

NEBRASKA BOARD OF NURSING

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

December 12, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Nebraska Board of Nursing was called to order by Theresa Delahoyde, Board President, at 8:30 a.m., December 12, 2024, at the Best Western Plus Conference Room, 2201 Wildcat Circle, Lincoln NE 68521. Copies of the agenda were emailed to the Board members and to interested parties on December 2, 2024, posted in the east entryway of the Nebraska State Office Building on December 2, 2024, and posted on the Department of Health & Human Services website on December 2, 2024. Delahoyde announced that a copy of the Open Meetings Act was available in the room.

ROLL CALL

The following board members were present and answered roll call:

- Theresa Delahoyde, RN, *Board President*
- Mary Guthrie, *Public Member*
- Kathy Harrison, RN
- Lisa Kollash-Parker, APRN-NP
- Angela Kula, LPN, *Board Secretary*
- Patricia Motl, RN
- Eric Rogat, RN
- Kristin Ruiz, RN
- Jules Russ, *Public Member*
- Brenda Smidt, RN, *Board Vice-President*

The following Board member arrived after roll call: Kandis Lefler, LPN (arrived at 8:37 a.m.).

The following Board member was absent: Clay Jordan, RN.

The following staff members from the Department and the Attorney General's Office were present during all or part of the meeting:

- Ann Oertwich, RN, *Executive Director*
- Jacci Reznicek, RN, *Nursing Education Consultant*
- Ginger Rogers, APRN-NP, *Nursing Practice Consultant*
- Sherri Joyner, *Health Licensing Coordinator*
- Anna Harrison, *DHHS Compliance Monitor*
- Teresa Hampton, *DHHS Legal*
- Milissa Johnson-Wiles, *Assistant Attorney General*
- Brittany Bigham, RN, *Investigator*
- Jessica Bowman, RN, *Investigator*
- Susan Held, RN, *Investigator*
- Patricia Lemke, RN, *Investigator*
- Dennis Scott, *Program Manager, Investigations*

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Motl made the motion, seconded by Rogat, to adopt the agenda for the December 12, 2024, Board of Nursing meeting.

Voting Yes: Delahoyde, Guthrie, Harrison, Kollasch-Parker, Kula, Motl, Rogat, Ruiz, Russ, and Smidt. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Jordan and Lefler. Motion carried.

These minutes were approved by the Board of Nursing on February 6, 2025.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION: Ruiz made the motion, seconded by Harrison, to approve the consent agenda.

Voting Yes: Delahoyde, Guthrie, Harrison, Kollasch-Parker, Kula, Motl, Rogat, Ruiz, Russ, and Smidt. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Jordan and Lefler. Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: Kula made the motion, seconded by Smidt, for the Board to go into closed session for the purpose of reviewing and discussing investigative reports, licensure applications, and other confidential information, and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of the individuals.

Voting Yes: Delahoyde, Guthrie, Harrison, Kollasch-Parker, Kula, Motl, Rogat, Ruiz, Russ, and Smidt. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Jordan and Lefler. Motion carried.

Delahoyde announced that the Board was in closed session for the purpose of reviewing and discussing investigative reports, licensure applications, and other confidential information, and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of the individuals.

8:33 a.m. Meeting went into closed session.
 8:37 a.m. Lefler arrived at the meeting.
 9:05 a.m. Harrison left the meeting.
 9:15 a.m. Harrison returned to the meeting.
 9:28 a.m. Smidt left the meeting.
 9:37 a.m. Smidt returned to the meeting.
 9:53 a.m. Rogat left the meeting.
 10:10 a.m. Rogat returned to the meeting.
 10:35 a.m. Meeting went into recess.
 10:47 a.m. Meeting reconvened.
 10:58a.m. Meeting returned to open session.

LICENSURE RECOMMENDATIONS**DANIELLE BROCKMANN – RN REINSTATEMENT FROM DISCIPLINE**

MOTION: Ruiz made the motion, seconded by Smidt, to recommend reinstating an unrestricted RN license to Danielle Brockmann.

