental Health Practiti	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	4	1,536	7,133	2	90	365	16	1,153	14	11,454

Total	Withdrawn	Voluntary Surrender	Suspension	Revocation	Reinstatement Pending	Pending	Null and Void	NonDisc Revocation	Lapsed	Inactive	Expired- Military
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5,379	104	15	8	18	3	55	10	0	0	0	215
344	17	1	0	0	1	4	1	1	16	1	39
2,900	36	6	1	9	3	22	25	193	43	441	
210	11	0	0	0	0	1	16	12	0	28	
7,106	126	37	7	34	7	12	55	340	70	1,195	
78	1	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	
5	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	
3,452	64	20	6	19	2	21	46	262	65	560	
2,389	12	1	1	2	0	7	1,440	0	0	11	
9,666	64	9	9	20	1	15	5,663	0	1	54	
3,916	40	2	2	4	4	17	25	976	205	797	
75	2	0	1	0	0	0	51	0	0	0	
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
35,525	477	91	35	106	21	169	7,333	1,799	385	3,342	