PA Compact Communications Committee Meeting Minutes

August 20, 2026

Name	Member Role	Voting Member	Attendance
Jean Fischer	WI alternate	x	x
Justin Hepner	VA delegate	x	x
Camille Vassilakos	OK alternate	x	x
Rachel MacArthur	ME alternate	x	
Mark Spangler	WV alternate	x	x
Brooke Yates	MT delegate	x	Joined after adoption of agenda and minutes
Chandni Bhatka	KS alternate	x	
Laura Morris	CT delegate	x	Joined during adoption of agenda
Laura Delaney	IA alternate	x	x
Total voting members present		Quorum = 5/9	7/9
Marisa Courtney	Vice Chair PA Commission		
Jerica Kent	OH board staff		x
Tim Terranova	Chair PA Commission		x
Greg Thomas	ex-officio NCCPA		x
Name	**Non-Member Role**		**Attendance**
Nahale Kalfas	Interim Legal Counsel		x
Carl Sims	CSG		
Abigail Mortell	Interim Executive Director		x

Name	**Agenda**	**Minutes from June 4, 2026**	**Friendly Amendment to Newsletter Motion**	**September Newsletter**	**FAQs**
Jean Fischer		2			1
Justin Hepner			2	1	
Camille Vassilakos	2				
Rachel MacArthur					
Mark Spangler	1		1		
Brooke Yates					
Chandni Bhatka					

Laura Morris					
Laura Delaney		1		2	2
TOTALS	motion passes	motion passes	motion passes	motion passes	motion passes

Welcome

Call to order/Roll Call

Chair Fischer calls the meeting to order at 4:01pm ET.

A. Mortell takes roll. 5/9 voting members present, committee has quorum.

Review and Adopt Agenda

- Committee reviews the agenda; Chair Fischer calls for a motion to adopt the agenda.
- Laura Morris joins during adoption of agenda. 6/9 voting members present.
- **Motion**:
    - Mark Spangler motions to adopt the agenda.
    - Camille Vassilakos seconds the motion.
    - All in favor, Motion carries.

Review Minutes from June 4, 2026, meeting

- Committee reviews the minutes from June 4, 2026.
- Chair Fischer requests a motion to approve minutes as drafted.
- **Motion**:
    - Laura Delaney motions to adopt the minutes.
    - Jean Fischer seconds the motion.
    - 4 members vote in favor; Mark Spangler and Laura Morris abstain as they were not present during the last meeting. Motion carries.

September 2026 Newsletter

- Chair Fischer opens the review and discussion on the September newsletter.
    - Chair Corner
        - Chair Terranova notes the Chair Corner includes a thank you to Larry Marx as he is retiring from the Commission.
        - Chair Fischer and M. Spangler note the data system challenges and update were well-worded.
        - Brooke Yates joins meeting. 7/9 voting members present.
        - No suggested changes from the committee.
    - Legislative Update
        - Chair Fischer explains the legislative update is updated every quarter and follows a similar format in each newsletter.
        - No comments from the committee.
    - Meeting Synopsis
        - A. Mortell suggests amending the Communications Committee synopsis to read "the compact privilege process" rather than the original language shared with

the committee on "FBI criminal background checks" as the FAQs are not exclusive to background check topics.
- No objections, change is incorporated.

- Chair Fischer asks Chair Terranova if there are updates on who will serve as interim Finance Chair and Treasurer.
  - Chair Terranova notes a candidate has not been identified yet, but he intends to speak with members of the Finance Committee.

- State Readiness – Preparing for Compact Activation
  - Chair Fischer notes this section was included in the last newsletter, and it has been included here again due to the importance of the information included therein.
    - N. Kalfas requests the addition of "FBI" before "CBC" (criminal background check) where mentioned within this section of the newsletter.
      - No objections, change is incorporated.
- Timeline
  - No comments from committee.
- FAQ Highlight
  - C. Vassilakos asks if this committee has contemplated the question of whether practitioners with misdemeanors or felonies are eligible to utilize the compact.
    - A. Mortell explains the Rules Committee discussed this question and determined the compact places a complete ban on practitioners with misdemeanors and felonies, and the proposed FAQ language here was reviewed by interim legal counsel and the Rules chair. Through this FAQ the Communications Committee would be making more publicly available the Commission's determination on this issue.
    - Chair Terranova notes this is not a decision any committee had to make as it is stated in the model statute.
    - N. Kalfas suggests changing "a charge" to "a *misdemeanor or felony* charge."
      - No objections from committee, change is incorporated.
  - L. Morris asks if this compact speaks to the eligibility of practitioners participating in accelerated rehab programs or confidential programs.
    - N. Kalfas responds that this Commission has not gone so far as to mandate what has been in the Nursing Licensure Compact. It is possible in the future the Commission will want states to report when they know practitioners are participating in such programs, but the Rules Committee has not weighed in on this issue.

