

**PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
March 31, 2023**

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
Tamara Dolphens, PA-C, Vice-Chairperson
Merle Henkenius, Secretary
Corrigan McBride, MD
Rachel Blake, MD

Absent: None

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened. Present from the Department was Jesse Cushman, Program Manager and Jan Gadeken-Harris, Health Licensing Coordinator; Mindy Lester, Assistant Attorney General; Jennifer Miralles, Department Attorney, Anna Harrison, Compliance Monitor, with the DHHS Licensing and Investigations by WebEx and Dennis Scott, Program Manager with the Investigation Unit by WebEx.

Dr. Rachel Blake was introduced to the PA Committee as the new member replacing Dr. Massey.

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 in the Licensure Unit on March 17, 2023.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dolphens moved, seconded by Henkenius to approve the meeting minutes of January 6, 2023 as written. Voting aye: Blake, Dolphens, Henkenius, McBride and Schwensow. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

2023 LEGISLATION UPDATES

The following legislative bills were presented that may be of interest to the PA Committee:

- LB16 Require occupational boards to issue certain credentials based on credentials or work experience in another jurisdiction and make a determination regarding an applicant with a criminal conviction, provide for jurisprudential examinations and appeals from denial of a license, and change requirements for membership of the State Electrical Board
Referred to Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee
The NMA opposes this bill as written
Hearing held February 9, 2023

Placed on General File with AM748

To learn more about LB16 go to:

<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/108/PDF/Intro/LB16.pdf>

LB68 Increase limits on medical malpractice liability and change provisions of the Nebraska Hospital-Medical Liability Act

Referred to Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee

The NMA supports this bill

Hearing held January 30, 2023

Amendments adopted February 16, 2023

To learn more about LB68 go to:

<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/108/PDF/Intro/LB68.pdf>

LB181 Provide for filling and refilling prescriptions in certain circumstances

Referred to Health and Human Services Committee

The NMA opposes this bill as written

The Board of Medicine and Surgery submitted a letter in opposition to LB181 to the Legislature

Hearing held February 1, 2023

Amendment filed March 23, 2023

To learn more about LB181 go to:

<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/108/PDF/Intro/LB181.pdf>

LB286 Provide for confidentiality of a physician wellness program under the Uniform Credentialing Act

Referred to Health and Human Services Committee

The NMA supports this bill as written

Hearing held February 9, 2023

To learn more about LB286 go to:

<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/108/PDF/Intro/LB286.pdf>

LB351 Increase and eliminate limits on medical malpractice liability and change provisions relating to proof of financial responsibility and the Excess Liability Fund

Referred to Judiciary Committee

The NMA opposes this bill as written

Hearing Scheduled for February 24, 2023

To learn more about LB351 go to:

<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/108/PDF/Intro/LB351.pdf>

LB422 Exempt certain activities from disciplinary action under the Uniform Credentialing Act

Referred to Health and Human Services Committee

The NMA opposes this bill as written

Hearing Held February 16, 2023

Amendment filed February 23, 2023

To learn more about LB422 go to:

<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/108/PDF/Intro/LB422.pdf>

LB574 Adopt the Let Them Grow Act

Referred to Health and Human Services Committee

The NMA opposes this bill as written

Amendments filed January 25, 2023 and February 7, 2023

Hearing held February 8, 2023

There has been a lot of activity on this bill

To learn more about LB574 go to:

<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/108/PDF/Intro/LB574.pdf>

LB626 Adopt the Nebraska Heartbeat Act

Referred to Health and Human Services Committee

The NMA opposes this bill as written

Multiple Amendments filed

To learn more about LB422 go to:

<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/108/PDF/Intro/LB626.pdf>

LB810 Adopt the Medical Ethics and Diversity Act
Referred to Health and Human Services Committee
Hearing February 10, 2023
Multiple Amendments filed

To learn more about LB810 go to:

<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/108/PDF/Intro/LB810.pdf>

REGULATIONS UPDATE

There were no updates for discussion currently.

INVESTIGATIONAL REPORTS – CLOSED SESSION

Henkenius moved, seconded by McBride to go into closed session at 2:07 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: Blake, Dolphens, Henkenius, McBride and Schwensow. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

The committee members returned to Open Session at 2:18 p.m.

APPLICATION(S) REVIEW – OPEN SESSION

There were no applications for review currently.

COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

The next Physician Assistant Committee meeting is scheduled May 12, 2023 @ 2:00 p.m.

The schedule for 2023 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 2:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

signature available upon request

Merle Henkenius, Secretary
Physician Assistant Committee