

**Monday, November 29, 2021**

12:00PM to 12:20PM

Virtual Meeting:

NOTE: This meeting will be broadcasted over EEC’s YouTube Channel: [https://youtu.be/4dUDx1rX0f0](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/youtu.be/4dUDx1rX0f0__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!yoO_FAuJ6dzkrJbZgWrpb00_DglssqnCMZrRJRoBPtVNzzRcnvP6o825U1spcOk3M07K0a6X$)

**Members of the Board of Early Education and Care Present**

Nonie Lesaux, Chairperson

Jim Peyser, Secretary of Education

Samantha L. Aigner-Treworgy, Commissioner of Early Education and Care (EEC) and Secretary to the Board

Carolyn Kain, J.D., Designee for HHS Secretary Marylou Sudders

David Cruise

Joni Block

Paul Belsito

Jamella Lee

Mora Segal

Minutes

**The meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM.**

**AGENDA:**

**Items for Discussion and Action**

1. Promulgation of Final Regulations – Discussion and Vote
	* The regulations, previously approved as emergency regulations, authorize the Commissioner to (1) modify educator qualifications and professional development requirements, and take other administrative measures to improve the ability of programs to hire qualified educators while maintaining the health and safety of children; and (2) issue policies and requirements pertaining to the prevention of serious illnesses, contagious diseases, and reportable diseases, including a requirement for personal protective equipment to be used in programs. The regulations also change the date by which educators need to renew their CPR certifications.

**Welcome and Comments from the Chair**

Chairperson Leseaux welcomed the Board and provided opening remarks. Chairperson Leseaux stated that today’s meeting is a follow-up from the August Emergency meeting and thanked the Commissioner for her memo to the Board. Chairperson Lesaux thanked those who participated in the public comment. Chairperson Lesaux stated that regulations are needed along with strong policy strategy to continue to define workforce issues and ensure success in building the workforce.

**Comments from the Secretary**

Secretary Peyser thanked the Commissioner and the Board for their diligence and highlighted that today’s vote is needed to ensure flexibility and is not a workforce strategy. Workforce strategy discussions are ongoing.

**Comments from the Commissioner**

Commissioner Aigner-Treworgy thanked the Board for meeting to finalize the emergency regulations in order to implement strategy. Commissioner Aigner-Treworgy stated that EEC is continuing to collaborate with public health partners to adjust health and safety policies to provide flexibility and parameters to consistently provide healthy programs and prevent transmission in the evolving public health landscape. Commissioner Aigner-Treworgy reiterated that public comment continues to reinforce need for the regulations. She stated that all public comments received were regarding policy and not the regulations themselves. Commissioner Aigner-Treworgy shared that educator policies will be launched later this week. The Commissioner opened the floor for questions or comments.

There was discussion regarding how and when regulations will be revisited to assess effectiveness. Commissioner Aigner-Treworgy stated the regulations that are being voted on today allows the department to be more iterative on policies going forward. Data will continue to be reported monthly and efficacy of the strategies will continue to be evaluated. Data collected through the operational grants will be shared at the upcoming December Board meeting and will provide baseline information regarding current workforce gaps. Commissioner Aigner-Treworgy stated that policies being released this week will begin to bridge gaps and build a more stabilized workforce pipeline. These revisions are the foundation for longer term revisions for workforce strategy with the intent to build infrastructure to facilitate the workforce pipeline through the fiscal year.

Chairperson Lesaux asked for any further questions or comments (none).

Chairperson Lesaux called for a vote to adopt proposed revisions to 606 CMR 7.00.

**Seconded and passed unanimously**

Chairperson Lesaux provided closing remarks and thanked the Board and the Commissioner for their time and flexibility. She stated that the next Board meeting will be held December 14 2021.

Meeting ended at 12:20PM.