

**Speaker Information**  
**Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee**  
**January 23, 2007**

**Susan Voss, Insurance Commissioner**

Department/Organization: Department of Commerce, Insurance Division

Address: 330 Maple Street, Des Moines, IA 50319

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Email: [susan.voss@iid.state.ia.us](mailto:susan.voss@iid.state.ia.us)

Bio: Susan Voss is a graduate of Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa with a J.D. from Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington. Ms. Voss held a number of different positions with Iowa state government until she was appointed Insurance Commissioner by Governor Tom Vilsack in January 2005. In addition to regulating insurance, the Commissioner also regulates securities, funeral home services, cemeteries and a variety of regulated industries. She is chair of the Underground Storage Tank Board and is a member of the HAWK-I board. Ms. Voss also chairs the Market Regulation Committee for the National Association of Insurance Commissioners.

**Julie McMahon – Director, Division of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention**

Department/Organization: Iowa Department of Public Health

Address: 321 East 12<sup>th</sup> Street/Lucas State Office Building; Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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Bio: Julie McMahon has devoted her career to public health. Her work in public health began as staff nurse, charge nurse and later director of nursing services in public health agencies in the state of Wyoming from 1969 to 1987. Julie's work in public health in Iowa began in 1987 when she became the Nurse Administrator of Fayette County Public Health Nursing Service in West Union. In March 1989, Julie accepted the position of Executive Director of the Dubuque Visiting Nurse Association and following a merger in 1996 became the Administrative Director of The Finley Hospital's Home Care program and Visiting Nurse Association. Julie grew up in Sac County, Iowa, near the town of Nemaha. She received her Bachelors in Science degree from the University of Wyoming and has also completed course work for a Masters degree in Health Services Administration from Cardinal Stritch College in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She joined the Iowa Department of Public Health in September of 1998 as the Bureau Chief of the Community Services Bureau. In July 2001, Julie accepted the department position of Director of the Division of Community Health. She has been recognized as Public Health Nurse of the Year (Wyoming) – 1974, Boss of the Year (Dubuque) – 1996, and the Golden Dome Award - IDPH Leader of the Year (State of Iowa) - 2002. During her years in Wyoming, she was an active member and officer of the Wyoming Public Health Association. Since moving to Iowa in 1987, she has been an active member and served on the Executive Committee of the Iowa Public Health Association.

**Kevin Concannon, Director, Iowa Department of Human Services**

Telephone:

Email: 515-281-5452

Bio: Kevin Concannon became Iowa Department of Human Services Director in March 2003. He was re-appointed as DHS Director by Governor Culver and Lt. Governor Judge in January 2007. DHS is an agency that directly serves, on average, 997,000 Iowans per year. The agency provides authority and financing for a range of services including health care for Iowans of all ages through the Medicaid program and health insurance for children through the Iowa *hawk-i* program. The agency also is the lead agency for behavioral health care, including services to people with mental illness and developmental disabilities. The agency provides child support collection services, financial assistance, child care, foster care, adoptive services, child protective services, juvenile justice services, long-term care support for elderly and disabled persons, food assistance through the food stamp program, and adult protective services. DHS operates and oversees the management of nine state institutions; two juvenile justice facilities, two resource centers for people with disabilities, four mental health institutions, and the Civil Commitment Unit for Sexual Offenders (CCUSO). The agency operates a number of combined state and federally financed programs and has an annual budget of \$4.8 billion dollars.

Previously Kevin served as Maine's Department of Human Services Commissioner from 1995 to 2003. From 1987 to 1995 he was the Director of the Oregon Department of Human Services. From 1980 to 1987 he was Commissioner of the Maine Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation.

Kevin has led efforts at the state level to obtain more affordable prescription drugs for state residents and was the named defendant in a landmark U.S. Supreme Court 2003 case entitled *PhRMA vs. Concannon*. He was instrumental in reforming the public welfare systems of the states of Maine and Oregon, implemented major mental health and developmental disabilities service system reforms in Maine, Oregon, and recently in Iowa, and was responsible for increasing access to medical care through state insurance programs in Oregon, Maine, and Iowa as well as expanding the choices and supports in long-term care for elderly and disabled people, thereby reducing their reliance on institutional forms of care. He has also championed system improvements in food assistance and the application of electronic technology and information systems to support the Department's Mission.

Kevin has served as President of the American Public Welfare Association (APWA) and previously served as President of the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors. He has also served as a member of the Board of Directors of the American Public Human Services Association. He is on the Milbank Memorial Fund's Reforming State Health Care Steering Committee and serves as Co-Chair in 2007. He serves on Harvard University Kennedy School of Government Invitation Committee on the Future of Child Welfare in the United States.

Kevin's educational background includes a BA degree from Saint Francis Xavier University and a MSW degree from Saint Francis Xavier University and the Maritime School of Social Work, Halifax, Nova Scotia. He previously served from 1987 to 1995 as Adjunct Professor of Social

Work at Portland State University and, previous to that, as Adjunct Assistant Professor of Social Work at the University of Connecticut Graduate School of Social Work (1981 to 1985). In 2005/2006 he was Adjunct Professor of Social Work at the University of Iowa School of Social Work.

