



**TO:** The Honorable Members of the Board of Regents

**FROM:** David H. Hamilton *David H. Hamilton*

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

**DATE:** October 4, 2024

**AUTHORIZATION(S):** *Betty Maes*

### **SUMMARY**

#### **Issue for Discussion**

Will the Board of Regents approve the appointment of Dr. Stephanie Maes to the position of Executive Secretary to the State Boards for Podiatry, Physical Therapy and Ophthalmic Dispensing?

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

Required by State statute.

#### **Proposed Handling**

This appointment will come before the full Board of Regents for action at its October 2024 meeting.

#### **Procedural History**

Education Law section 6508(7) requires the Board of Regents to appoint an Executive Secretary to each state board on recommendation of the Commissioner. Education Law sections 6733, 7003 and 7123 require the Board of Regents to appoint an executive secretary to the boards for Physical Therapy, Podiatry, and Ophthalmic Dispensing. The State Boards advise and assist the Regents and the Department on matters of professional licensing and professional practice.

## **Background Information**

The New York State Education Department oversees the licensing and practice of approximately 28,442 Physical Therapists, 7,024 Physical Therapist Assistants, 3,759 Ophthalmic Dispensers and 2,477 Podiatrists. The primary oversight of those functions falls under the direction of the Executive Secretary to those Boards, a position that is required by statute.

Dr. Maes has a Ph.D. in Geology and has 10 years of professional experience in Higher Education. In December 2017, Ms. Maes joined the OP Deputy Commissioner's Office as an Assistant in Higher Education. In this position she supported OP's commitment to enhance connections between P-12, higher education, and the licensed professions. Dr. Maes took on special projects and tasks such as supporting Regents' priorities in the licensed professions (e.g., healthcare inequities, under-representation in the professions, and Interstate Licensure Compacts) through research, writing, and presentation development. She also worked collaboratively with each of the Executive Secretaries and gained extensive knowledge of the licensed professions while developing materials for OP's *Career Paths* website.

Dr. Maes' knowledge of credentialing and regulation was further expanded when she accepted responsibilities in the Psychology and Clinical Laboratory Technology Board Offices (2020-21 and 2022-24), reviewing and evaluating individual licensing applications. Acting in this role necessitated knowledge of laws, rules, and regulations and required effective communication with applicants, licensees, and the general public. During 2022 and 2023 significant changes were made to the laws governing licensing of the clinical laboratory professions. Dr. Maes assisted in the review of regulations needed to implement the amended education law and developed and updated forms to streamline the permit and licensing process to ensure access to quality professional services. Further, from November 2023 to January 2024, she served as Acting Executive Secretary for the State Board of Acupuncture.

Dr. Maes prior experience in the Office of Professions and the additional experience gained in her current position as an Associate in Teacher Education, in the Office of Higher Education, uniquely qualify her for this position.

## **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board of Regents take the following action:

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approve the appointment of Dr. Stephanie Maes to the position of Executive Secretary to the State Boards for Podiatry, Physical Therapy and Ophthalmic Dispensing.

## **Timetable for Implementation**

If the Board of Regents approves the recommendation, the appointment will be effective October 8, 2024.