

Speaker Information
Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee
January 25, 2007

Ann Wiebers, Iowa Department of Human Services

Telephone: 515-281-1680

Email: 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 Voss, Insurance Commissioner

Department/Organization: Department of Commerce, Insurance Division

Address: 330 Maple Street, Des Moines, IA 50319

Telephone: 281-5907

Email: 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 12th Street/Lucas State Office Building; Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Telephone: (515) 281-3104

Email: 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.

Shanell Wagler, Facilitator, Community Empowerment

Department/Organization: Department of Management, Office of Empowerment

Address: State Capitol, Room 12; Des Moines IA

Telephone: (515) 281-4321

Email: shanell.wagler@iowa.gov

Bio: Recent Work Experience:

- *Community Empowerment Facilitator, Iowa Department of Management (Sept. 2003 – Present)*
- *Community Empowerment Community Liaison, Iowa Department of Management (Sept. 2000 – September 2003)*
 - Lead development of an integrated comprehensive system of early care, health and education for children (0-5) and their families
 - Facilitate, communicate and coordinate Community Empowerment activities
 - Implement a technical assistance system
 - Manage multi-agency staff team
 - Oversee statewide grant program (approximately \$50 million)

Activities, Memberships

- Employee of the Year, Department of Management, 2004
- Member, Early Childhood Iowa (2002 – present)
- Member, Early Childhood Iowa State Government Steering Committee (2002 – present)

- Iowa Council for Early ACCESS (2004 – present)
- Iowa Youth Development Collaboration Steering Committee (2002 – present)
- Iowa State Child Care Advisory Council (2004 – present)

Julie Curry, State Coordinator, Early ACCESS System, Department of Education

Telephone: 281-5437

Email: Julie.Curry@iowa.gov

Bio: Julie Curry has worked for the Department of Education for 8 years. The Department of Education is the Lead Agency of this interagency system of services. Her work focuses on coordination with the Iowa Departments of Public Health and Human Services and Child Health Specialty Clinics in Iowa City. She identifies and coordinates both public and private resources needed to provide quality early intervention services to these families. Prior to working for the state, she provided home-based and preschool services to children with special needs and their families and was a consultant to interagency early childhood programs through the Area Education Agencies (AEAs).

Gene Gessow, Iowa Medicaid Director, Department of Human Services

Telephone: 515-725-1121

Email: 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

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

David Casey, Manager, Policy/Audit Services Section, Iowa Department of Revenue

Telephone: 281-6163

Email: david.casey@iowa.gov

Bio: David has been with the department for over 30 years. David has been involved in sales and use tax, field audit programs, legislation and department rules. David is the legislative liaison for the department. David has been in his current position since July, 2000. David has made numerous presentations to numerous groups including the Iowa Bar Association and Iowa CPAs.

Jim McNulty, Program Manager, Taxpayer Services and Policy Division, Iowa Department of Revenue

Telephone: 281-6103

Email: jim.mcnulty@iowa.gov

Bio: Jim has been with the department for over 25 years. Jim has been involved in corporation income tax, field audit programs, legislation, and the protest process. Jim has been in his current position since January, 2001. Jim has made previous presentations to the ISCPA.

Dr. Christopher Squier, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies and Professor, Department of Oral Pathology, Radiology and Medicine in the College of Dentistry at the University of Iowa

Email: christopher-squier@uiowa.edu

Bio: Dr. Squier has been continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health for over twenty years and has published more than 150 books, chapters and peer-reviewed articles. In 2001 he was awarded an honorary doctorate by Semmelweis University in Budapest for his contributions to oral cancer research and tobacco control in Hungary, and in 2004 received the Distinguished Service Award of the International Association for Dental Research.

Dr Squier has been actively involved at the local, national and international level in approaches to tobacco control and oral cancer prevention. He has been a member of the Iowa State Commission on Tobacco Use, Prevention and Control since 2003. Dr Squier has served on the Board of Directors of the Mid-West Division of the American Cancer Society, and currently is a member of the Iowa Advisory Council for ACS; he received their Lifetime Award of Excellence in 2004. He was a founder member of CAFÉ (Clean Air for Everyone) Johnson County.