



State of Idaho
Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses
Idaho Board of Nursing

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Board Meeting Minutes of 01/28/2026

Board Members Present:	Deena Rauch, DNP, RN – Chair Kara Mahannah, LPN Michelle Anderson, DNP, APRN Kristi Hofhine, RN Sara Gibbons, PhD, RN Troy Allbright, RN Gus Powell, APRN Katy Rawlins, LM Andrea Roltgen, LM Valentin Garcia, Public Member	Division Staff:	Nicki Chopski, Executive Officer Janice Beller, General Counsel Skip Liddle, Investigations Program Manager Mike Celeste, Investigations Supervisor Brandy Fitchett, Practice and Education Specialist Candace Villarreal, Board Support Specialist
		Others Present:	Joan Callahan, Board Prosecutor

Board Members Absent:
Megan Reichle, RN

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Dr. Deena Rauch.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 10/23/2025 minutes. The motion carried.

DIVISION BUSINESS

Financial Update: Dr. Chopski presented the financial report for the second quarter of fiscal year 2026 and encouraged questions from the Board members.

Two (2) Year Renewal Transition Plan: Dr. Chopski outlined the upcoming transition for the current two-year license renewal process, which will now be determined by the licensee's date of birth and birth year. She explained that the renewal cycle will depend on whether the individual's birth year is an even or odd year, and that renewal fees will be adjusted as necessary. This change aims to ensure a steady revenue stream throughout the year and distribute staffing responsibilities more evenly. After her presentation, she responded to questions from Board members.

Legislative Update: Dr. Chopski provided a brief update on the 2026 legislative session. She reviewed the legislative tracker, which includes Rules, Executive Agency Legislation (EAL), Legislation specifically affecting the Division, and other current legislation. The overview covered updates to 24.26.01 Rules of Midwifery, 24.34.01 Rules of the Idaho Board of Nursing, EAL 427-08 Idaho Controlled Substance Act, as well as other relevant legislation. She subsequently stood for questions and comments from the Board members.

BOARD BUSINESS

Committee Elections: An opening for a Board of Nursing member has become available on the Interprofessional Advisory Committee on Lifestyle Injectables (IACLI). Following discussion, a motion was made and seconded to elect Sara Gibbons to the IACLI Committee. The motion carried.

Nurse Intern Pilot Discussion: Previously, the Board agreed that the quarterly Nurse Intern Pilot Program Survey (NIP) would be transitioned to a biannual schedule administered two (2) to three (3) months after graduation. The Board reviewed two cohort surveys, fall 2024 and spring 2025. It was reported that the next fall survey is expected in April 2026. Program details were discussed and Board members noted that the current participation at St. Luke's includes sixty-five (65) individuals. If the program continues, participation will include at least eighty (80) individuals. Retention rates among participants are approximately 95-98%. Additionally, Board members highlighted that out-of-state candidates find the availability of this program appealing, and that there is a growing interest from multiple Idaho and out-of-state educational institutions. The Board requested an update from Brandy Fitchett, Practice and Education Specialist for DOPL Health Professions. Ms. Fitchett reported positive outcomes from the five (5) facilities currently participating and indicated interest from additional healthcare organizations should the program continue. Dr. Chopski advised that the program is slated to conclude in April 2026. During the upcoming April Board meeting, a decision will be requested from the Board to continue the program, establish it as permanent, or to discontinue it.

Public Comment: The Board Chair offered the opportunity for public comment regarding NIP followed by comments from the following public members.

Megan Boston, Manager of Student Services at St. Alphonsus Medical Center, stated that new graduates who complete the NIP have a clear understanding of their professional roles and exhibit confidence as they prepare to enter the workforce. She also mentioned that the program provides valuable immersive experiences, helping students differentiate between perceptions and the realities of clinical practice.

Maura Cash, Manager of Transition to Practice at Kootenai Health, stated she concurred with Ms. Boston and the Board's assessment and discussed the importance of developing potential contingency plans should the NIP be discontinued.

Rule Making Discussion-Renewal Clean-up and Nurse Intern: Dr. Chopski presented unofficial drafts of proposed language concerning the NIP program, should the program be made permanent. The draft clarified the distinction between a nurse apprentice and a nurse intern and included updates to eliminate duplicative or redundant language. She also introduced a draft proposal for amended fee rules related to biennial birth date renewals. The Board reviewed the Rulemaking timeline document. She stated that any proposed rule modifications would require consultation with the Division of Financial Management (DFM), approval from the Governor's Office, and compliance with public notice and hearing requirements. Additionally, she noted that zero-based regulation reviews are conducted every eight years; however, rules may be proposed outside this cycle when specific criteria are met. Ms. Beller commented that the proposed language aims to update, streamline, clarify, and ensure consistency, and she documented guidance from the Board regarding any future proposed language. She informed the Board that no

vote is being requested at this time, as these updates are informational. She stated that future decisions or proposals will be scheduled according to the reviewed timeline.

Conference Attendance and Updates: The Board discussed participation in upcoming conferences. Additionally, Board members were reminded of the invitation to attend Idaho Nurses Day at the Capitol with Dr. Chopski, directly following this meeting. A motion was made and seconded to support upcoming travel as presented. The motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made and seconded to enter Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Codes § 74-206(1)(d) and § 74-106(9) to consider records related to a licensee's ability to obtain or retain a license, which is exempt from public disclosure. The vote was: Ms. Mahannah, aye; Dr. Anderson, aye; Ms. Hofhine, aye; Dr. Gibbons, aye; Mr. Allbright, aye; Mr. Powell, aye; Ms. Rawlins, aye; Ms. Roltgen, aye; Mr. Garcia, aye; and Dr. Rauch, aye. The motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to exit executive session. The motion carried.

BOARD DISCIPLINE:

A motion was made and seconded to close with a Letter of Concern case number: 1861284. The motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Board prosecutor to negotiate an Agreement in Lieu of Discipline with the terms discussed in executive session and authorize the executive officer to approve on behalf of the Board for case numbers: 1834796; 1839931; and 1920102. The motion carried.

A motion was made to authorize negotiation of a Stipulation and Consent Order with the terms discussed in executive session for case number: 1671874. The motion carried.

A further motion was made and seconded to allow the Board prosecutor to proceed with the filing of an Administrative Complaint should any of the negotiations fail or expire. The motion carried.

APRN-AC RECOMMENDATIONS:

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Committee recommendations which encompassed the following actions:

- To authorize the Board prosecutor to negotiate an Agreement in Lieu of Discipline in case number: 1852665. The motion carried.
- To close with a Letter of Concern case number: 1822231. The motion carried.

APPLICATIONS:

A motion was made and seconded to approve application number: 1364842 with the terms discussed in executive session. The motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to approve application number: 12962641 with the terms discussed in executive session. The motion carried with Ms. Anderson in opposition.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:52 PM.

The next meeting is on 04/22/2026.