MINUTES
BOARD OF NURSING AND CERTIFIED NURSE MIDWIVES
MEETING
September 10, 2026
Heber M. Wells Bldg.
ELECTRONIC MEETING – 8:30 a.m.
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

CONVENED: 8:31 A.M. ADJOURNED: 10:17 A.M.

DOPL STAFF PRESENT:
Bureau Manager: Jeff Busjahn
Board Secretary: Kelli Arriola
Compliance Specialist: Sharon Bennett
Assistant Attorney General: Steven Green

CONDUCTING:
Ralph Pittman, LPN– Chair

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:
Ralph Pittman, LPN
Sheryl Steadman, Ph.D., RN
Shane Yardley, Ph.D., RN
Wendy Rusin, APRN
Derek Bradley, Public
Mandi Lew, DNP, CNM, PMH-C
Curtis Nielsen, APRN-CRNA

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED:
Erica Nelson, DNP, APRN, CNM

GUESTS:
Shelmira Moret La Rosa, DOPL ITAC
Jennifer Avila Johnson, UPHP
Kelli Jacobson, UPHP
Candice Gonzalez, UPHP
Ammon Sorensen, UPHP
Jessie Willden, UPHP
Camille Farley, DOPL, Investigations
Brent Ericksen, DOPL, Investigations
Nathan Allred, DOPL, Investigations
Russell Godfrey, DOPL, Investigations
Silmara Charlesworth, DOPL, Investigations
Mark Anderson, DOPL, Investigations
Lynne Anthony, DOPL, Investigations
Dave Olsen, DOPL, Investigations
Juan Chavez DOPL, Investigations
Kirsten Shumway, DOPL Legal Analyst
Katherine Borden, Galen College of Nursing
Cherie Lowell, Western Governors University
Austin Dykstra,

Sean Jordan
Taylor Bowers
Lauren Peterson
Hope Larson
Matt Larson
Jenn Morrison
Tori Sackett
Skyer Smith

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Mr. Pittman called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF July 9, 2026, MINUTES:

Mr. Pittman motioned to approve the minutes.
Dr. Steadman seconded the motion.
The vote passes with one abstention.

BOARD REVIEW OF CREDENTIAL EVALUATION SERVICES FOR INTERNATIONALLY TRAINED NURSES:

(Refer to audio for specifics. Audio_Part1_03:54 – 10:07)

Ms. Moret La Rosa provided an update regarding the pathway for internationally trained nurses to the board. A statutory amendment now allows for an examination determined by division with collaboration with the board, replacing the previous requirement for specific CGFNS or True Merit examinations. New evaluators have been added to the division's approved list for both Applicants that have not been licensed for at least 1 year in a country outside the US and Applicates with a license for at least one year in a country outside the US.

NCSBN 2026 ANNUAL MEETING DISCUSSION:

(Refer to audio for specifics. Audio_Part1_10:56 – 16:32)

Mr. Busjahn provided update on the NCSBN annual meeting to the board. The delegate assembly approved an updated model practice act. The delegate assembly approved a base registration fee for the NCLEX (RN and LPN) will increase from $200 to $350, effective February 1, 2027. The board clarified that the retake policy for the exam remains unchanged, candidates are eligible to repeat the exam every 45 days, provided they pass within five years of graduation.

UPHP MONTHLY UPDATE:

(Refer to audio for specifics. Audio_Part1_16:38 – 22:05)

Ms. Avila Johnson presented an updated report on the Utah Professional Program. Current participants are distributed as follows:

Confidential UPHP Program: 46 Participants

- **42** in adherence with the requirements of their monitoring: (3 LPN, 33 RN, 5 APRN)
- **4** RNs are **Not in Adherence** with the requirements of their monitoring. Information has been provided to the Division for administrative review.

Public Probation: **40** Participants – 4 new probationers and 1 transfer from the nursing group in August.

- **27** in adherence with the requirements of their monitoring (3 LPN, 23 RN, 1 APRN)
- **1** RN (Active Probation, Unemployed) adhering to other requirements of their monitoring.
- **2** RNs on suspension (Inactive > 1 Year) adhering to other requirements of their monitoring.
- **2** LPNs, **2** RNs on suspension: Evaluation found not safe to practice. Working with UPHP to complete evaluation requirements and maintain adherence to other requirements of their monitoring.
- **1** RN on Suspension pending Evaluation: Will begin 5-year probation once found to fit to practice by evaluation.
- **4** RNs are **Not in Adherence** with requirements of their monitoring. Information has been provided or is in the process of being provided to the Division for review.
- **1** RN on Suspension, has requested to surrender their license due to an inability to complete the requirements of their monitoring. Pending administrative review.

Volunteer testers: **2**
Licenses were either surrendered or revoked. Participants must complete 12 months of volunteer testing, in addition to any other requirements, prior to reapplication.

