South Dakota Board of Nursing Meeting Minutes

August 4, 2026

Location: Online Microsoft Teams

1. **Call to Order:** President Christi Keffeler called the meeting to order at 9:02 A.M. Central.

   Board Member Roll Call: Present: Deborah Bowar, Denise Buchholz, Debra Felton, Jeanne Goodman, Nathan Hinker, Carena Jarding, Christi Keffeler, Lori Koenecke, Cheryl Osmond, Penny Tilton, Jenna VandenBos.

   Board Staff Present: Linda Young, Erin Matthies, Lindsay Olson, Bryan Wermers.

   Legal Counsel Present: Elizabeth Cave, General Counsel to Board; Shelly Munson, Prosecuting Attorney for Board.

   Others Present: Bob Mercer, Keloland Media; Lauren Peterson.

2. **Agenda Approval:** Motion by Bowar to approve August 4, 2026, agenda. Second by Felton. Roll Call Vote: Bowar, yes; Buchholz, yes; Felton, yes; Goodman, yes; Hinker yes; Jarding, yes; Keffeler, yes; Koenecke, yes; Osmond, yes; Tilton, yes; VandenBos, yes. Eleven yes votes, motion carried.

3. **Open Forum for the public to address the Board:** Keffeler provided the opportunity for guests to address the Board, no one requested to do so.

4. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Tilton to approve May 5, 2026, and June 2, 2026, Board meeting minutes. Second by Hinker. Roll Call Vote: Bowar, yes; Buchholz, yes; Felton, yes; Goodman, yes; Hinker yes; Jarding, yes; Keffeler, yes; Koenecke, yes; Osmond, yes; Tilton, yes; VandenBos, yes. Eleven yes votes, motion carried.

5. **Executive Session:** The Board did not go into executive session.

6. **Health Professionals Assistance Program (HPAP) Report:** Young provided a report. Nurses who meet HPAP qualifications may enroll voluntarily in HPAP for the monitoring of a substance use issue or mental health related issue or the Board may mandate a nurse to participate. In June 2026, sixty-eight participants were enrolled in the program.

7. **Compliance:**
   a. **Formal Contested Case Hearings:** No hearings were held.
   b. **Compliance Committee Recommendations Licensed**: The Compliance Committee submitted the following recommended settlement offers for approval by the Board:
      1. Mandate Participation in HPAP with Stayed Suspension: Jodi Baldwin, SD R032630.
      2. Grant Reinstatement of Licensure with Mandated Participation in HPAP with Stayed Suspension: Misty Brech, SD P011590.
      3. Mandate Participation in HPAP: T.H.; K.W.
      4. Mandate HPAP Evaluation: S.E.
      5. Letter of Reprimand: Alexis Bentz, SD P012558; MiKayla Knudsen, SD P011390; Lilian Kreifel, SD P013680; Kandi Padilla, SD P014351; Jennifer Steiner, SD CP000968 & R038030.
      6. Letter of Reprimand on PTP: Angela Watson, TX PN 200740.
      7. Letter of Concern with Remediation: M.J.
      8. Letter of Concern: P.B.; P.D.; B.D.; N.M.; S.R.; B.W.
      9. Letter of Concern on Privilege to Practice (PTP): L.B.; S.V.
      10. Deny Licensure: Kevin Olsen, SD RN Applicant.
      11. Grant Licensure upon meeting Licensure Requirements: Kayla Diaz, SD LPN Applicant; Regella Manuel, SD LPN Applicant; Sharon Fleming, SD LPN Applicant and SD RN Applicant; Edward Baugartner, SD RN Applicant.

Motion by VandenBos to accept the recommendations of the Compliance Committee as presented in the Compliance Committee Consent Agenda document for licensed nurses. Second by Koenecke. Roll Call Vote: Bowar, yes; Buchholz, recuse; Felton, yes; Goodman, yes; Hinker, recuse; Jarding, yes; Keffeler, yes; Koenecke, yes; Osmond, yes; Tilton, yes; VandenBos, yes. Nine yes votes, motion carried.

c. Dismissal Reporting – Licensed: Young presented a report of investigative dismissals, pursuant to SDCL 36-1C-4.

d. Compliance Committee Recommendations Registrants: The Compliance Committee submitted the following recommended settlement offers for approval by the Board:

1. Letter of Reprimand: Adalyn Bailey, A065971; Christine Quiamboa, M005265 and A054406.
2. Letter of Concern: E.M.; M.N.; J.N.
3. Grant Registration: Jessica Haeffner, CNA Applicant; Carsyn House, CNA Applicant, Paige Sisson, CNA Applicant; Kevin Flute, RMA Applicant; Ryan Hipsag, RMA Applicant, A064824; Megan Johnson, CNA Applicant.
4. Default Denial of Registration: Japhia Browning, CNA Applicant.

