

MINUTES OF THE VIDEO CONFERENCE MEETING
NEBRASKA CENTER FOR NURSING
February 18, 2022

Call to Order

The meeting of the Nebraska Center for Nursing (CFN) Board was called to order by Lisa Walters, Chair, on February 18, 2022, at 9:35 a.m. The central meeting location was at the Nebraska State Office Building, Room 3C, Lincoln NE 68508. Members participated via teleconference. Copies of the agenda were distributed in advance to the Board members on February 8, 2022, posted outside the Licensure Unit within the Nebraska State Office Building on February 8, 2022, and posted on the Department of Health and Human Services website on February 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 answered roll call via teleconference:

- Tamara Allen
- Sheila Bjerrum
- Lina Bostwick
- Kathy Bowman
- Beth Burbach
- Suzanne Deyke
- Charity Ebert
- Ronda Ehly
- Christi Glesmann
- Kathy Harrison
- Joan Nelson
- Lisa Walters

The following Board member was absent: Laura Weber

Three Board positions are vacant.

The following staff member was present: Ann Oertwich, *Program Manager*.

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

Adoption of the Agenda

Motion: Deyke made the motion, seconded by Bowman, to adopt the agenda for the February 18, 2022, meeting of the Nebraska Center for Nursing Board.

Voting Yes: Allen, Bjerrum, Bostwick, Bowman, Burbach, Deyke, Ebert, Ehly, Glesmann, Harrison, Nelson, Walters, and Weber. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Weber. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes

No motion was made on approval of the minutes because draft minutes were not made available to Board members prior to the meeting.

These minutes have not been approved by the
Nebraska Center for Nursing.

Social Media Reports

Ramirez reported on website utilization, new additions and changes. Oertwich and Ramirez reflected on the need to update the existing website. A potential Task Force was formed including Glesman, Walters, Ramirez, and Oertwich.

Glesmann reported on traffic on the FB page and strategies to increase followers. Top stories center on legislation and traveler salaries. Plans to reinstate Board member profiles on FB. Glesmann also reported on the launch of the Center's new Instagram page with the address ne_cfn. Glesmann asked for suggestions for how to best promote and invited members to join. Glesmann also reported working closely with Robin Ehredt on image creation and work on promotional materials for the CFN. Glesmann felt that compensation was in order for the amount of time Ehredt has spent on projects.

Motion: Glesmann made the motion, seconded by Nelson, to recommend that the Center for Nursing Foundation provide compensation to Robin Ehredt for promotional work on behalf of the Center for Nursing.

Voting Yes: Allen, Bjerrum, Bostwick, Bowman, Burbach, Deyke, Ebert, Ehly, Glesmann, Harrison, Nelson, and Walters. Voting No: None. Abstain: Bostwick. Absent: Weber. Motion carried.

Foundation Report

Specialty License Plates - Bostwick reported only 15 plates left to meet the 250 number to mint the plate.

Assessing Needs of Rural Nurses - Bostwick reported on her work with Theresa Delahoyde and Ramirez, including three publications in *Nursing News*. This work will guide future education, based on needs, for nurses across rural Nebraska. Bjerrum asked if the future education is limited to only Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs); the group discussed that education would not necessarily be limited to CAHs, but they could be a hub for regional education sessions. Bostwick also reported on upcoming presentations at the Nebraska Rural Health Association and a poster presentation at Bryan College of Health Sciences Sigma Theta Tau research day.

HRSA Workforce Resiliency Grant

Walters reported on Aim 3 educational initiatives including the Psychological First Aid course and the WHOLE program which targets wellness. Oertwich commented on all of the press emanating from UNMC regarding the grant which does not mention the partners (Board of Nursing, Center for Nursing, and UNMC College of Public Health). This will be discussed at a future grant workgroup meeting, along with the need for publicity specifically for the Center for Nursing while currently workforce data is the driver of so many legislative initiatives.

Ehly noted that she is the Nebraska Organization of Nurse Leaders (NONL) representative on the CFN. She would like to take information about the HRSA grant and requests for ARPA funding back to a presentation to NONL and NHA leaders at their next meeting. Oertwich/Walters will provide this.

Focus Groups

Walters presented the draft of focus group questions for one more review/edit from the Board members present. Technical details are still under consideration for the best way to hold the focus groups, ie. Online focus groups.

2022 Nursing-Related Legislation

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money: Glesmann testified on both LB 1044 (money for innovations in care models) and LB 1091 (scholarships for PN, ADN, and accelerated BSN students). Kari Wade testified on LB 1055, premium pay for nurses working on the frontlines. Glesmann reported on the need for still more information on how many seats have gone unfilled (open) in NE Nursing programs. A rogue testifier indicated that all nursing program seats were full, so Senators did not believe they should offer scholarships to students if no seats were available. The overarching ARPA funding bill is LB 1014. The bills noted above are not a part of the major ARPA funding request.

Nursing Workforce Data

Ramirez provided electronic versions of both the CFN Biennial report and a policy one-pager with data directed toward the need for monies for nursing education. The one-pager has been used specifically for educating legislators, but CFN members were encouraged to use both documents to educate the public and lawmakers regarding the dire need for ARPA funding for nursing and healthcare.

Motion: Bostwick made the motion, seconded by Deyke, to approve the Center for Nursing's 2022 Biennial Report and policy one-pager.

Voting Yes: Allen, Bjerrum, Bostwick, Bowman, Burbach, Deyke, Ebert, Ehly, Glesmann, Harrison, Nelson, and Walters. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Weber. Motion carried.

Environmental Scan

Ehly reported that Mary Lanning was going through a 'hard reset' with a decrease in COVID-19 patients. A 54% RN vacancy rate exists at her facility. NONL is planning an educational survey, based on AONL Nurse Executive Competencies to support development of all levels of nursing leadership within her organization. She mentioned the potential use of online modules for Charge Nurses and other resources available from AONL.

Bostwick reported a decrease in applications at Bryan College of Health Sciences for the MSN leadership track. Currently the sentiment is that leadership is not an attractive role. She utilizes the AONL Executive Competencies within the MSN in Leadership.

Nelson brought up her concerns about how there seems to have been a shift in the public value of nurses – from 'hero' to 'zero'; she is concerned about public opinion. Walters pointed out that nurses were once again voted the most trusted profession in the Gallup poll.

Burbach voiced concerns about undergrad nursing education, students, and the politicizing of science and data. She hopes we can make changes going forward based on data. Ehly noted that right now 'everyone' is angry and taking it out on nurses.

Bjerrum spoke of the incredible financial impact of travelers on facility budgets. Going rate is now \$90/hour. She also noted the difficulties for nurses working in Long Term Care – families angry about pandemic 'rules' and take it out on staff.

Allen focused comments on the disconnect between ARPA monies flowing to hospitals not reaching the target, salaries for nurses, physicians and other providers. There is an ongoing movement, due to ongoing cuts in reimbursement, driving physicians to close their independent practices and seek hospital employment.

Conclusion

The meeting concluded at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ann Oertwich".

Ann Oertwich
Program Manager