

NEBRASKA BOARD OF ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL CONFERENCE MEETING HELD

March 15, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Nebraska Board of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses was called to order by Jenda Stauffer, Board Vice-President, at 9:02 a.m. on March 15, 2023. The central meeting location was at the Nebraska State Office Building, Room 3W, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln NE 68508. Copies of the agenda were emailed to the Board members on March 6, 2023, emailed to interested parties on March 6, 2023, posted outside the Licensure Unit within the Nebraska State Office Building on March 6, 2023, and posted on the Department of Health & Human Services website on March 6, 2023. Joyner announced that a current copy of the Open Meetings Act was in the room.

Board members, staff, and the public were able to attend the meeting virtually via video conference or phone as authorized by Neb. Rev. Statute 84-1411(7) and Executive Orders Nos. 21-12 and 22-02.

ROLL CALL

The following Board members answered roll call via videoconference:

- Kent Dunovan, *Public Member*
- Timothy Glidden, *APRN-CRNA*
- Andrew Ingemansen, *MD*
- Alice Kindschuh, *APRN-CNS, Board Vice-President*
- Andrew Russell, *MD*
- Jenda Stauffer, *APRN-CNM*

The following Board member joined the meeting after roll call: Sean Kenney, MD (arrived at 9:08 a.m.).

The following Board members were absent: Barbara Foss, *APRN-NP*, and Jackie Sandersfeld, *Public Member*.

The following staff members from the Department and Attorney General's Office were present:

- Ann Oertwich, *RN, Executive Director*
- Sherri Joyner, *Health Licensing Coordinator*

The following staff members from the Department attended the meeting via teleconference:

- Ginger Rogers, *Nursing Practice Consultant*
- Jacci Reznicek, *Nursing Education Consultant*
- Teresa Hampton, *DHHS Legal*
- Jennifer Miralles, *DHHS Legal*
- Shanerika Flemings, *DHHS Legal*
- Danielle Sund, *DHHS Legal*
- Emily Yslas, *DHHS Legal*
- Mindy Lester, *Assistant Attorney General*
- Jeanne Burke, *Assistant Attorney General*
- Andrea Cramer-Price, *Investigator*
- Mendy Mahar-Clark, *Investigator*

These minutes were approved by the
APRN Board on July 20, 2023.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Glidden made the motion, seconded by Kindschuh, to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2022, APRN Board meeting.

Voting Yes: Dunovan, Glidden, Ingemansen, Kenney, Kindschuh, Russell and Stauffer. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Foss and Sandersfeld. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION: Ingemansen made the motion, seconded by Stauffer, to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2022, APRN Board meeting.

Voting Yes: Dunovan, Glidden, Ingemansen, Kenney, Kindschuh, Russell and Stauffer. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Foss and Sandersfeld. Motion carried.

ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS

MOTION: Kindschuh made the motion, seconded by Glidden, to elect Jenda Stauffer as Board President.

Voting Yes: Dunovan, Glidden, Ingemansen, Kenney, Kindschuh, Russell and Stauffer. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Foss and Sandersfeld. Motion carried.

MOTION: Glidden made the motion, seconded by Stauffer, to elect Alice Kindschuh as Board Vice-President.

Voting Yes: Dunovan, Glidden, Ingemansen, Kenney, Kindschuh, Russell and Stauffer. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Foss and Sandersfeld. Motion carried.

MOTION: Kindschuh made the motion, seconded by Stauffer, to elect Timothy Glidden as Board Secretary.

Voting Yes: Dunovan, Glidden, Ingemansen, Kenney, Kindschuh, Russell and Stauffer. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Foss and Sandersfeld. Motion carried.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF BOARD MEETINGS

Joyner explained that boards administered by DHHS are asked to pass a motion annually regarding the methods the board will employ to notify the public of its meetings. During the previous year, the public was notified of APRN Board meetings by publishing the agenda on the DHHS website, posting the agenda in the Licensure Unit lobby on the first floor of the Nebraska State Office Building, and by emailing the agenda to an interested parties list.

