

MINUTES OF THE VIDEO CONFERENCE MEETING
NEBRASKA CENTER FOR NURSING
June 17, 2022

Call to Order

The meeting of the Nebraska Center for Nursing (CFN) Board was called to order by Lisa Walters, Chair, on June 17, 2022, at 9:36 a.m. The central meeting location was at Bryan College of Health Sciences, 1535 South 52nd Street, Lincoln NE 68506. Copies of the agenda were distributed in advance to the Board members on June 8, 2022, posted outside the Licensure Unit within the Nebraska State Office Building on June 8, 2022, and posted on the Department of Health and Human Services website on June 8, 2022. Walters announced that a current copy of the Open Meetings Act was available at the central meeting location as well as online using the link listed on the agenda.

Roll Call

The following Board members were present at the central meeting location and answered roll call:

- Lina Bostwick
- Beth Burbach
- Christi Glesmann
- Lisa Walters

The following Board members answered roll call via teleconference:

- Tamara Allen
- Kathy Bowman
- Ronda Ehly

The following Board members were absent: Sheila Bjerrum, Suszanne Deyke, Charity Ebert, Kathy Harrison, Joan Nelson, and Laura Weber.

Three Board positions were vacant.

A quorum was not present. Members were advised that they could not make motions or decisions, and that the meeting was for informational purposes.

The following staff members were present: Ann Oertwich, *Program Manager*, and Sherri Joyner, *Health Licensing Coordinator*.

The following staff members attended via videoconference: Kathy Hoebelheinrich, *Nursing Practice Consultant*, Jacci Reznicek, *Nursing Education Consultant*, and Juan Ramirez, PhD, *Independent Consultant*.

Adoption of the Agenda & Approval of the Minutes

Motions were not made due to lack of quorum.

Social Media Reports

Ramirez reported that the busiest month for the Center's website occurred in November 2020 when 578 unique users visited the site. The high traffic coincided with the addition of COVID-19 resources to the site. Although the number of visitors declined in 2021, the number of visitors still exceeds pre-pandemic levels. The average number of unique visitors per month was 293 in 2019, 578 in 2020, 305 in 2021, and 349 in 2022. For most of 2021, the most popular page on the website (after the landing page) was the COVID-19 Resources page. Ramirez reported that the Education page is now

These minutes were approved by the Nebraska
Center for Nursing Board on December 20, 2022.

the most popular. From January 1, 2021, through June 16, 2022, 12.1% of visitors to the Center's website viewed the COVID-19 Resources and 13.7% of visitors viewed the Education page.

Glesmann reported that the most popular posts on the Center's Facebook page have been the "meet your board member" posts and posts about Nurses Week. The Center's Instagram site has remained at 16 followers.

Foundation Report

Bostwick reported that the Foundation plans to take the applications for the Center for Nursing's specialty license plates to the DMV during the following week. She noted that Foundation members have gone through the applications carefully and have spent considerable time updating addresses and vehicle information.

Bostwick reported that she presented at the Rural Health Association's annual conference on the Foundation's study of the educational needs of rural nurses. Based on the feedback she received, Bostwick said that rural hospitals would find it helpful to have a coordinator review the myriad educational resources that are available and narrow down the options to those that are most appropriate for their needs. Attendees also expressed the importance of having someone who is willing to work one-on-one with nurses. Bostwick said that she along with Ramirez, and Foundation Board member Theresa Delahoyde, are currently drafting a white paper for a proposed project on the needs of rural nurses. Bostwick said she would share the white paper with the Center for Nursing Board.

Bostwick inquired about changing the Foundation's bylaws regarding appointment of new members to the Foundation Board. Bostwick said that recommendations for new members are currently initiated by the nursing professional associations identified in the bylaws, and then the Center for Nursing Board approves the appointment. Bostwick reported that she has contacted all the liaisons for the nursing professional associations and has not received any referrals for new Foundation Board members. Bostwick suggested that the Foundation might mentor persons who are interested in serving on the Foundation Board but who are not necessarily members of other boards. Bostwick noted that the Foundation's current treasurer, Lin Hughes, will soon need to leave her position, and that other Foundation Board members might also be leaving. Bostwick said that new Foundation Board members were necessary in order for the Foundation to move forward.

Nebraska Nurses Collaborative

Glesmann reported that the collaboration between the Nebraska Hospital Association, the Nebraska Assembly of Nursing Deans and Directors, the Nebraska Nurses Association, and the Center for Nursing Foundation to promote nursing during Nurse's Week was successful. Glesmann said that if a more formal process for collaboration was implemented, the groups might be able to successfully work together on other projects.

National Forum Annual Conference

Walters reported that the National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers' Annual Conference will be held both in-person and virtually on June 20-22, 2022. She will not be able to attend due to other commitments. Walters said that she participates in the National Forum's Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee, and she finds the work of the committee to be quite valuable.

Election of Officers/Board Vacancies and Reappointments

Oertwich reported that she is still advocating for the appointment of new members to the Center for Nursing Board. The Board has three vacancies, and other members are continuing to serve beyond the end date of their second terms. Appointments to the Center's Board must be approved by the Governor. Oertwich said that the Center for Nursing Board, the Board of Health, and the EMS Board have all been impacted because new appointments to the boards have not been made in recent years. Monica Gissler, who coordinates appointments for the Center for Nursing and other healthcare-related boards, has affirmed that board members can continue to serve beyond their second term until their replacements are approved.

HRSA Grant

Walters briefly described the background to the HRSA grant project. After she and Ramirez found out about a grant opportunity from HRSA for projects aimed at enhancing resiliency among nurses, they reached out to the University of Nebraska College of Nursing about applying for the grant. A grant was awarded to the UNMC College of Nursing in partnership with the Center for Nursing and the UNMC School of Public Health.

One component of the nursing resiliency project is to provide training in psychological first aide (based on a course from Johns Hopkins University) to staff at critical access hospitals. Three to four nurses at each participating hospital will complete online modules every other week and then meet via Zoom with UNMC staff to discuss what they have learned.

Walters reported that starting with their incoming cohort this fall, the UNMC College of Nursing will begin incorporating into the curriculum information about how nurses can take care of themselves emotionally and physically during periods of high stress. The information will be based on UNMC's stress management program, WHOLE (Wellness – How One Lives Effectively). Eventually, the WHOLE program will be implemented as part of the training at critical access hospitals.

Another aspect of the grant project includes creating an infrastructure to support critical incident debriefings after traumatic events occur at a facility, such as the death of a child in the ER or the crash of a medical helicopter. Walters said that having a trained incident debriefing team come in after a traumatic event helps staff begin the healing process sooner. Walters suggested that a network of critical debriefing teams be created so that when a traumatic event occurs at a smaller hospital where all staff are affected by the event, a debriefing team can be brought in from a neighboring hospital. Burbach, noting that neighboring rural hospitals might not have staff to spare for debriefing teams, suggested that nurses near larger urban areas might be willing to travel to rural areas to provide support after traumatic events. Bostwick said that she is aware of a program that allows nurse managers to call a helpline when they feel overwhelmed by highly stressful situations.

Oertwich reported that a contract has been signed with Discuss.io to conduct focus groups with frontline Nebraska nurses. Walters said that Discuss.io will recruit the participants, ask questions based on those developed by the Center, and then prepare a report of the major themes. Participants will remain anonymous.

2022 Nursing-Related Legislation

Oertwich reported that the 2022 Legislature passed legislation that added \$5 million to the State's loan payback program for licensed health care providers. BSN RNs will now be eligible to apply for loan reimbursements. Another \$5 million was approved for scholarships for LPN, ADN, and BSN nursing students. Oertwich said that the bill included her recommendation that the scholarships be limited to students at Nebraska nursing programs. Information on the scholarship opportunities will be included

in the next edition of *Nursing News*. Burbach noted that many people are unaware that CNAs can be reimbursed for the cost of their CNA class if they find employment within a certain number of days.

Budget & Marketing Plan Proposal

Walters reported that the Board of Nursing approved the Center's budget request for Fiscal Year 2022/2023. She noted that the Center's funds come for nursing licensing fees. Walters said that the Board of Nursing expressed excitement about the Center's activities and plans. Oertwich said that the approved budget includes \$15,000 for a marketing plan. Oertwich will work with the Department to approve a contract with EG Integrated for marketing services. Because the amount is less than \$50,000, an RFP (Request for Proposals) process is not required.

10:36 a.m. Board went into recess.

10:46 a.m. Board reconvened.

Strategic Planning

Members discussed the Center's strategic plan and reviewed the initiatives that were proposed during the Strategic Planning Committee's meeting on June 16th. The strategic plan is organized into three primary goals involving 1) data, 2) collaboration, and 3) promotion. Walters said that a draft of the strategic plan would be sent to Board members, and she would then ask Board members to identify their top two issues in each category.

Conclusion

The meeting concluded at 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sherri Joyner
Health Licensing Coordinator