**Gene Gessow, Iowa Medicaid Director, Department of Human Services**

Telephone: 515-725-1121

Email: [egessow@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:egessow@dhs.state.ia.us)

Bio:

**EXPERIENCE:**

Prior to becoming the Medicaid Director for the State of Iowa, Gene has been the Director for the Bureau of Medical Services for the Maine Department of Human Services. He has also been the Deputy Secretary for Finance in the New Mexico Human Services Department.

Prior to these positions Gene was a Budget Director and a Senior Budget Analyst for the Massachusetts Division of Medical Assistance. Gene has also worked in the areas of budget analysis, Family Independence Act (welfare reform) compensation reform and legislative commissions.

**EDUCATION:**

MPA, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

LL.M. in Taxation, New York University School of Law

JD, University of Denver College of Law

BA (Economics), University of Wisconsin

**RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS:**

Creation and implementation of IowaCare (Medicaid Reform – 1115 Waiver)

Creation and implementation of the Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

**Jennifer Vermeer, Assistant Iowa Medicaid Director, Department of Human Services**

Telephone: 515-725-1144

Email: [jvermee@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:jvermee@dhs.state.ia.us)

Bio:

**EXPERIENCE:**

Jennifer worked for seven years with the Arizona legislature, including four as a fiscal analyst for health and Medicaid budgets and three as Assistant Director of the non-partisan budget office. Jennifer moved to Iowa to be closer to family and worked three sessions as a Medicaid Analyst for the Legislative Services Agency. Jennifer became the Assistant Medicaid Director at the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) in July 2005.

**EDUCATION:**

BA, Central College, Pella, IA

MPA, University of Arizona

**Anita Smith, Bureau of Medical Supports, Division of Financial, Health and Work Supports,  
Iowa Department of Human Services**

Telephone: 515-281-8791

Email: [asmith@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:asmith@dhs.state.ia.us)

Bio: Anita Smith has worked for the Iowa Department of Human Services for 26 years, 23 of which have been working with medical programs. She has primarily been involved with the development of Medicaid policy for programs for pregnant women, families, and children. These include implementing the original SOBRA legislation that extended Medicaid coverage to poverty level children, presumptive eligibility for pregnant women, welfare reform initiatives, and the “de-linking” of Medicaid from cash assistance. Ms. Smith was also responsible for the implementation of Iowa’s Medicaid premium assistance program in 1991 and implementation of Iowa’s SCHIP program in 1998. In her current role, Ms. Smith is responsible for the administration of the Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) program, Iowa’s S-CHIP program, known as Healthy and Well Kids in Iowa (*hawk-i*), and the development of Medicaid eligibility policy.

**Ann Wiebers, Iowa Department of Human Services**

Telephone: 515-281-1680

Email: [awieber@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:awieber@dhs.state.ia.us)

Bio: Ann is the Administrator for the Iowa Department of Human Services, Division of Financial, Health and Work Supports. She has been with DHS for over 22 years.

Ann began her career with DHS working in a local field office and has held various roles within the Department throughout the years. For the past 12 years Ann has held several administrative positions in the state office, doing a broad range of responsibilities, from coordinating welfare reform, assisting in TANF policy development, overseeing contracts, coordinating legislative requests, managing system and business issues, coordinating field and policy issues, specializing in TANF fiscal regulations, budget development and oversight, and Assistant Division Administrator. Ann was appointed Division Administrator in May 2004.

Ann oversees over 20 different programs, ranging from the Family Investment Program; PROMISE JOBS and FaDSS; Food Assistance and Commodities; hawk-i; Medicaid eligibility; Child Care Assistance eligibility; Health Insurance Premium Payment Program (HIPP); State Supplementary Assistance and state and federal welfare reform activities.

**Susan Salter, Chair, *hawk-i* Board**

Telephone: 319-350-3248

Email: [susansalter@mac.com](mailto:susansalter@mac.com)

Bio:

**Education/Training**

MSW, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

BA, Christopher Newport College, Newport News, VA

### **Work Experience**

2005-present: Owner of Salter Solutions, LLC. Provide consultation, grant management, and facilitation services to a variety of human service organizations.

1995-2005: Early ACCESS Regional Coordinator, Grant Wood AEA, Cedar Rapids, IA

1981-1995: School Social Worker, Grant Wood AEA, Cedar Rapids, IA

1978-1981: Social Worker, Child Evaluation Clinic, Grant Wood AEA, Cedar Rapids, IA

1977-1978: Medical Social Worker, Mercy Medical Center, Cedar Rapids, IA

1976-1977: Social Worker, Catholic Charities, Cedar Rapids, IA

### **Community Service**

- State *hawk-i* (SCHIP) Board, 2002-present (Chair, 2004-present)
- United Way Public Policy Committee, July, 2006-present
- Healthy Children Iowa Task Force, July, 2006-present
- Planned Parenthood of East Central Iowa Board, 2005-present
- ABCD II Board, 2005-present
- Iowa State Extension Citizen Advisory Council, 2003-2006
- Linn County Community Empowerment Board, 2002-2005
- HACAP Head Start Policy Council, 2001-2003
- Iowa Hygienic Laboratory Advisory Committee, 2000-2002
- Governor's Child Care and Early Education Task Force, 1999-2000