Department of Veterans Affairs

Senior Executive Biography

Ilse Wiechers, MD, MPP, MHS



Acting Deputy Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Clinical Services
Veterans Health Administration

As the Acting Deputy Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Clinical Services, Dr. Wiechers leads and advances the delivery of high-quality, evidence-based clinical care across VHA by providing national leadership, policy direction, and clinical oversight for health services. She oversees a multibillion dollar portfolio including pharmacy, rehabilitation and prosthetics, mental health and dental services. Prior to this, she served 4 years as the Deputy Executive Director in VHA Office of Mental Health. In this role, she led the operations of OMH and the timely development and implementation of policies and programs that ensure Veteran-centered, evidence-based and high-quality mental health services to over 2 million Veterans every year. She led OMH's legislative policy and partnership work, engaging regularly with key Congressional and Veteran Service Organization stakeholders. She has been instrumental in the development of VHA's portfolio of innovative mental health treatments including ketamine and psychedelic treatments.

Dr. Wiechers is a practicing board certified Adult and Geriatric Psychiatrist who completed her medical education at Duke University, residency at MGH/McLean Hospitals, and fellowship at Yale. She received a master's degree in Public Policy from Duke University and a master's degree in Health Science from Yale University. She is an alumna of the VA Advanced Fellowship Program in Mental Illness Research and Treatment, the Yale RWJF/VA Clinical Scholars Program, and the John A. Hartford Foundation's Center of Excellence in Geriatric Medicine and Geriatric Psychiatry Training Program. Dr. Wiechers serves as faculty at University of California San Francisco and Yale, is a Distinguished Fellow of the American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry and the American Psychiatric Association and has been elected to the membership of the American College of Psychiatrists. She has authored 35 peer-reviewed publications, 2 invited editorials, 18 book chapters, and co-edited a book on mental health advocacy.

CAREER CHRONOLOGY:

2026 – present	Acting Deputy Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Clinical Services, VHA
2025 – 2026	Acting Deputy Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Patient Care Services, VHA
2022 – 2025	Deputy Executive Director, VHA Office of Mental Health
2020 – 2022	National Director for Psychopharmacology and Somatic Treatment, VHA Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention
2017 – 2019	Co-Director, Care for Patients with Complex Problems Program, VHA Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention
2014 – 2021	National Director, Psychotropic Drug Safety Initiative (PDSI), VHA Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention
2014 – 2022	Associate Director, Northeast Program Evaluation Center, VHA Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, West Haven, CT

EDUCATION:

2014	Master of Health Science, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, CT
2005	Doctor of Medicine, Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, NC
2003	Master of Public Policy with certificate in Health Policy, Duke University, Durham, NC
1999	Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH