



Media Release

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DHS names new Director of Medical Services

The Department of Human Services announced today that Roy Jeffus, Director of the Division of Medical Services will be leaving his post to pursue other opportunities. The Department has selected Gene Gessow, former Director of Iowa's Medicaid Program to lead the Division.

Jeffus began his career with DHS in 1978 as a social worker and has served as head of the division since 2003.

"Roy has been instrumental in helping the program reach many milestones," said John Selig, DHS Director. "He served as the primary architect for several initiatives, most notably the ConnectCare program. He has devoted his life to better healthcare for all Arkansans and we intend to keep building upon that foundation."

Gessow has many years experience in both finance and health care. He began his public career in 1992 as Legal Counsel for the Finance Committee of the Rhode Island House of Representatives. Gessow holds several academic achievements including a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Wisconsin, a Juris Doctorate from the University Of Denver College Of Law, and a Masters in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

"This is a very challenging time for healthcare in our country. We need someone who not only has the leadership experience but also has a great track record in innovations in health," said John Selig, DHS Director. "Gene embodies all of these qualities and we are looking forward to the opportunity to work with him."

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The division, which oversees the state's Medicaid program and the Office of Long Term Care, provides health coverage to more than 750,000 Arkansans. Gessow will take over the duties as Director in January 2010.