

**Minnesota Board of Nursing
Education Committee Minutes**

March 20, 2026, 1-2:30 pm

TEAMS Meeting

1210 Northland Avenue #120

Mendota Heights, MN 55120

Members Present: Rhonda Johnson, Tracy Sonterre-Rieger

Members Absent: Jessica Miehe, Sandie Anderson

Staff Present: Deb Schuhmacher, JaCinda Downs

Staff Absent: Melissa Wolfe

Guests Present: Global Mobility Services: John Clark, Jennifer Geiler, Spiros Papageorgiou

Bayada Education: Wesley Trice, April Prunty

Chamberlain University: Eleni-Marie O'Connor

Call to order: by Tracy Sonterre-Rieger at 1:02 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Rhonda Johnson and seconded by Tracy Sonterre-Rieger. All approved.

Motion passed

Approval of Minutes

Approval of February 5, 2026, meeting minutes: Motion by Rhonda Johnson and seconded by Tracy Sonterre-Rieger. All approved.

Motion passed

New Program Proposals

- **LOI/Application submissions**
 - **Winona:** Direct Entry Masters Program proposed start date May 2027, Rochester campus. Will be 5th direct entry program in state. First student cohort summer, 2027 of 24, second cohort 32 summer 2028. **(Tracy and Rhonda both recommend moving forward to the full board)**
 - **Herzing:** full application of phase II ready for on-site visit
 - **Chamberlain:** Waiting on construction to begin before onsite visit, will follow up to schedule in the next few months. Proposed program start date in September, 2027. Representative summarized the program plans.

April 22nd BON Education Forum

Pilot based on program survey; plan to send notice to Directors next week. Presentation for 15-20 minutes (recorded) re: annual compliance and related rule. Questions to follow on topic of presentation. Future topics can be driven by the surveys or the Education committee.

TOEFL iBT Score Change

Overview from representatives on context of changes; the score changed to align scores and ensure consistency. Discussion on score recommendations: total of 4.5 aligns with all the conversion tables--- 5 for speaking with a minimum of 4 in other modules. Members would like to invite representatives to the April board meeting. **(Tracy and Rhonda both recommend moving forward to full board).**

Variance Review: institutional accreditation

Representatives spoke to variance submission. Founding Dean gave an overview of the petition. Discussion on variance request. A model of partnership with a university institution has been successful in New Jersey, with its first cohort graduating at 100% pass rate (10). Proposed hybrid (theory online) and clinical partnering with HealthPartners in Minnesota. Simulation lab to be built and funded by Bayada. Estimated 16-24 students to start with. Simultaneously starting the accreditation processes: institutional and programmatic. OHE gave accreditation candidacy. Hardship: would need to take the program to a different state if the variance is not approved.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m. by Rhonda Johnson and seconded by Tracy Sonterre-Rieger.

Next meeting: April 2, 2026, 12:30-1:30pm

Recorder: J. Downs