



State of Nebraska

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

NEBRASKA EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION MEETING OF August 21, 2026

Commissioner Meyer called the meeting to order in Omaha, Nebraska at 9:07 a.m. on August 21, 2026. It was established, after a roll call, there was a quorum.

I. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present

Arla Jo Meyer, Chairperson
Marcia Weddle
Patrick Borchers

Royce Jeffries
John Arnold

We have a quorum.

Staff Present

Paula Gardner, Executive Director
Brandie Hinkle, Investigator III

Ben Watson, Unit Director
Andrea Berry, Unit Director
Rebekka Hergenrader, Admin Tech

II. NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

Director Gardner read the dates of publication for the current Commission meeting.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Borchers approved the meeting minutes for July 17, 2026.
Commissioner Meyer seconded the motion

IV. ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS

None

V. PUBLIC INPUT (Non-Case)

Limit of 5 minutes per person for a total of a 30-minute session.

MAIN OFFICE:

1526 K St, Suite 310
Lincoln, NE 68508-2734
Phone: 402-471-2024
Fax: 402-471-4059
800-642-6112

BRANCH OFFICES:

1313 Farnam St. Suite 318
Omaha, NE 68102-1836
Phone: 402-595-2028
800-382-7820

505A Broadway Suite 600
Scottsbluff, NE 69361-3515
Phone: 308-632-1340
800-830-8633

ONLINE:

Website:
NEOC.nebraska.gov

Facebook:
<https://fb.me/NebEOC>

VI. INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC INPUT (Agenda Cases)

The cases, wherein a party to the case was present or provided a written statement, were moved to the front of the agenda under Section VII. CASE DISPOSITIONS.

VII. CASE DISPOSITIONS

- A. EMPLOYMENT Respondent was present.
NEB 3-25/26-10-55673

Commissioner Borchers moved for no reasonable cause.
Commissioner Arnold seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Arnold, Jeffries, Meyer, Borchers, Weddle
Nayes:
Abstained:
Motion Carried

- A. EMPLOYMENT Respondent was present.
NEB 1-25/26-11-55722

Commissioner Meyer moved for no reasonable cause.
Commissioner Jeffries seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Jeffries, Meyer, Borchers, Arnold, Weddle, Brennan
Nayes:
Abstained:
Motion Carried

- A. EMPLOYMENT Respondent was present.
NEB 2-25/26-2-55881

Commissioner Meyer moved for no reasonable cause.
Commissioner Jeffries seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Weddle, Jeffries, Meyer, Brennan, Borchers
Nayes:
Abstained: Arnold
Motion Carried

- B. PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION Respondent was present.
NEB 1-25/26-9-3982

Commissioner Meyer moved for no reasonable cause.
Commissioner Brennan seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Jeffries, Meyer, Brennan, Borchers, Arnold, Weddle
 Nayes:
 Abstained:
 Motion Carried

- B. PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION Respondent was present.
NEB 1-25/26-2-4011

Commissioner Meyer moved for no reasonable cause.
Commissioner Borchers seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Meyer, Brennan, Borchers, Arnold, Weddle, Jeffries
 Nayes:
 Abstained:
 Motion Carried

- B. PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION Respondent was present.
NEB 1-25/26-2-4012

Commissioner Meyer moved for no reasonable cause.
Commissioner Jeffries seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Brennan, Borchers, Arnold, Weddle, Jeffries, Meyer
 Nayes:
 Abstained:
 Motion Carried

- A. EMPLOYMENT Complainant and Respondent were present; Complainant
provided a written statement.
NEB 1-25/26-1-55795

Commissioner Meyer moved for no reasonable cause.
Commissioner Arnold seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Borchers, Arnold, Weddle, Jeffries, Meyer, Brennan
 Nayes:
 Abstained:
 Motion Carried

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- C. HOUSING Respondent provided a written statement.
NEB 2-24/25-6-3951

Commissioner Arnold moved for no reasonable cause.
Commissioner Meyer seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Arnold, Weddle, Jeffries, Meyer, Brennan, Borchers
 Nays:
 Abstained:
 Motion Carried

- C. HOUSING Complainant provided a written statement.
NEB 2-25/26-9-3980

Commissioner Meyer moved for no reasonable cause.
Commissioner Jeffries seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Weddle, Jeffries, Meyer, Brennan, Borchers, Arnold
 Nays:
 Abstained:
 Motion Carried

- C. HOUSING Respondent provided a written statement.
NEB 2-25/26-1-4004

Commissioner Meyer moved for no reasonable cause.
Commissioner Borchers seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Brennan, Borchers, Arnold, Weddle, Jeffries, Meyer
 Nays:
 Abstained:
 Motion Carried

