

**Speaker Information**  
**Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee**  
**January 24, 2007**

**Dr. Bob Russell, Public Health Dental Director**

Department/Organization: Iowa Department of Public Health  
Address: 321 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, IA 50319  
Telephone: 515-281-4916  
Email: [brussell@idph.state.ia.us](mailto:brussell@idph.state.ia.us)

Bio: Dr. Russell serves as both Public Health Dental Director and Bureau Chief of the Oral health Bureau, Iowa Department of Public Health. In addition, he holds appointments as adjunct faculty lecturer in Community Dentistry for the University of Iowa Dental School and formerly clinical adjunct/training preceptor of the University of Michigan, School of Dentistry. Dr. Russell is a voting member of the Iowa Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Commission and has 19 years experience in public health dental program development. He has served as primary oral health care advisor for state and national policy committees including HRSA primary care collaboratives and health professional shortage workgroups targeting oral health access and chronic disease management in Federally Qualified Health Centers.

**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

**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  
Telephone: (515) 281-3104  
Email: [jmcmahon@idph.state.ia.us](mailto:jmcmahon@idph.state.ia.us)

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.

**Terry Witkowski, Executive Officer**

Department/Organization: Department of Public Health, Board of Pharmacy Examiners  
Address: 400 SW 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite E, Des Moines, IA 50309-4688  
Telephone: 515-281-6676  
Email: [terry.witkowski@iowa.gov](mailto:terry.witkowski@iowa.gov)

Bio: Terry Witkowski has been employed by the Iowa Board of Pharmacy Examiners for nearly 22 years. During that employment, Terry has assisted with or managed special projects and has assisted with special investigations. She has administered the licensure and registration programs, including conversion of those programs from paper-based record systems through multiple database applications and electronic processes. Terry is intimately involved in the administrative rule-making process and with the Board's legislative proposals, advocating the Board's position with legislators and constituent groups on topics impacting the Board's responsibilities and authority.

**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.

**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)

**Mark Haverland, Interim Director**

Department/Organization: Department of Elder Affairs

Address: Parker Building, 510 E. 12<sup>th</sup>, Suite 2

Telephone: 725-3301

Email: [Mark.Haverland@iowa.gov](mailto:Mark.Haverland@iowa.gov)

Bio: Mark Haverland is the Interim Director of the Iowa Department of Elder Affairs. Mark Haverland served twelve years in the Iowa House of Representatives from 1982-1994 where he specialized in health care and human services. He served on the Iowa Board of Health from 1999-2002. Mark has an undergraduate degree from Princeton University and graduate degrees from Harvard Divinity School and The John F Kennedy School of Government. He also studied as a Fulbright scholar at the University of Munich. He is an ordained United Methodist minister and has served churches in the Des Moines area. He has a long involvement with efforts to reform the health care system by improving access to affordable and quality care for all.