Motion by Tilton to accept the recommendations of the Compliance Committee as presented in the Compliance Committee Consent Agenda document for registrants. Second by Koenecke. Roll Call Vote: Bowar, yes; Buchholz, recuse; Felton, yes; Goodman, yes; Hinker, recuse; Jarding, yes; Keffeler, yes; Koenecke, yes; Osmond, yes; Tilton, yes; VandenBos, yes. Nine yes votes, motion carried.

e. Dismissal Reporting – Registrants: Young presented a report of Investigative Dismissals pursuant to SDCL 36-1C-4.

Motion by Jarding to move into Executive Session at 9:22 A.M., pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(3) and SDCL 19-19-502, for purpose of consulting with legal counsel on registrant compliance cases. Second by VandenBos. Roll Call Vote: Bowar, yes; Buchholz, yes; Felton, yes; Goodman, yes; Hinker, yes; Jarding, yes; Keffeler, yes; Koenecke, yes; Osmond, yes; Tilton, yes; VandenBos, yes. Eleven yes votes, motion carried.

The Board moved out of Executive Session at 9:41 A.M.

f. Additional Compliance Cases:

1. Munson presented background information on Wendy Geuther, SD A039925. Motion by Hinker to summarily suspend the registration of Wendy Geuther, SD A039925, and notice for hearing. Second by Buchholz. Roll Call Vote: Bowar, yes; Buchholz, yes; Felton, yes; Goodman, yes; Hinker, yes; Jarding, yes; Keffeler, yes; Koenecke, yes; Osmond, yes; Tilton, yes; VandenBos, yes. Eleven yes votes, motion carried.
2. Munson presented background information on Tamra Houfek, SD M001210 and A031107. Motion by Jarding to summarily suspend the registrations of Tamra Houfek, SD M001210 and A031107, and notice for hearing. Second by VandenBos. Roll Call Vote: Bowar, yes; Buchholz, yes; Felton, yes; Goodman, yes; Hinker, yes; Jarding, yes; Keffeler, yes; Koenecke, yes; Osmond, yes; Tilton, yes; VandenBos, yes. Eleven yes votes, motion carried.

8. Financial Report: Fiscal Year 2026: Matthies presented the SDBON financial report for FY26 for the time period of July 2025 – June 2026.

Motion by Buchholz to approve the FY26 financial report as presented. Second by Bowar. Roll Call Vote: Bowar, yes; Buchholz, yes; Felton, yes; Goodman, yes; Hinker yes; Jarding, yes; Keffeler, yes; Koenecke, yes; Osmond, yes; Tilton, yes; VandenBos, yes. Eleven yes votes, motion carried.

9. **Licensure and Operations:**
   a. **Licensure and Registry Report**: Matthies reported that licensure reports in the new licensure database are in development.

   b. **Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) Proctored Knowledge Exam:** Young provided a review of the nurse aide knowledge exam proctoring process that was approved by the Board at the May 2026 meeting. The process required the use of an online Headmaster RN remote proctor instead of using South Dakota's facility-based proctors. Following implementation of the new process the following concerns emerged: all SD facility-based proctors were removed by Headmasters and not allowed to proctor any students; only two RN remote proctors were assigned by Headmaster's to serve SD, this caused delays in testing; several students experienced difficulty accessing the remote online exam, and if not online within twenty minutes of scheduled exam time, the student needed to reschedule and pay testing fee. Due to concerns, board staff had Headmaster reinstate all facility-based proctors and allow students the option of the Headmaster's RN remote proctor or facility-based proctor. If a complaint of cheating on the exam is received by the board, staff will investigate and notify the Board. Young responded to questions.

