

These minutes have not been approved by the Board

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
Board of Mental Health Practice
November 7, 2025

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Board of Mental Health Practice was called to order by Rebecca Czaja-Stevens, Chair. The meeting began at 9:03 a.m. and was located in the Otoe Room of the Nebraska State Office Building, 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 web site at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>, and posted in the lobby of the Nebraska State Office Building on October 29, 2025.

Czaja-Stevens stated that there is a current copy of the Open Meetings Act posted on the door to the meeting room and available at the link listed on the agenda.

The following members answered roll call:

Members Present, (9)

Rebecca Czaja-Stevens, Chair
Paul Davies, Secretary
Tammy Erickson
Renea Gernant
Adrian Martin
Jen McNally
Susan Meyerle
Amanda Milander-Mace
Scott Stocking

Members Absent (1):

Sara Batter, Vice Chair

Others Present:

Maiya Baumann, Program Manager, Licensure Unit
Jessica Dean, Health Licensing Coordinator, Licensure Unit
Abigail Hoy Nissen, Assistant Attorney General
Katherine Amyot, DHHS Department Attorney
Trevor Klaasen and Mark Meyerson, DHHS Investigators
Anna Harrison, Compliance Monitor, Licensure Unit
Jeanette Peterson, Program Manager, Licensure Unit

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION: Meyerle moved, seconded by Batter, to adopt the agenda. A voice vote was taken. Voting yes: Czaja-Stevens, Davies, Erickson, Gernant, Martin, Meyerle, Milander-Mace, and Stocking. Voting no: none (0). Absent: one (1). Abstain: none (0). Motion carried.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 5, 2025

MOTION: Meyerle moved, seconded by Martin, to adopt the minutes. A voice vote was taken. Voting yes: Czaja-Stevens, Davies, Erickson, Gernant, Martin, Meyerle, Milander-Mace, and Stocking. Voting no: none (0). Absent: one (1). Abstain: none (0). Motion carried.

4. CLOSED SESSION - CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

MOTION: Meyerle moved, seconded by Martin, to enter into closed session at 9:05 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: Czaja-Stevens, Davies, Erickson, Gernant, Martin, Meyerle, Milander-Mace, and Stocking. Voting no: none (0). Absent: one (1). Motion carried.

10:57 a.m. - break

12:01 p.m. - verbal agreement from all board members to enter open session.

12:06 p.m. – McNally exited the meeting.

5. OPEN SESSION – APPLICATION REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Julia Kercher – Application for Reinstatement After Suspension

MOTION: Meyerle moved, seconded by Stocking, to recommend denial of the application based on insufficient evidence of a change in circumstances. Voting yes: Czaja-Stevens, Davies, Erickson, Gernant, Martin, McNally, Meyerle, Milander-Mace, and Stocking. Motion carried.

Krista Lierz – Provisional Mental Health Practitioner Application

MOTION: Meyerle moved, seconded by Gernant, to recommend issuing a probationary license with a three year probation term and the standard terms and conditions along with a practice limitation of no in-home settings or facilities where medications are dispensed. Voting yes: Davies, Erickson, Gernant, Martin, McNally, Meyerle, Milander-Mace, and Stocking. Abstained: Czaja-Stevens. Motion carried.

Randall Vonk – Preliminary Conviction Review

MOTION: Davies moved, seconded by McNally, to recommend that the convictions listed on the application would not disqualify the applicant from obtaining a Provisional Mental Health Practitioner license. Voting yes: Czaja-Stevens, Davies, Erickson, Gernant, McNally, Meyerle, Milander-Mace, Stocking. Motion carried.

6. UPDATES AND REPORTS

a. Legislation

No new updates.

- b. The meeting dates for the first three meetings of 2026 were set for January 16, March 6, and May 1, 2026. The Board will wait schedule further dates for the year until more details are available about the details of the merger between the Boards of Alcohol and Drug Counseling and Mental Health Practice, which will occur in July 2026 per LB 346, which was passed during the 2025 legislative session and signed into law by the Governor effective May 30, 2025. Meyerle suggested that an invitation be extended to any Alcohol and Drug Counseling board members who wish to attend any open session meeting of the Board of Mental Health prior to the merging of the two boards.

c. Regulations Updates

Baumann reported that the updates to the regulations pertaining to Art Therapy have been sent to the Attorney General's office and Governor's office for final review prior to signature. There was a discussion of the process for updating or improving regulations and how the process works when regulations are opened up for revision.

d. Association and Committee Updates

1. American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB) <http://www.aascb.org>

Meyerle reported that there is an open meeting scheduled for November 21st which any state board members may attend.

2. Association of Marital & Family Therapy Regulatory Boards (AMFTRB) <http://www.amftrb.org>

Erickson and Martin attended the annual meeting of the Association of Marital & Family Therapy Regulatory Boards (AMFTRB), which took place between September 14 and September 16th, 2025, at the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place in Chicago, IL. Martin reported there were thirty-four (34) attendees at the conference representing seventeen (17) states. Topics discussed at the conference included regulatory trends; reporting on a research project on post-degree supervised experience for marriage and family clinicians, a presentation on the pending Supreme Court Chiles v Salazer case which could have a significant impact on the practice of therapy; proposed rule language for psychedelic assisted therapy; and extensive discussion of regulatory guidelines for the use of artificial intelligence (AI).

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

No new updates.

e. Social Work compact

Per Baumann, a vendor for the Social Work Compact has been proposed which would be similar to the vendor being used for other compacts. States are continuing to join the compact.

f. Counseling Compact <https://counselingcompact.org/>

Baumann said that she spoke with the Executive Director of the compact and learned that in the two states, Arizona and Minnesota, which have gone live and begun issuing credentials under the Counseling Compact and that a significant number of credentials have been issued. Nebraska is currently working on data requirements and other factors in preparation for going live with compact licensure. She reported on the results of an email ballot which was sent to board members in September regarding proposed fees for counseling compact licenses in Nebraska. Meyerle discussed the variation of proposed fees by different states and how higher fees can impact the number of compact licenses issued.

g. Reports: email ballots, disciplinary and non-disciplinary actions, licensure statistics, and examination pass/fail reports.

1. On September 23, 2025, an email ballot was sent to the board members with a proposal to approve the proposed fee for counseling compact licenses. DHHS recommended a \$125 counseling compact fee, which, added to the compact license processing fee of \$30, would bring the total cost of a counseling compact license in Nebraska to \$155. Seven of ten board members voted in favor of the proposed fee and the motion carried.
2. Reports on disciplinary and non-disciplinary actions, licensure statistics, and examination pass/fail reports were included with the agenda for the meeting.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Czaja-Stevens declared the meeting adjourned at 12:48 p.m.; the next meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2025.