

**PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
January 24, 2025**

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
Merle Henkenius, Secretary
Peter Hunt, PA-C
Vacancy, MD, PA Supervisor Position

Absent: Rachel Blake, MD

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened. Present from the Department were Vonda Apking, Program Manager and Jan Gadeken-Harris, Health Licensing Coordinator and Teresa Hampton, Department Legal.

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 on the Bulletin Board at the entrance to the Nebraska State Office Building on January 10, 2025.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS AND APPRECIATION FOR RETIRING PAC MEMBER - TAMARA DOLPHENS

Nicole Schwensow, Chairperson for the PA Committee presented Tami with the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health “Certificate of Appreciation Award” for her outstanding performance and lasting contributions to the citizens of the State of Nebraska for her ten years of service to the PA Committee from December 1, 2014 to November 30, 2024.

Tami has set an exemplary standard as a Committee Member and her absence will be keenly felt as she contributed valuable practice expertise to the PA Committee discussions and recommendations, always committed to be an advocate for the safety and well-being of Nebraskans.

Nicole also presented Tami with the “Distinguished Award” from the PA Committee and the “Admiral in the Great Navy of the State of Nebraska Award” from Governor Jim Pillen. As an “Admiral” Tami can become a member and join her fellow Admirals in the “Nebraska Admirals Association” to promote the “Good Life” through scholarships and hospitality. For more information on the Association visit:

<http://www.nebraskaadmirals.org>



APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Henkenius moved, seconded by Schwensow to approve the meeting minutes of November 22, 2024, as presented. Voting aye: Henkenius, and Schwensow. Voting nay: None. Abstain: Hunt. Absent: Blake. Motion carried.

2024 LEGISLATION UPDATES

No updates were presented.

REGULATIONS UPDATE

No updates were presented.

INVESTIGATIONAL REPORTS – CLOSED SESSION

Henkenius moved, seconded by Hunt to go into closed session at 2:10 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: Henkenius, Hunt, and Schwensow. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Blake. Motion carried.

The Committee Members returned to Open Session at 2:16 p.m.

APPLICATION(S) REVIEW – OPEN SESSION

WYSOSKE, REBECCA, MD – application request for waiver of the four PA supervision requirement. The request was tabled for additional information.

DESIGNATION OF THE METHOD BY WHICH THIS BODY WILL GIVE PUBLIC NOTICE OF ITS MEETINGS

Jan Gadeken-Harris explained that the Committee needs to inform the public each year of the method by which the Committee will provide notice of their meetings. In the past, the Committee had chosen to post meeting agendas on the Bulletin Board at the Nebraska State Office Building, to e-mail agendas to the interested parties list, and to post agendas on the Department's website. Henkenius moved, seconded by Hunt, to continue the same method that the Department has been using to provide public notice of this Committee's meetings by posting meeting agendas at the Nebraska State Office Building, by e-mailing agendas to the interested parties list, and by posting agendas on the Department's website.

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

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Hunt moved, seconded by Henkenius to elect new officers for 2025 as follows:

Chairperson: Nicole Schwensow, PA-C

Vice Chairperson: Peter Hunt, PA-C

Secretary: Merle J. Henkenius

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments at this time.

COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

The next Physician Assistant Committee meeting is scheduled March 7, 2025 @ 2:00 p.m.

The projected schedule for 2025 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 2:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

signature available upon request

Merle Henkenius, Secretary
Physician Assistant Committee