      Motion by Buchholz to allow a CNA applicant to be proctored for the CNA knowledge exam by an individual, who is approved by Headmaster, to serve as a remote online proctor or as a South Dakota approved nurse aide training program proctor. Second by Bowar. Roll Call Vote: Bowar, yes; Buchholz, yes; Felton, yes; Goodman, yes; Hinker yes; Jarding, yes; Keffeler, yes; Koenecke, yes; Osmond, yes; Tilton, yes; VandenBos, yes. Eleven yes votes, motion carried.

   c. **Appointment of Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) Competency Evaluation Program Review Members:** Young provided background. Federal regulations require that the state implement a CNA competency evaluation program (CEP) that consists of a knowledge exam and a skills demonstration. A periodic evaluation is necessary to ensure the CEP measures a nursing assistant's minimum level of knowledge and skills to safely care for residents in a skilled nursing facility. A two day meeting is planned for August 25th and 26th, 2026, in the Board's conference room and online via Teams. Several nurse aide training program's directors provided interested RNs, who are currently practicing in a skilled nursing facility and working with CNAs, to volunteer on the panel. The role of appointed RNs, along with Board staff and Headmaster's staff, will be to review the CEP to identify test items and skills evaluation items that may not be performing as intended or that need revising.

      Motion by Tilton to appoint the following RNs to the CNA Competency Evaluation Program Review Panel, for the purpose of making recommendations to update the Board's CNA knowledge exam and the skills evaluation forms: Denise Buchholz, Christine Coyle, Nicole Gerlach, Katie Johnson, Krista Lyke, Michele Rohde, Tanya Kokesh, Brooke Fredrich, and Cassandra Ragan. Second by Osmond. Roll Call Vote: Bowar, yes; Buchholz, recuse; Felton, yes; Goodman, yes; Hinker yes; Jarding, yes; Keffeler, yes; Koenecke, yes; Osmond, yes; Tilton, yes; VandenBos, yes. Ten yes votes, motion carried.

   d. **Minimum Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOELF) Score:** Young provided background. Foreign educated applicants for licensure are required to complete an evaluation to determine if the nursing education program they completed was substantially equivalent to a nursing program approved in South Dakota and to determine English proficiency, if the applicant completed a nursing program that was not taught in English. The Board uses TruMerit to conduct the review of an applicant's education and English proficiency. TruMerit uses the "Test of English as a Foreign Language" (TOEFL), offered by Educational Testing Service (ETS), to evaluate an individual's English proficiency for reading, writing, listening, and speaking and readiness for real-life communication. ETS updated their scoring scale for the TOEFL exam to align with the Common European

Framework for Reference (CEFR) Language proficiency levels. ETS's previous scoring scale was 1-120, their new scale is 1-6, measured in 0.5 increments. TruMerit requested the Board's new minimum scores to align with the new scoring scale. Historically, the Board has mirrored federal minimum passing TOEFL scores. The new federal Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) accepted passing scores for RNs on reading, listening, and writing is 3.5; speaking, 4.5; with an overall score of 4.5. HRSA's new accepted passing scores for LPNs on reading, listening, and writing scores is 3.0; speaking, 4.5; with an overall score of 4.0.

Motion by Jarding to adopt the following minimum TOELF scores for the purpose of meeting licensure requirements: for a foreign educated RN applicant: reading, listening, and writing score: 3.5; speaking score: 4.5; overall score: 4.5. For a foreign educated LPN applicant: reading, listening, and writing score: 3.0; speaking score, 4.5; overall score: 4.0. Second by Felton. Roll Call Vote: Bowar, yes; Buchholz, yes; Felton, yes; Goodman, yes; Hinker yes; Jarding, yes; Keffeler, yes; Koenecke, yes; Osmond, yes; Tilton, yes; VandenBos, yes. Eleven yes votes, motion carried.

