

### Office of the Professions: Professional Practice Overview

September 10, 2024 Board of Regents



### Board of Regents oversee 56 professions

- Responsible for all licenses, registrations and discipline\*
- Guidance includes education's key role in preparing future applicants for safe practice of evolving professions
- Title VIII sets education, examination and experience requirements for license & registration in 47 health & 9 design/business professions
- Education Department, under the Board of Regents' direction, administers professional regulation assisted by 33 State Boards

<sup>\*</sup> Except for Physicians, Physician's Assistants & Specialist's Assistants

#### Office of the Professions



### **Deputy Commissioner**David H. Hamilton

**Assistant Commissioner** 

Owen Donovan

Professional Education Director

Mei Zhou

Licensing Services Director

Erin Morigerato

Exec. Coordinator for Professional Practice

Thania Fernandez

**Professions Connections** 

Kellie Murphy

Professional
Responsibility
Executive Director
Dennis Spillane

#### **Executive Secretaries to the State Boards for the Professions**

Robert Lopez, Dolores Cottrell, Jennifer Winters, Paul Thompson, Stephen Boese, Thania Fernandez, Dina Jazrawi, Eric Greppo, Evan Seiden, David Wiech (Acting), Kellie Murphy (Acting)

#### **State Boards for the Professions**

33 State Boards and Committees

### Professional Education for Licensure

### **Professional Education Program Review (PEPR)**

- Approves NYS programs to offer license-qualifying education program, in consultation with State Board, ensuring statutory and regulatory requirements are consistent and satisfied
- Addresses complaints and concerns about NYS program performance
- Identify acceptable accrediting bodies in consultation with State Boards Offices

### **Comparative Education (CE)**

- Conduct transcript evaluation for applicants who graduated from out-of-state programs that are not accredited or otherwise authorized
- Notifies applicant of deficiencies that must be satisfied for license or privilege
- Collaborate with State Board offices to determine eligibility for waiver or equivalence



### State Boards & Committees are Essential

- Board of Regents appoint licensees and public members to 33 State Boards and Committees to assist NYSED and Regents with license, practice and discipline of the professions
- Executive Secretary, appointed by Regents, represents NYSED and coordinates work of the Board and NYSED staff, including State Board meetings, experience reviews and practice questions

### Division of Professional Licensing Services

#### **Customer Service**

Provide information and updates





#### Pre-Licensure

Receive and process applications and all verification required for licensure in the profession; issue limited permits and licenses when requirements are met

#### Registration

Receive and process registrations





#### **Professional Corporations**

Receive and process new applications and registrations for business entities

Legislative Technical Assistance by NYSED

- Proposed legislation to create a new profession or amend an existing profession
- NYSED staff may provide technical assistance, consistent with Regents priorities, in response to inquiries
- Ensure adequate information & time required to implement changes and/or new professions





### Moral character for initial practice

- Moral character acceptable to NYSED required for initial practice (permit or license) in majority of professions
- Applicant with prior discipline or other action must provide information that demonstrates good moral character, demonstrating remorse and rehabilitation for practice today



### Licensed for life, registered to practice

- Practice the profession and use authorized title defined in law
- Professional license is valid for life, unless revoked, suspended or annulled by the Board of Regents.
- Licensee must register every three years (2 years in medicine)
- Continuing education is required in 31 professions to register for practice



### Board of Regents disciplinary authority

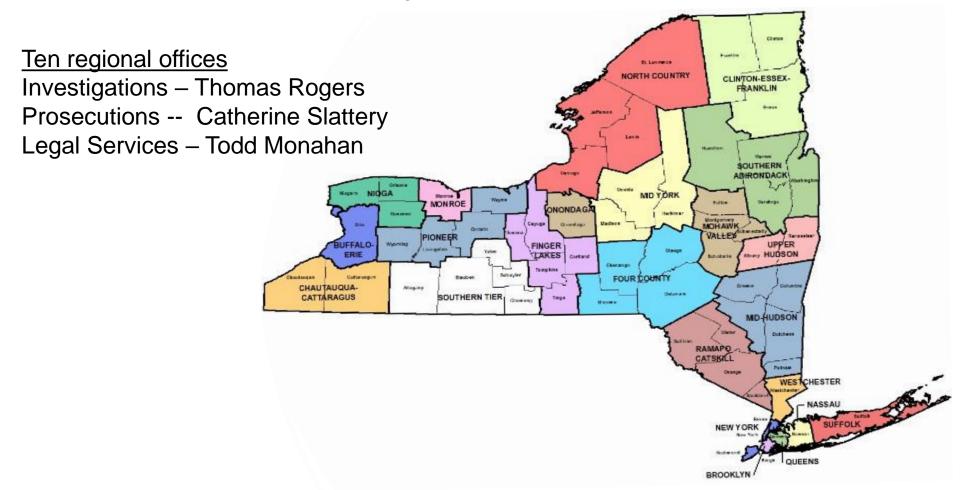
- Education Law §6509 defines professional misconduct in the all professions, except medicine\*
- Rules of the Board of Regents Part 29 establishes standards of conduct in professions, except medicine
- Designate a professional conduct officer in connection with professional licensing & misconduct proceedings & criminal matters