Recent License Surrenders and Revocations

- LPN: Surrendered in August due to inability to complete requirements of their monitoring.
- RN: Revoked in August following an automatic default for non-response to the Division Notice of Agency Action.

LEGISLATIVE & ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN:

The Division is currently working on previously approved rule changes, which are expected to enter a public comment period in the coming months.

INFORMAL ADJUDICATIVE PROCEEDINGS – Jessica Rose Appell:

The proceedings were conducted by Mr. Green.
(Refer to audio for specifics. Audio_Part2_00:03 –49:32:19 and Part3_00:04 – 10:53)

The chair called for a roll call to ensure a quorum. The votes were recorded as follows:

- Ralph – Yes
- Sheryl – Yes
- Shane– Yes
- Wendy – Yes
- Derek – Yes
- Mandi – Yes
- Curtis – Yes

Ms. Appell was present for this hearing.
Ms. Appell attended the proceedings via virtual google meet.
Mr. Pittman explained to Ms. Appell the process of this proceeding.
Mr. Pittman asked Ms. Appell if she had received a copy of the notice of agency action & exhibits for this hearing. Ms. Appell stated yes.
Mr. Pittman asked Ms. Appell if she understood the proceedings today. Ms. Appell said yes.
Mr. Green explained the proceedings today for Ms. Appell.
Mr. Green reviewed each allegation against Ms. Appell with the Board.

Mr. Green presented the Division's recommendation to revoke Ms. Appell's license to practice as a registered nurse in the State of Utah and prohibiting her from reapplying for any license with the division of professional licensing for a period of five years.

- Mr. Pittman motioned to close the meeting in accordance with 52-4-205(1)(a) to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual.
  The motion was seconded by Mr. Nielsen.
  The chair called for a roll call vote. The votes were recorded as follows:
  - Ralph – Yes
  - Sheryl – Yes
  - Shane– Yes
  - Wendy – Yes
  - Derek – Yes
  - Mandi – Yes
  - Curtis – Yes

  The motion passes.
  The meeting closed at 9:52 am and reopened at 10:06 am.

- Mr. Pittman motioned to go back to the open meeting.
  The motion was seconded by Mr. Nielsen.
  The chair called for a roll call vote. The votes were recorded as follows:
  - Ralph – Yes
  - Sheryl – Yes
  - Shane– Yes
  - Wendy – Yes
  - Derek – Yes
  - Mandi – Yes
  - Curtis – Yes

  The motion passes.

The Board deliberated and found all allegations against Ms. Appell to be true and factual. The board recommends revoking Ms. Appell's license to practice as a registered nurse and prohibiting her from reapplying for any licensure in the State of Utah for a period of five years and until all the following terms and conditions are met. Provide the division with voluntary drug and alcohol test results from a division-approved testing service for 12 consecutive months preceding the reapplication, demonstrating Ms. Appell has not used alcohol or drugs for which Ms. Appell does not have a current valid prescription. The division is not required to accept testing results from other government authorities or drug testing facilities to satisfy these requirements. Ms. Appell must accurately complete and sign any and all testing results release forms requested by the division or the testing service. Ms. Appell is required to complete a comprehensive fitness-for-duty evaluation and caused the evaluator to submit the report to the division. The evaluation must be performed in accordance with acceptable professional standards and must address all potential causes of impairment, including mental health, substance use, and physical health conditions. Ms. Appell must contact the division in advance to obtain preapproval for the evaluator and full criteria the evaluation must include. Ms. Appell must sign any releases necessary to allow the division and evaluator to communicate with each other freely regarding the evaluation, including the division's concerns, any information provided to or relied upon by the evaluator, and the evaluator's findings, conclusions, and recommendations. Ms. Appell must sign any additional or updated releases requested by the division to permit such communication. Ms. Appell must resolve all criminal sanctions, if applicable, and imposing other sanctions as the Division Director deems just and appropriate.

Mr. Pittman motioned to accept the board's findings and recommendations presented by the division. The motion was seconded by Dr. Steadman.
The chair called for a roll call vote. The votes were recorded as follows:

- Ralph – Yes
- Sheryl – Yes
- Shane– Yes
- Wendy – Yes
- Derek – Yes
- Mandi – Yes
- Curtis – Yes

The motion passes.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: SEPTEMBER 10, 2026

ADJOURN: 10:17 A.M.
The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 A.M.
Note: These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcript but are intended to record the significant features of the business conducted in this meeting. Discussed items are not necessarily shown in the chronological order they occurred. For specific details, refer to the audio recording.

10/08/2026	Ralph Pittman Ralph Pittman (Oct 8, 2026 15:17:35 MDT)
Date Approved	**Ralph Pittman - Board of Nursing & Certified Nurse Midwives**
10/09/2026	Jeff Busjahn
Date Approved	**Jeff Busjahn - Bureau Manager, DOPL**