

John M. Connolly

Professional Experience

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, St. Paul, MN **Temporary Commissioner & State Medicaid Director (May 2026 – Present)**

Lead development and implementation of policies and strategic initiatives to fulfill the mission of the Department. Oversee the development of the Department's biennial budget and securing funding for human services programs consistent with Department policies, goals, objectives, strategies, and priorities. Monitor the development of spending plans and expenditures to support compliance with legislative mandates and good management practices. Lead DHS policy administrations of Aging and Disability Services; Behavioral Health; Health Care; and Homelessness, Housing, and Support Services. As the State Medicaid Director, work with the DHS executive leadership and senior management team to develop Minnesota's health care agenda at the national level. Analyze federal health and Medicaid policies and provide guidance to agency and state leadership to ensure that Medicaid and other federal policies are recognized in state policy and planning decisions. Represent the agency in discussions at the federal level to clarify and negotiate how the state should implement required Medicaid changes. Build and manage relationships with federal partners regarding Minnesota's Medicaid policies and funding at the national level. Participate in the acquisition of federal resources for DHS programs and policies. Oversee Medical Assistance (Minnesota's Medicaid program) and MinnesotaCare which together provide coverage for services that span across these administrations and support nearly 1 in 4 Minnesotans. Sponsor interagency, cross-administration and interdisciplinary discussions needed to address Medicaid funding and compliance issues. Represent Medicaid in discussions with state legislators and testify at hearings. Ensure that consumer and provider interests and input are considered in relation to discussions and planning associated with the adequacy and use of Medicaid in relation to Minnesota's government-funded health care programs. Manage the expansion and acceleration of myriad agency program integrity and anti-fraud efforts, including pre-payment review protocols in high-risk Medicaid programs as well as off-cycle revalidation of high-risk Medicaid providers. Brief state leaders, agency partners and state/national media on policy and programs developments.

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, St. Paul, MN **Deputy Commissioner & State Medicaid Director (February 2025 – May 2026)**

Lead DHS policy administrations of Aging and Disability Services; Behavioral Health; Health Care; and Homelessness, Housing, and Support Services. Serve on the Commissioner's executive management team to provide counsel and advice on major decisions as well as to develop and implement policies and strategic initiatives to fulfill the mission of the Department. Assist with overseeing the development of the Department's biennial budget and securing funding for human services programs consistent with Department policies, goals, objectives, strategies, and priorities. Monitor the development of spending plans and expenditures to support compliance with legislative mandates and good management practices. As the State Medicaid Director, work with the DHS executive leadership and senior management team to develop Minnesota's health care agenda at the national level. Analyze federal health and Medicaid policies and provide guidance to agency and state leadership to ensure that Medicaid and other federal policies are recognized in state policy and planning decisions. Represent the agency in discussions at the federal level to clarify and negotiate how the state should implement required Medicaid changes. Build and manage relationships with federal partners regarding Minnesota's Medicaid policies and funding at the national level. Participate in the acquisition of federal resources for DHS programs and policies. Oversee Medical Assistance (Minnesota's Medicaid program) and MinnesotaCare which together provide coverage for services that span across these administrations and support nearly 1 in 4 Minnesotans. Sponsor interagency, cross-administration and interdisciplinary discussions needed to address Medicaid funding and

compliance issues. Represent Medicaid in discussions with state legislators and testify at hearings. Ensure that consumer and provider interests and input are considered in relation to discussions and planning associated with the adequacy and use of Medicaid in relation to Minnesota's government-funded health care programs. Manage the expansion and acceleration of myriad agency program integrity and anti-fraud efforts, including pre-payment review protocols in high-risk Medicaid programs as well as off-cycle revalidation of high-risk Medicaid providers. Brief state leaders, agency partners and state/national media on policy and programs developments.

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, St. Paul, MN

Assistant Commissioner for Health Care & State Medicaid Director (September 2023 – February 2025)

Supervised Health Care Administration's Coverage and Service Delivery; Medicaid Eligibility and Compliance; Federal Relations; and, Chief Administrative Officer. Served on the Commissioner's Executive Management Team to develop policies and strategic initiatives so that action plans to implement high-quality DHS programs are developed and resource allocations are made in a manner that fulfills the mission of the Department. Designed and directed the development of legislative proposals and initiatives and coordinated legislative activities within the HCA and with the department's legislative and budget liaisons. Developed and maintained ongoing relationships with external clients and partners to address needs and concerns. Briefed the Commissioner in preparation for legislative hearings and meetings with groups. As the State Medicaid Director, worked with the DHS executive leadership and senior management team to develop Minnesota's health care agenda at the national level. Analyzed federal health and Medicaid policies and provided guidance to agency and state leadership to ensure that Medicaid and other federal policies are recognized in state policy and planning decisions. Represented the agency in discussions at the federal level to clarify and negotiate how the state should implement required Medicaid changes. Built and managed relationships with federal partners regarding Minnesota's Medicaid policies and funding at the national level. Participated in the acquisition of federal resources for DHS programs and policies. Oversaw Medical Assistance (Minnesota's Medicaid program) and MinnesotaCare which together provide coverage for services that span across these administrations and support nearly 1 in 4 Minnesotans.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH, Los Angeles, CA

Chief Strategist (September 2020 – September 2023)

Lead and coordinate advancement and reform of Medicaid services, and programing for people experiencing homelessness across the Department's divisions. Lead contract negotiations with 5 local Medicaid managed care plans for implementation of enhanced care management services for foster youth and children with disabilities; and people with behavioral health conditions, reentering the community from incarceration, or experiencing homelessness. Supervised the Health Facilities Inspection Division, which provides licensing, certification, and regulatory oversight of all health care facilities, including hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, ambulatory surgical centers, home health and hospice agencies, intermediate care facilities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and community clinics in the county. Manage a large portion of the County's COVID-19 response, including outbreak management, case investigation and data analysis, and vaccination efforts for schools, correctional facilities, and people experiencing homelessness, as well as the procurement and health-equity-focused distribution of over 20 million tests to a wide range of service providers and organizations that serve the most vulnerable residents of the county. Serve as a liaison to other external stakeholders, State government, other County agencies, and the media.

CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY, Sacramento, CA

Deputy Secretary for Behavioral Health (October 2019 – September 2020)

Designed and coordinated behavioral health services, programming, and budgetary actions across the 12 departments and 5 offices within the California Health and Human Services Agency, which spanned Medicaid, regulatory oversight of private health insurance, developmental services, child

welfare services, nutrition assistance, employment support, housing support, and the protection and promotion of all Californians' health and wellbeing. Led the creation and strategic planning work of the Secretary's Behavioral Health Task Force, a broad group of stakeholders from the public and private sectors, and people and families with lived experience, convened to advance, transform, and integrate behavioral health services across payers and delivery systems with a specific focus on children, people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, and people involved in the criminal justice system. Led the design of enacted legislation to provide counties temporary flexibility within the Mental Health Services Act to respond to community need related to the COVID-19 emergency, and to establish new oversight activity within the Department of Managed Health Care to conduct focused behavioral health investigations to ensure health plan compliance with federal and state parity laws and timely service access requirements. Advised the Secretary about behavioral health policy, planning, regulation, service delivery, financing, and prevention strategies. Served as a liaison to the Legislature, agencies and departments within state government, counties, health plans, providers, other external stakeholders, the media, and the public.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND CONTROL DIVISION, Alhambra, CA
Division Director (January 2019 – September 2019, *Interim April 2018 – January 2019*)

Directed all activities of the Substance Abuse Prevention and Control Division, which administered the County's specialty substance use managed care plan and prevention network, encompassing over 100 community-based providers. Led the County's substance use treatment system transformation through implementation of the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System, the first pilot of its kind in the nation and a central plank of California's Medicaid research and demonstration waiver. Supervised, supported, and evaluated the work of over 500 employees. Oversaw the development, negotiation, and management of the Division's contracts and budget of \$466 million to ensure alignment with strategic priorities, including high-quality service delivery, program costs, and health equity. Directed the implementation of the County's first system-wide electronic health record and claiming system for substance use treatment services. Managed a major expansion of the County's substance use prevention programming to establish Student Wellbeing Centers in 50 high schools across 19 school districts, new County-wide positive youth development programming in partnership with Department of Parks and Recreation and County Library, and 5 new directly operated community resource centers that would include substance use education and naloxone distribution. Oversaw the Division's evaluative activities to assess impact of service delivery on patient outcomes and population health. Collaborated with State and County public agencies, community stakeholders, and the public to design and advance services.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND CONTROL DIVISION, Alhambra, CA
Acting Deputy Division Director (September 2015 – March 2018)

Directed the adult system of care, youth system of care, prevention, policy, strategic planning, and marketing and beneficiary engagement units of the Division, as well as the Antelope Valley Rehabilitation Centers, the County's directly operated residential and outpatient substance use treatment facilities. Supervised, supported, and evaluated the work of over 180 employees. Led negotiation and finalized agreement with the State for the County's intergovernmental agreement for the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System. Centrally participated in the development and management of the Division's budget and oversaw service contract allocations and provisions to implement the Division's priorities. Led the redesign of the Division's service delivery system structure, policies, and provider payment rates. Directed the analysis of federal, state, and local policies and regulations regarding the delivery and financing of publicly funded substance use prevention and treatment services. Collaborated and engaged with community and provider groups, external County departments, and State agencies; responded to media and public inquiries.

INSURE THE UNINSURED PROJECT, Santa Monica, CA
Deputy Director (July 2012 – August 2015)

Served as the deputy executive administrator of a statewide, non-profit organization that conducted health policy research and provided technical assistance to a range of public and non-profit health entities throughout California. Oversaw development of publications that recommended new policies, strategies, and programs to expand health coverage and improve safety net service delivery systems and population health outcomes. Directed the review and analysis of federal, state, and local health programs, regulations, and legislation. Led Affordable Care Act trainings, town halls, and workgroups on behalf of members of Congress, the California Legislature, county health departments, and service providers. Liaised with a wide array of government, industry, non-profit, and community stakeholders.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, KECK SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, Los Angeles, CA
Lecturer (May 2014 – August 2014)

Taught online introductory course in health policy to graduate public health students. Led seminars and assessed student work.

HENRY J. KAISER FAMILY FOUNDATION, Washington, DC
Senior Policy Analyst, Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured
(June 2010 – June 2012)

Served as a senior analyst within a large, nationally focused health policy research institution. Developed and led research activities and large dataset analyses regarding public health coverage programs and commercial insurance marketplaces organized under the Affordable Care Act. Analyzed Medicaid policies, financing structures, managed care models, and population health management programs to improve outcomes for people with chronic illnesses and disabilities. Directed contracted researchers' review of evidence-based practices regarding states' Medicaid prescription drug policies.

Education

HARVARD UNIVERSITY, Cambridge, MA
Doctor of Philosophy, Health Policy (2010)

BANK STREET COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, New York, NY
Master of Science in Education, General Childhood Education (2005)

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, Chicago, IL
Bachelor of Arts, Political Science (2003)

Board Membership

COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

Executive Board (April 2018 – September 2019)