

Nebraska Center for Nursing Charter

The Nebraska Center for Nursing shall address issues of supply and demand for nurses, including issues of recruitment, retention, and utilization of nurses.

I. Primary Goals

1. To develop a statewide plan to alleviate the nursing shortage in Nebraska by:
 - a) Establishing and maintaining a data base on nursing supply and demand in Nebraska, including current supply and demand, future projections; and
 - b) Selecting priorities from the plan.
2. To convene various groups representative of nurses and other health care providers, business and industry, consumers, legislators, and educators to:
 - (a) Review and comment on data analysis prepared for the center;
 - (b) Recommend systematic changes, including strategies for implementation of recommended changes; and
 - (c) Evaluate and report the results of the efforts to the Legislature and public.
 - (d) Interpret and disseminate other nursing workforce data.
3. To enhance and promote recognition, reward, and renewal activities for nurses by:
 - (a) Proposing and creating recognition, reward, and renewal activities; and
 - (b) Promoting media and positive image-building efforts for nursing.

II. Funding

1. The Center for Nursing Board will approve a request for funding annually. The request will include language on accountability. This will be completed at a Center for Nursing meeting in accordance with the State Budget cycle.
2. The Center for Nursing Board Chair and or the Executive Committee will present the request for funding at the Board of Nursing meeting.

3. The Board of Nursing shall recommend annually to the Department of Health and Human Services the percentage of all nursing fees collected during the year that are to be used to cover the cost of the Nebraska Center for Nursing, except that the percentage shall not be greater than fifteen percent of the biennial revenue derived from the fees.
4. The Department of Health and Human Services shall provide administrative support for the board. The board may contract for additional support not provided by the department.

III. Membership

1. The Board shall be appointed by the Governor as follows:
 - (a) Ten members, at least three of whom shall be registered nurses, one of whom shall be a licensed practical nurse, one of whom shall be a representative of the hospital industry, and one of whom shall be a representative of the long-term care industry; and
 - (b) One nurse educator recommended by the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska;
 - (c) One nurse educator recommended by the Nebraska Community College Association;
 - (d) One nurse educator recommended by the State Board of Health.
2. The terms of all of the members shall be three years with no member serving more than two consecutive terms.
3. The board members shall be reimbursed for the actual and necessary expenses as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177
4. Members missing three consecutive meetings will be contacted by the Secretary to determine their continued interest in membership in the Center for Nursing Board. Information obtained by the secretary will be shared at the next board meeting. The Center for Nursing Board may take action as necessary for the continued work of the Center.

IV. Powers and Duties

The Nebraska Center for Nursing Board shall have the following powers and duties:

1. Determine operational policy.

2. Elect a chair, vice-chair, and secretary to serve two-year terms. The chair, vice-chair, and secretary may not succeed themselves. A simple majority vote of the quorum will be used to elect officers.
 - a. The Chair shall:
 - 1) Set the agenda for board meetings;
 - 2) Oversee the work of the Center for Nursing Board;
 - 3) Represent the Center for Nursing with the Nebraska Action Coalition;
 - 4) Present the Center for Nursing's strategic plan and associated funding requests to the Board of Nursing.
 - b. The Vice-Chair shall:
 - 1) Perform the Chair's role when the Chair is absent;
 - 2) Represent Nebraska at the National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers.
 - c. The Secretary shall:
 - 1) Oversee accuracy of meeting minutes;
 - 2) Reach out to any board member who misses three consecutive board meetings without prior explanation in order to ascertain member's interest in maintaining board membership.
 - d. All board members have the following responsibilities:
 - (1) Regular and predictable meeting attendance with full participation;
 - (2) Review all materials and be prepared for meeting
 - (3) Listen as an ally;
 - (4) Open and honest communication;
 - (5) Work toward group agreement;
 - (6) Honor agreements;
 - (7) Be concise – time management is everyone's responsibility;
 - (8) Advocate this group's agreements and work progress to others.
 - (9) Communicate and report back to the respective stakeholders of the groups that the member represent.
 - (10) Read and follow the Open Meetings Act.

(11) Disclose any conflicts of interest.

3. Establish committees of the board as needed.
4. Appoint a multidisciplinary advisory council for input and advice on policy matters.
5. Implement the major functions of the Nebraska Center for Nursing.
6. Seek and accept non-state funds for carrying out Center policy.

V. Department Role and Responsibilities

The Department of Health and Human Services shall:

1. Provide coordination for board meetings, including arranging meeting locations and times, taking and posting minutes, providing clerical support, and helping ensure compliance with the Open Meetings Act;
2. Assist in finding contractors and managing contracts after the Board identifies the services to be performed;
3. Provide timely access to specified nurse licensure renewal data so that the board can prepare reports for the public and the Legislature;
4. Provide funding and expenditure reports;
5. Act as a liaison between the National Council of State Board s of Nursing (NCSBN) and state and national organizations.
6. Provide consultation on scope of practice and educational programs.

VI. Sponsoring Authority

The sponsoring authority for the Center for Nursing is the Nebraska Legislature.

VII. Open Meetings Law and Decision Making

1. The Center for Nursing Board is a “public body” as defined by the Nebraska Open Meetings Act and is subject to the Nebraska Open meetings Act.
2. Decision making of this Board is by simple majority vote of the quorum present.