Voting Yes: Delahoyde, Guthrie, Harrison, Kollasch-Parker, Kula, Lefler, Motl, Rogat, Ruiz, Russ, and Smidt. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Jordan. Motion carried

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MOTION: The Education Committee moved that the Board of Nursing approve the Site Visit Survey Report conducted at Nebraska Methodist College's BSN program on September 25 and 26, 2024.

Voting Yes: Delahoyde, Guthrie, Harrison, Kollasch-Parker, Kula, Lefler, Motl, Rogat, Ruiz, Russ, and Smidt. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Jordan. Motion carried.

ELECTION 2025 BOARD OFFICERS

Members voted for 2025 officers by secret ballot. Theresa Delahoyde ran unopposed for Board President and was elected by a vote of 11-0. Brenda Smidt ran unopposed for Board Vice-President

and was elected by a vote of 11-0. Angela Kula ran unopposed for Board Secretary and was elected by a vote of 11-0.

NCSBN UPDATES

Motl reported that there have been a number of staff changes at the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, including the resignation of Maryann Alexander, who was the Council's Chief Officer for Nursing Regulation. Jim Cleghorn will be taking over her duties..

REGULATIONS GOVERNING APPROVAL OF BASIC NURSING PROGRAMS

Reznicek reported that three entities submitted written comments regarding the proposed changes to the regulations governing pre-licensure nursing programs in Nebraska (172 NAC 97). No oral comments were received at the public hearing held on December 2, 2024. One of the written comments opposed removing the master's degree requirement for some clinical faculty. Members noted that programs are free to require higher standards for their own faculty, while also noting the number of programs that have asked the Board to approve Dedicated Education Units (DEUs) that utilize clinical staff instructors who do not have master's degrees. Oertwich and Delahoyde will review all comments received and determine if changes to the draft regulations are warranted. Any substantial changes will require Board approval.

COMMUNICATION

RN and APRN Renewal Audits – Reznicek reported that over 800 RN and APRNs were randomly selected for audits of the continuing competency requirements. Of those selected, over 70% have already submitted the required documentation. There have been several RNs who requested inactive status instead of complying with the audit. A few RNs also claimed on-call hours or non-nursing hours to meet the practice hour requirement. Overall, however, the compliance rate has been very high. Reznicek noted that this is the first audit since the requirement for three hours of education in opioid prescribing went into effect for APRN-Nurse Practitioners, and all audited APRN-Nurse Practitioners seem to have completed the coursework. RNs and APRNs who do not respond to the audit notice will be mailed a second notice in late December.

Nursing News – Oertwich reported that the winter edition of *Nursing News* has been mailed out. This is the last time that all Nebraska-license nurses will be sent a hard copy of the winter edition. In the future, only the August edition will be mailed directly to all Nebraska-licensed nurses. For the other three issues published each year, licensee will be sent an email link to the online edition.

CENTER FOR NURSING UPDATES

Oertwich reported on the work done by the Nebraska Center for Nursing and the Nebraska Hospital Association (NHA) with the funding provided by LB227. Achievements include: 1) A shared clinical model has been implemented that allows staff nurses at critical access hospitals to serve as clinical staff instructors. Due in part to this expansion of clinical training sites, nursing programs in Nebraska have been able enroll an additional 108 nursing students. For many of the students doing clinicals at critical access hospitals, it is their first experience working in a rural setting. 2) More than \$1.1 million in simulation equipment has been installed for training students and staff. The equipment is shared between the schools and facilities. 3) Funds have been provided to cover housing costs for nursing students doing clinicals in rural facilities. 4) The NHA is developing a platform for “universal” onboarding of nursing students. The platform allows students to begin clinical experiences more quickly because they do not need repeat onboarding activities for each facility where they are assigned. 5) A model has been developed for internships at rural facilities. Sixteen nursing students

have already completed internships, and of those, eleven have accepted employment at rural hospitals. 6) A media campaign has been conducted to promote nursing careers.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No requests were received from members of the public to speak before the Board.

CONCLUSION

The meeting adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sherri Joyner".

Sherri Joyner
Health Licensing Coordinator