- A. Mortell informs the committee that this newsletter can be posted in August rather than September as the Commission's quarterly schedule would require, so the updates therein remain up to date.
  - No objections, newsletter to be released before the end of the month.
- Chair Fischer requests a motion to adopt the newsletter as amended.

Motion:

- Justin Hepner motions to adopt the newsletter.
- Mark Spangler makes friendly amendment to the motion that the newsletter be adopted as modified during today's meeting.
- Justin Hepner accepts friendly amendment to the motion.
- Laura Delaney seconds motion.
- All in favor, motion carries.

FAQs

- Chair Fischer opens the review and discussion of the FAQs to be added to the compact website.
  - Draft Question 1: Are PAs with misdemeanor or felony convictions eligible to utilize the compact?
    - C. Vassilakos suggests removing second sentence of response "practitioners may contact the licensing authority for the state wherein they wish to practice for alternate pathways to licensure, such as a single-state license" as it has been expressed in FAQs elsewhere.
    - N. Kalfas notes that states may have issues with the complete ban on practitioners with misdemeanor or felony convictions, so reiterating wherever possible that practitioners are not necessarily barred from seeking licensure via pathways besides the compact can be useful.
    - Language is maintained as drafted.
  - Draft Question 2: Which state should serve as my State of Qualifying License?
    - C. Vassilakos suggests having "All Compact Privileges are tied to the State of Qualifying Licensure" as separate sentence from rest of answer for clarity.
    - No objections, change is incorporated.
  - Draft Question 3: Must the State of Qualifying Licensure conduct criminal background checks for PAs upon renewal of their Qualifying License?
    - Chair Fischer suggests starting the response with "No" for clarity.
      - No objections, change is incorporated.
    - J. Kent asks if the question can be simplified, so it is not overly formal.
      - N. Kalfas agrees it can be simplified so long as there is still reference to the State of Qualifying Licensure and what they require to maintain a license and what the Compact requires for PA eligibility for a compact privilege. The Commission does not dictate to the states whether they require CBCs for license renewal.
      - J. Kent points out the question refers to the state while part of the response refers to the licensee, so it is unclear who the onus is on regarding background checks at renewal.
      - N. Kalfas suggests breaking the FAQ up into two so the licensee perspective can be separated from the Member State.
      - T. Terranova suggests this question be reworked by Commission staff and brought back before this committee.
        - No objections, Commission staff to redraft question 3 into two separate questions, one for PAs and another for Member States.

Motion:

- Jean Fischer motions to approve questions one and two as amended during today's meeting for addition to the compact website.
- Laura Delaney seconds the motion.
- All in favor, motion carries.

Next Meeting Scheduling

- The committee will convene for an ad hoc meeting October 25 at 2pm ET to draft and approve the Commission's 2026 annual report. The committee will meet again on December 3, 2026, to approve the next newsletter.

Delegate Questions and Comments

- J. Hepner asks how the newsletter is distributed.
  - A. Mortell confirms the newsletter is sent out to all Commissioners along with being posted on the website.
  - G. Thomas notes NCCPA incorporates the Commission's newsletter into the NCCPA newsletter that goes out to all members.
- Chair Fischer asks if there is an option to sign up to receive the newsletter on the website.
  - A. Mortell confirms this is not currently an option but is being explored by Commission staff. The Commission should be able to create a subscription list that can be transferred to the permanent secretariat so long as the disclaimers subscribers agree to upon sign up stipulate that they also agree to let the permanent secretariat contact them with the newsletter.

Public Questions and Comments

- None.

Adjourn

- Hearing no further business or discussion, Chair Fischer adjourns the meeting at 4:44 p.m. ET with no member opposition.