

Minutes: Nursing Home Workforce Standards Board

Date: Friday, Nov. 21, 2025

Minutes prepared by: Linnea Pignatello

Location: Hybrid – Minnesota Room at the Department of Labor and Industry and via Webex

Attendance

Members present	Visitors present	DLI staff members present
Michelle Armstrong	Todd Bergstrom	Linnea Becerra
Commissioner Nicole Blissenbach	Jeff Bostic	Paul Enger
Kim Brenne		Ken McGurran
Jamie Gulley		Josiah Moore (remotely)
Maria King (remotely)		
Katie Lundmark (remotely)		
Paula Rocheleau (remotely)		

Agenda items

- 1. Call to order** – The meeting was called to order by Jamie Gulley at 10:02 a.m. Roll call was taken. A quorum was declared.
- 2. Approval of agenda** – A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Maria King and seconded by Kim Brenne. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.
- 3. Approval of drafted meeting minutes** – A motion to approve the Oct. 9, 2025, drafted meeting minutes as presented was made by King and seconded by Brenne. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.
- 4. Board updates** –
 - Gulley introduced the draft annual report. It was noted the annual report was not voted on last year and does not need a vote to go to the Legislature this year. Counsel advised the annual report must be submitted by Dec. 1 to comply with the statutory deadline.
 - Board members provided feedback about the report. The date for certifying workers trained needed to be changed and there was discussion about whether providing a link to the list of the approved certified worker organizations was sufficient, with the board deciding it was. The board discussed the waiver that was granted and debated whether to list the name of the facility. Ultimately, the board decided to recommend the executive director add a statement that the board approved a waiver, but to leave the name of the facility out of the report. Regarding the wage standard rules, it was recommended to edit a sentence to say, “which determined the estimated fiscal impact on the state share of Medicaid payment rates for nursing home facilities.” The board decided to recommend the executive director add a sentence to the report’s conclusion identifying some of the common themes of the feedback received at the public forums.

- Brenne updated the board about the Data Workgroup. The workgroup is progressing toward making a recommendation to the board about the data that should be tracked and monitored going forward.
- Board counsel Paul Enger updated the board on the most recent Waivers and Variances Workgroup meeting. The workgroup discussed many items that also came before the board at the most recent board meeting (followup process, evaluation document and the updated spreadsheet) and determined it would explore further refinement of the waiver and variance procedures following further applications.
- The board discussed the public forums and the feedback members heard. Brenne said the online forum increased participation and noted that two opportunities at different times would be a good idea – a morning session and an evening session, possibly a weekend. King said the forums allowed people a voice and to hear a lot about the board’s work being an “unfunded mandate,” and added that the board should continue to host public forums. Katie Lundmark said someone was not allowed to speak a second time in St. Cloud and said there should be structure for speakers at the forums. Nicole Blissenbach said other boards give people strict rules around speaking, to avoid back and forth and to focus on letting the public speak to the board. The group decided to explore additional public forum rules beyond those already stated at the outset of each public forum. Brenne added that the board could think about procedures regarding canceling public forums in the event of low registration or expected attendance. Some members of the board noted that the questions the board circulated in advance of the public forums went mostly unanswered during the forums.

5. New business –

6. Next meeting –

Adjournment

A motion was made by Paula Rocheleau to adjourn the meeting at 10:52 a.m. and seconded by Brenne. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.