MOTION: Glidden made the motion, seconded by Kindschuh, to continue to notify the public of APRN Board meetings by publishing the agenda on the DHHS website, posting the agenda in the Licensure Unit lobby in the Nebraska State Office Building, and by emailing the agenda to an interested parties list.

Voting Yes: Dunovan, Glidden, Ingemansen, Kenney, Kindschuh, Russell and Stauffer. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Foss and Sandersfeld. Motion carried

PHARMACEUTICAL CARE AGREEMENT

Stauffer acknowledged that the Board received and reviewed a copy of the pharmacist collaborative practice agreement for Hastings Family Care between Emily Brandner, RP, Lauren Peterson, RP, & Travis Scheuler, RP, with Danielle Malchow, APRN-NP, Dacia Oakeson, APRN-NP, Gwendolyn Journey, APRN-NP, and Kyleene Schroer, APRN-NP

NCSBN MIDYEAR MEETING

Oertwich explained that the Nebraska APRN Board is a member of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN). The NCSBN has two major meetings every year, a Midyear Meeting, which is generally held in March, and the Annual Meeting, which occurs every August. The Midyear Meeting is primarily devoted to educational sessions. The next Midyear Meeting is scheduled for March 28th through the 30th. APRN Board members can attend the session virtually at no cost.

ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANT CREDENTIALING REVIEW

Glidden provided a brief summary of the 407 Review process for anesthesiologist assistants. A Technical Review Committee began meeting in August of 2022 to review the proposal to create an anesthesiologist assistant license in Nebraska. Various CRNA groups opposed the proposal. At its January meeting, the Technical Review Committee voted 4-2 in opposition to moving forward with an anesthesiologist assistant license. The proposal will then be presented to the Board of Health, which next meets on March 20, 2023. Glidden reported that the Board of Health generally upholds the vote of a Technical Review Committee, but the Board can vote differently.

2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Oertwich reported that one of the bills in the Legislature this year would provide funds to the Center for Nursing for the purpose of expanding availability of clinical sites for nursing students. There are also two bills that would provide scholarships for students enrolled in accelerated BSN programs.

OPERATION NIGHTINGALE

Oertwich reported on Operation Nightingale, an ongoing investigation by the FBI and Department of Justice into schools that are suspected to have issued fraudulent RN nursing degrees. Oertwich said that the investigation began over two years ago and only recently became public. The three schools identified so far in the investigation are all located in Florida. Oertwich said that it appears that some of the schools may have started as legitimate programs before devolving into diploma mills. Because there is a national database for all LPN and RN licenses in the United States, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing has been able to identify individuals who were issued licenses based on degrees from the three Florida programs. Florida may have licensed 700 to 800 nurses based on fraudulent degrees. Nebraska has not issued any RN licenses based on a degree from one of the three identified schools, although one individual who used a fraudulent degree to obtain a Florida RN license had previously been issued a Nebraska LPN license based on a legitimate degree.

COMMUNICATION

Nursing News – Oertwich reported that the next issue of *Nursing News* will include an article on mandatory reporting to remind licensees that they are required to report misdemeanor convictions, felony convictions, and “for cause” employment terminations to the Department within 30 days. Another article

includes information about the Center for Nursing's specialty license plates, which are now in production. People who pre-ordered the plates can now pick them up at the DMV. The newsletter will also have information on the Heal the Healer conference being presented by UNMC as part of the UNMC/Center for Nursing's HRSA grant project to bolster mental health resources available to nurses in Nebraska.

Staff Updates – Oertwich reported that of the four job positions in the Licensure Unit that are primarily responsible for processing nursing license applications, three are currently vacant. Oertwich has been told by Human Resources that there are no applicants in the queue for these openings.

CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: Glidden made the motion, seconded by Kindschuh, 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: Dunovan, Glidden, Ingemansen, Kenney, Kindschuh, Russell and Stauffer. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Foss and Sandersfeld. Motion carried.

Stauffer 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.

9:45 a.m. *Meeting went into closed session.*
10:39 a.m. *Meeting returned to open session.*

LICENSE APPLICATION

No license applications were reviewed by the Board.

CONCLUSION AND ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sherri Joyner
Health Licensing Coordinator