



TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: Douglas E. Lentivech


SUBJECT: Appointment to the Position of Executive Secretary, State Board for Physical Therapy, Podiatry, and Ophthalmic Dispensing

DATE: April 23, 2012

AUTHORIZATION(S): 
SUMMARY

Issue for Decision

Should the Regents approve the appointment of Seth Rockmuller as Executive Secretary to the State Boards for Physical Therapy, Podiatry, and Ophthalmic Dispensing?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute.

Proposed Handling

This recommendation will come before the full Board of Regents at its executive session for discussion during the April Regents meeting. If approved in executive session, it will then come before the full Board for final action at the Board's public session in April 2012.

Procedural History

Sections 6733, 7003 and 7123 of the Education Law requires the Board of Regents to appoint the Executive Secretary to the State Boards for Physical Therapy, Podiatry, and Ophthalmic Dispensing. The State professional boards advise and assist the Regents and the Department on matters of professional licensing and professional conduct.

Background Information

The New York State Education Department oversees the licensing and registration of over 19,500 physical therapists, 2,400 podiatrists, and 3,800 ophthalmic dispensers. The primary oversight of that function falls under the direction of the Executive Secretary to the State Boards for Physical Therapy, Podiatry, and Ophthalmic Dispensing. Accordingly, upon the retirement of the past Executive Secretary, it became a priority to seek a strongly qualified candidate. After an extensive search, we are pleased to present Seth Rockmuller for your consideration for the following reasons.

In addition to serving as the interim Executive Secretary for Acupuncture, Seth is an attorney with over 33 years experience in Education Law, the last 8 of those years with the primary focus in health law with the Office of the Professions. Seth is keenly aware of the issues facing the practice of physical therapy, podiatry, and ophthalmic dispensing in particular, as well as those facing the health professions in general.

As one of the selected participants in the Department's Leadership Academy, Seth brings a unique blend of knowledge and background together with the managerial and legal skills necessary to assume the responsibilities necessary as the Executive Secretary to the New York State Boards for Physical Therapy, Podiatry, and Ophthalmic Dispensing.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Regents approve the appointment of Seth Rockmuller as Executive Secretary to the State Boards for Physical Therapy, Podiatry, and Ophthalmic Dispensing.

Timetable for Implementation

If the Regents approve the recommendation, the appointment will be effective April 26, 2012.