

NHA Hospital Trustee Education Certification Program

OVERVIEW

The Nebraska Hospital Association Research and Educational Foundation (NHAREF) has developed this voluntary trustee education certification to assist board members and trustees in becoming better educated and informed on matters of health care and how they relate to their community hospitals. This education certification serves to improve knowledge, leadership effectiveness and compliance with a variety of governance best practices. Certification is a viable way of assuring various stakeholders such as community members, lawmakers, regulators, physicians, employees and other businesses that Nebraska hospitals hold themselves to the highest standards and are accountable for their own self-governance.

MEETING EXPECTATIONS WITH CERTIFICATION

As your hospital works daily to deliver efficient, high-quality and safe health care, it requires your knowledge, understanding, dedication and commitment as an effective board member. You not only need traditional governance skills and qualities, but a special understanding of the complex health care industry. The Trustee Education Certification Program promotes governance best practices and demonstrates to lawmakers, regulators, employees, business leaders and community stakeholders that you and your hospital's board:

- Understand and embrace the need for governance transparency and accountability.
- Govern according to recognized best practices and standards of excellence.
- Use benchmarking data for utilization and financial operations.
- Use quality and patient safety performance data to identify opportunities for improvement.

WHY IT MATTERS

The NHA hospital board certification shows your hospital is guided by knowledgeable and dedicated board members. This program helps to ensure board members:

- Provide health care access to the entire community.
- Know basic expectations and standards of participation.
- Meet their fiduciary duties of care, loyalty and obedience.
- Meet their governance obligations to bylaws, certification, licensure, and applicable accreditation standards and laws.
- Realize the importance of keeping informed of health care issues and trends along with governance best practices.
- Recognize the importance of advocacy on behalf of the hospital to their community and legislators.

HOW IT WORKS

The trustee completes and signs the Basic Certification Form and Continuing Board Education Log and submits both to their hospital board chair and CEO for verification.

Certification: Trustees must complete 8 hours of continuing board education during the time span of January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2024.

Education hours must be submitted to the NHA no later than December 31, 2024.

The NHA approves all trustee education certifications. Trustees will receive a notice from NHA upon completion of requirements stated above.

Recognition: Trustees who complete the requirements for certification will be formally recognized at a future NHA event (TBD). NHA will provide media releases to participating hospitals for use in their hospital and community to promote awareness of their trustee and/or board's accomplishments and commitment to good governance and ongoing learning.

Continuing Board Education: Trustees are expected to obtain 8 hours of education annually to renew their certification. These hours may be obtained through in-person and/or virtual education. Regular updates provided at hospital board meetings do not constitute continuing board education. Education must be a component distinct from routine board reports or agenda items.

NHA programs pre-approved for Trustee Education Certification include:

- Keynotes and Breakout Sessions at NHA Annual Convention
- NHA Advocacy Day
- CAH Conference on Quality
- Nebraska Rural Health Conference
- Select NHA sponsored webinars

For all other educational programs, trustee must submit the agenda or related information to the NHA for review/approval.

Questions? Contact NHA at TCullin@nebraskahospitals.org or 402-742-8140

For participation in 2024, enrollment forms must be submitted to the NHA by December 31, 2024.

Name: _____

Position held on the board: _____

Hospital/Health System Name: _____

Address, City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Trustee e-mail address: _____

Hospital contact e-mail address: _____

Please select one of the following:

Hospital Trustee Education Certification Program participant

Hospital trustees/board members **seeking trustee education certification for the first time in this program** are required to complete **8 hours** of approved education to meet the requirements for the Trustee Education Certification Program.

NHA Board-Certified Hospital

My hospital would like to become a NHA Board-Certified Hospital (Separate documentation required at end of year for this certification. This is separate from individual trustee certification.)

Please return this form by **December 31, 2024** to:

Tiffani Cullin | tcullin@nebraskahospitals.org | 402-742-8140 | NebraskaHospitals.org

There are no fees involved.