



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY,
NY 12234

TO: The Professional Practice Committee
FROM: Douglas E. Lentivech
SUBJECT: Establishment of Regents Advisory Workgroup on
Healthcare
DATE: January 6, 2012
AUTHORIZATION(S):

Summary

Issue for Decision

Should the Board of Regents approve the establishment of a Regents Advisory Workgroup on Healthcare to assist the Board on such matters involving healthcare and the professions as the Board deems necessary?

Reason for Consideration

Review of Policy.

Proposed Handling

This item will be submitted for discussion and approval at the January 2012 meeting of the Professional Practice Committee. If approved by the Committee, it will be submitted for approval by the Full Board.

Procedural History

As discussed at the December 2011 meeting of the Professional Practice Committee, a variety of emerging issues in healthcare are having, or will have, a pronounced impact upon the licensed professions. At that meeting, it was decided that, for the purposes of gaining additional information and perspective, an advisory workgroup would be established to assist the Board of Regents on such matters involving healthcare and the professions as the Board deems necessary. This item provides further details of a proposal to establish a Regents Advisory Workgroup on Healthcare to provide advice and information relating to emerging concerns in healthcare.

Background Information

We note, initially, that of the 49 licensed professions, 41 provide healthcare services, representing over 700,000 licensed practitioners. Further, the entirety of professional healthcare services is provided by individuals licensed or otherwise authorized by the NYSED. The Regents oversight of healthcare professionals reaches every area of healthcare within New York State. Accordingly, the breadth of knowledge and areas of expertise necessary to anticipate and address the full range of issues impacting healthcare are quite expansive. This is especially true given the rapid pace of healthcare reform.

Healthcare and Medicaid reform initiatives, both nationally and within New York, have resulted in a steady stream of proposals that routinely impact upon the work of the Department and the oversight by the Board. A Regents Advisory Workgroup on Healthcare, would assist the Board of Regents on matters related to healthcare. Specifically, the workgroup would respond to issues as directed by the Board of Regents and provide information and guidance within the framework of the Regents' directive.

The proposed advisory workgroup must be sufficiently structured to react to issues as needed, but also be balanced and responsive to all areas of healthcare. Accordingly, the workgroup should be comprised of a core of individuals that will convene with a broad base of knowledge and responsibility. That core group would include two or more current members of the Board of Regents, designated by the Chancellor, as well as the Executive Deputy Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner for the Professions. In addition to the core members, when considering a particular issue, the workgroup shall also include additional members, chosen by the core group, as necessary. Those additional members may be drawn from, but would not be limited to: Executive Secretaries of the State Professional Boards as well as members of the State Professional Boards, health care experts, community representatives, and officials from other agencies. The workgroup would be comprised of experts who are qualified to assist the Board of Regents in complex matters, while understanding concerns relating to public protection. The workgroup would include the representation necessary to understand the needs of patients.

Recommendation

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approve the establishment of a Regents Advisory Workgroup on Healthcare to be constituted and to operate as described herein.

Timetable for Implementation

The establishment of the Committee would be effective upon approval by the Board of Regents.