




**TO:** The Professional Practice Committee

**FROM:** Douglas E. Lentivech 

**SUBJECT:** Strengthening Professions Partnerships with the Education, Health, and Human Services Sectors

**DATE:** February 6, 2018

**AUTHORIZATION(S):**



#### **SUMMARY**

#### **Issue for Discussion**

Update on initiatives to leverage licensed professionals to improve outcomes, promote adequate professional services for all children, and inform children about opportunities for careers in the licensed professions.

#### **Reason(s) for Consideration**

For information.

#### **Proposed Handling**

This item will be presented to the Professional Practice Committee for discussion at the February 2018 meeting of the Board of Regents.

#### **Procedural History**

The Professional Practice and P-12 Education Committees discussed the intersections between the Office of the Professions and other educational initiatives in November 2015.

#### **Background Information**

The broad authority of the Board of Regents over New York's educational enterprise offers the Department's Office of the Professions unique opportunities to engage 900,000 licensed professionals and 33 State professional boards and committees in supporting Regents priorities.

Recent initiatives, such as the Regents Early Childhood Blue Ribbon Committee and the First 1,000 Days on Medicaid program, underscore the necessity of addressing the whole of a given child’s environment. As stated in the Blue Ribbon Committee’s report, “programs and services that support the healthy development of young children cannot be the sole purview of the education system. It is incumbent that state policy makers work across sectors.”

The Office of the Professions sits at one such juncture, encompassing through its activities and resources a commitment to both education and to the work of the licensed professions. As a group, the licensed professions have the reach and experience to provide and inform services to help students thrive—and to offer paths to rewarding careers that benefit the public.

Over the years, the Department’s challenge has been to leverage the work of the Office and the licensed professions to strengthen the work of the “sectors” within the Department. Our ability to accomplish that will in turn strengthen our ability to work with the critical sectors outside of the Department to support students on their paths to knowledge, health, and citizenship.

Dedicated Office staff are assuming responsibility for continuing initiatives as well as for conferring with the State professional boards and other Department program areas to identify ideas and opportunities for collaboration. Staff have also begun to participate in cross-sector initiatives, such as the aforementioned “First 1,000 Days” project.

The Office is thinking broadly about P-20 connections. Potential activities run the gamut from traditional career-development outreach to initiatives such as the School Vision Health program, in which licensed professionals volunteer their services to students in need. Most importantly, these efforts can provide useful information and services to students. There are other benefits as well:

- Engage the expertise of the State boards for the professions in a broader range of Department activities.
- Heighten the profile of *all* licensed professions—and the various pathways through which licensure may be reached—to help spotlight career options that may not be well known to students.
- Maximize Department contributions to collaborations with health, social service, and other agencies and organizations.

Individual outreach conducted by State professional board members and the Board Executive Secretaries continues to include speaking engagements, internships, and mentoring, as well as direct services to children in need (e.g., dental health screenings and the School Vision Health effort).

Building on these longstanding efforts, staff have identified potential activities and projects to prime discussions, generate further ideas, and offer options for establishing

an initial focus. Possible future P-20 activities for the State boards and Office staff include the following:

- Speaker’s bureau, e.g., to develop career—and career preparation—awareness. This could include engaging candidates in professional preparation programs, particularly those that have a service requirement, to tell P-12 students about their path to licensure.
- P-12 faculty development or guidance, including curriculum development.
- Student mentoring and job site “shadowing” and applied experiences (e.g., guided projects).
- Career programs or scholarships with sponsoring organizations (employers, higher education, community groups, associations).
- Student/career section for the OP website, including a searchable version of an updated listing of mentoring/career programs.
- Career planning and exploration tool targeting the licensed professions for use by teachers and school counselors.
- One-page infographic and/or Web graphic for each of the professions, highlighting academic and job skills, licensure requirements, and pathway(s) to the profession. (For use by teachers, students, and guidance staff.)

In addition, we plan to highlight state board member outreach activities through our social media outlets; such postings not only highlight the service work of our colleagues, but they provide a vivid illustration of the work of the professions.

There is no shortage of options for useful connections to the P-20 communities. The Office looks forward to making more comprehensive contributions that leverage the unique capacities of the Board of Regents and the State boards for the professions.

### **Related Regent’s Items**

[Intersections Between the Work of the Office of the Professions and Other Education Initiatives](http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/1115p12ppcd1.pdf)

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### **Timetable for Implementation**

The Office will continue to identify options, set an initial focus for its efforts, and return to the Regents to discuss progress and challenges.