



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

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, OFFICE OF THE PROFESSIONS
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March 19, 2024

Dear State Board members:

I write to update you on transitions within the Office of the Professions. As you may know, after more than 35 years in State government, including 19 years with the Education Department and the last four as Deputy Commissioner, Sarah Benson retired on February 28th. Sarah's time as Deputy coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic and she provided steady guidance that allowed the Office of the Professions to seamlessly continue its operation and support of the important work of the licensed professions.

On Tuesday, March 12th, the Board of Regents appointed me as Deputy Commissioner and Owen Donovan as Assistant Commissioner, Professional Licensing & Practice, for the Office of the Professions. Both appointments took effect immediately. In addition to his new responsibilities as Assistant Commissioner, Owen will continue to serve as Executive Coordinator for Professional Practice as recruitment efforts for that position move forward.

As State Board members, you provide an essential role in advising and assisting OP, the Department, and the Board of Regents. Whether you are participating in moral character, disciplinary and restoration proceedings; providing guidance about professional practice in an evolving environment; or supporting efforts to encourage a diverse pool of prospective students into the licensed professions, your contributions are critical to our shared mission of public protection through sound professional practice.

The OP leadership team looks forward to working with you in the coming years. If you have any thoughts or questions, please reach out to the Executive Secretary for your State board.

Sincerely,

David H. Hamilton, Ph.D., LMSW
Deputy Commissioner

C: State Board Executive Secretaries