10. **Nursing Education Committee Recommendations:** The Education Committee submitted the following recommendations for approval by the Board:
    1. Accept Oglala Lakota College's (OLC) site visit report.
        - Board motion on May 5th, 2026: "Grant OLC full approval for 4 years with the requirement to submit a report to the Board by July 13th, 2026, that identifies a plan to come into full compliance with the need to reduce the Administrator's teaching responsibilities to 10%, and to provide an update on the effectiveness of strategies to increase first-time passing scores on the NCLEX exam."
    2. Accept OLC's notice of Robin White's resignation as Administrator of the Nursing Department as of May 29th, 2026.
    3. Approve OLC's appointment of Tonya Moschell as Administrator of the Nursing Department as of July 20th, 2026.
    4. Accept Sinte Gleska University's (SGU) site visit report.
        - Board motion on May 5th, 2026: "Grant SGU full approval for 4 years with the requirement to submit a report to the Board on the implementation of an evaluation of the simulation activities and an update on HLC status by July 10th, 2026."
    5. Accept SGU's notice of the Higher Learning Commission's status change to "Accredited on Probation".
    6. Accept SGU's notice of Laura Dunn's resignation as Administrator of the Nursing Department as of July 31st, 2026.
    7. Approve SGU's appointment of Iverene Lunderman as Administrator of the Nursing Department as of July 31st, 2026.
    8. Approve South Dakota State University's (SDSU) request for prerequisite status for a new nurse midwifery program.
    9. Approve SDSU's request for increased enrollment capacity in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program at the Brookings campus from 64 students to 72 students per cohort.
    10. Accept SDSU's update regarding the online BSN program.
    11. Approve Mitchell Technical College's request for RN curricular course changes.
    12. Accept Mount Marty University's notification to close the Doctor of Nursing Practice in Leadership and Education.
    13. Approve dispersing $87,000 from the RN Nurse Education Assistance Scholarship fund, pursuant to ARSD chapter 20:48:13, to distribute $1000 each to 27 graduate RN students ($27,000) and $800 each to 75 undergraduate RN students ($60,000).

Motion by Koenecke to accept the recommendations of the Nursing Education Committee as presented in the Education Committee Consent Agenda document. Second by Buchholz. Roll Call Vote: Bowar, yes; Buchholz, yes; Felton, yes; Goodman, yes; Hinker yes; Jarding, recuse; Keffeler, yes; Koenecke, yes; Osmond, yes; Tilton, recuse; VandenBos, yes. Nine yes votes, motion carried.

11. **Nursing Practice Review Advisory Opinions:** Olson presented three previously approved advisory opinion statements for review by the Board for consideration to amend or retire: A) Performance of Gastric Band Adjustments by RNs, B) Wound Care Certification, and C) Performance of Limited Diagnostic Ultrasound by RNs. Olson explained that many nurses and employers use the Board's approved Scope of Practice (SOP) Decision-making framework to help guide their decisions on whether a task or activity is within a licensed nurse's scope. Olson shared that as healthcare practices evolve it is difficult to keep statements up to date; therefore, Olson recommended that the Board retire these three statements. Motion by Koenecke to retire the Board's advisory opinion statements: Performance of Gastric Band Adjustments by RNs, Wound Care Certification, and Performance of Limited Diagnostic Ultrasound by RNs. Second by Tilton. Roll Call Vote: Bowar, yes; Buchholz, yes; Felton, yes; Goodman, yes; Hinker yes; Jarding, yes; Keffeler, yes; Koenecke, yes; Osmond, yes; Tilton, yes; VandenBos, yes. Eleven yes votes, motion carried.

12. **Policy: Rules Promulgation Update:** Young provided a review of the rules adopted by the Board on June 2, 2026, and approved by the South Dakota Legislature's Interim Rules Review Committee (IRRC) on July 14, 2026. The effect of the rules changes included removing the board's requirement to notify a nursing education program of an applicant's licensure exam results, removing the board's requirement to issue certificate of renewal and inactive status cards, and adding a rule to allow an RN to delegate gastrostomy tube care to a nursing assistant for a specific client residing in a shared living home. Rules documents are posted at https://rules.sd.gov/detail?Id=935.

13. **National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) Delegate Assembly Recommendations:** Young provided a review of the recommendations from NCSBN's Board of Directors that included adopting revised Model Act and Model Rules documents, a slate of candidates for open NCSBN positions, and increasing the NCLEX PN and RN exam fee to $350. Discussion and action on the recommendations will occur at NCSBN's Annual meeting in August 2026. Young responded to Board member questions.

14. **Announcements:**
    a. Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) Annual Meeting, Chicago, August 18, 2026.
    b. NCSBN Annual Meeting, Chicago, August 19 to 21, 2026.
    c. NCSBN Leadership and Public Policy Conference, Philadelphia, October 7 to 9, 2026.
    d. Future Board Meetings: November 4 and 5, 2026, February 2, 2027, May 4, 2027, August 3, 2027, November 3, 2027.

15. **Motion to Adjourn** by Tilton. Second by Felton. Motion carried in unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 10:54 A.M.