<sup>\*</sup> Article 131-A (§§ 6530-6532) defines professional misconduct applicable to physicians, physician's assistants & specialist's assistants

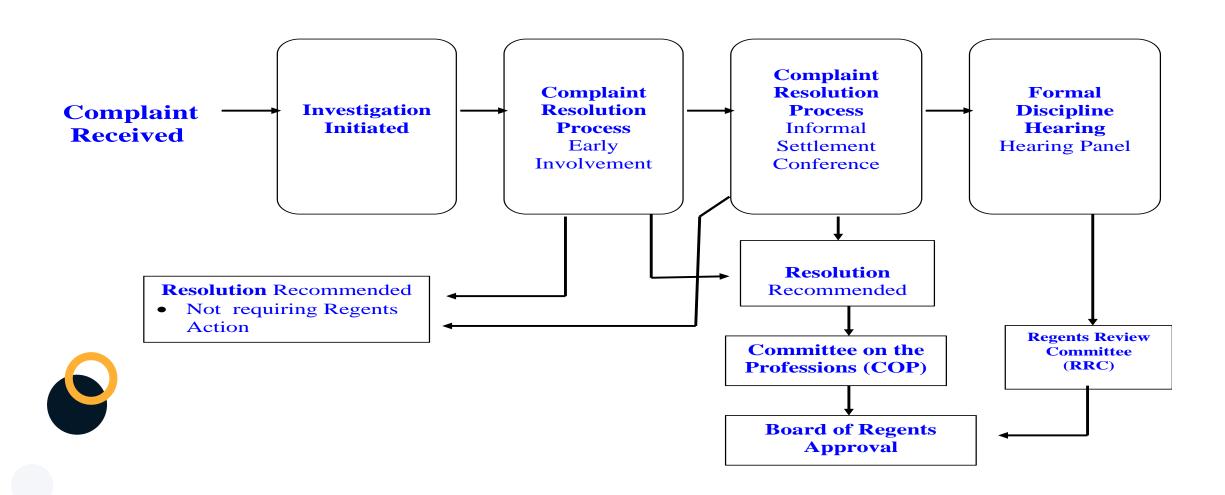


### Office of Professional Responsibility

Operates throughout NYS to protect the public



### Disciplinary Process: Balancing licensee's property right & public protection



### Resolving Disciplinary Complaints





#### Written Complains

Written complaints received by the Office of Professional Discipline (OPD) and investigated



#### Consultation

Early involvement engages a professional member of the appropriate State Board consulting with the assigned investigator and prosecutor on the matter



#### Resolved / Unresolved

Most cases are resolved in an informal settlement conference, convened by OPD and attended by the licensee (who may be represented), State Board member and prosecutor; if matter is not resolved, a hearing will be scheduled before a panel of State Board members



#### Supervision Or Monitoring

Professional Practice Committee reviews and recommends action to the Board of Regents on applications for surrender or consent and determinations by Regents Review Committee



#### Committee Recommendations

Board of Regents acts upon the Professional Practice Committee's recommendations

Final disciplinary actions are posted online for public information



## Raising Awareness of Licensed Professionals





https://www.op.nysed.gov/careers-index



OP Website Provides Tools for Career Development, Mentoring & More

Many organizations offer tools & experiences to help students explore the licensed professions

These have been gathered & arranged by profession including:

- Scholarships
- College Guidance
- Career Exploration
- Mentoring Opportunities

# Questions & Discussion

Office of the Professions