- A. EMPLOYMENT
NEB 2-25/26-10-55609

Commissioner Meyer moved for no reasonable cause.
Commissioner Brennan seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Jeffries, Meyer, Weddle, Brennan
 Nays:
 Abstained: Borchers, Arnold
 Motion Carried

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A. EMPLOYMENT
NEB 1-25/26-11-55699

Commissioner Meyer moved for no reasonable cause.
Commissioner Borchers seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Meyer, Borchers, Arnold, Weddle, Brennan
 Nayes:
 Abstained: Jeffries
 Motion Carried

A. EMPLOYMENT
NEB 2-25/26-2-55880

Commissioner Meyer moved for no reasonable cause.
Commissioner Brennan seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Meyer, Borchers, Weddle, Brennan, Jeffries
 Nayes:
 Abstained: Arnold
 Motion Carried

A. EMPLOYMENT
NEB 1-25/26-12-55762
NEB 2-25/26-1-55790
NEB 2-25/26-1-55811
NEB 2-25/26-1-55836
NEB 1-25/26-2-55844
NEB 2-25/26-2-55857
NEB 1-25/26-2-55869

Commissioner Meyer moved for no reasonable cause on the above cases.
Commissioner Borchers seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Arnold, Weddle, Jeffries, Meyer, Brennan, Borchers
 Nayes:
 Abstained:
 Motion Carried

B. PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION

NEB 2-25/26-8-3973

NEB 2-25/26-3-4018

Commissioner Meyer moved for no reasonable cause on the above cases.

Commissioner Arnold seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Weddle, Jeffries, Meyer, Brennan, Borchers, Arnold
 Nayes:
 Abstained:
 Motion Carried

C. HOUSING

NEB 2-25/26-11-3991

NEB 1-25/26-12-3998

NEB 1-25/26-2-4013

Commissioner Meyer moved for no reasonable cause on the above cases.

Commissioner Borchers seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Jeffries, Meyer, Brennan, Borchers, Arnold, Weddle
 Nayes:
 Abstained:
 Motion Carried

VIII. SUCCESSFUL AGREEMENTS

NEB 1-25/26-12-55735-RD

NEB 1-25/26-12-55784-RD

Commissioner Meyer moved to adopt the agreements.

Commissioner Arnold seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Meyer, Brennan, Borchers, Arnold, Weddle, Jeffries
 Nayes:
 Abstained:
 Motion Carried

X. CONCILIATION

None at this time

XI. CONCILIATION CASES TO BE CONSIDERED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

None at this time.

XII. PUBLIC HEARING

None at this time.

XIII. CIVIL ACTION

None at this time

XIV. BUSINESS

1. Previous Month's General Ledger Report

Commissioner Meyer moved to approve and adopt the previous month's Ledger report.
Commissioner Brennan seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Brennan, Borchers, Arnold, Weddle, Jeffries, Meyer
 Nayes:
 Abstained:
 Motion Carried

2. Outreach Report—Unit Director, Ben Watson

Director Watson announced the agency participated in the Disability pride picnic in Lincoln on July 25, 2026. Staff talked to more than 50 people, played games and gave out prizes.

Director Watson shared the agency will participate in a first-time home buyers conference on August 22, 2026.

Director Watson said he will be in Wahoo, Nebraska on September 2, 2026, doing a requested fair housing training for the city.

3. Director's Report – Executive Director, Paula Gardner

Director Gardner introduced Nathan Arentsen as a new investigator. Nathan has a law degree and legislative policy experience. He works out of the Omaha office.

Director Gardner explained that she and Cathy Fedor have been working on the biennium budget that is due on September 15, 2026. Each budget cycle, every agency is required to indicate modifications that will be made if there is a reduction, and the outcome/consequences of those reductions. While the agency has not seen a significant

reduction in recent history, it is possible there could be reductions in this budget cycle, but the agency is prepared to work within any limitations.

Director Garder announced the EEOC approved of an upward modification to the contract of \$17,000. Still waiting for the HUD contract that is expected by the end of the month.

Director Gardner stated the agency recently made a lot of updates to its CMS database, including additional ways to search, removal unused portions, etc. The new database has made it easier to run reports needed for the Annual Report. This most recent Annual Report is almost complete and should be finished by the September commission meeting.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Meyer declared the August 21, 2026, Commission meeting ended at 10:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Administrative Technician II

8.25.26
Date



Paula Gardner
Executive Director

8.25.2026
Date

The Minutes of the Nebraska Equal Opportunity Commission meeting of August 21, 2026, have been corrected and accepted, and henceforth approved on this date.

Chairperson

Date