



# Iowa Department of Human Services

Kim Reynolds  
Governor

Adam Gregg  
Lt. Governor

Jerry R. Foxhoven  
Director

June 15, 2017

## Foxhoven appointed director of DHS

(Des Moines, Iowa) - Gov. Kim Reynolds announced on June 14, 2017, that she has appointed Jerry Foxhoven, a well-known and highly respected leader in child protection and family law, to serve as director of the Iowa Department of Human Services. Foxhoven began his new position on June 15, 2017.

“Jerry Foxhoven is the compassionate, thoughtful leader we need serving in this important role,” Gov. Reynolds said. “DHS is on the front lines, working in all Iowa’s communities to ensure our state’s families are able to access the service and protection they expect and deserve. Jerry has the experience, qualification, respect and passion to excel in this demanding role.”

Foxhoven, 64, began practicing law in 1977 with a strong emphasis on trial practice in criminal and civil law. He was also extensively involved in juvenile and family law cases until 2000 when he began as administrator for the Iowa Child Advocacy Board. In this role, he was responsible for developing and implementing personnel policies, strategic planning and public policy advocacy. While in this position, he was also director of two separate child welfare advocacy programs: Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) and Iowa Citizen Foster Care Review Board programs.

“I have spent my life defending and protecting the rights of others,” Foxhoven said. “To do so in this elevated position is a challenge I humbly accept. I look forward to building trust and relationships in all 99 counties, working on behalf of all Iowans as we work together to solve the challenges many Iowa families are facing each day.”

In 2006, Foxhoven became director of the Joan & Lyle Middleton Center for Children’s Rights, a state and national advocacy center focusing on children’s rights issues. Around the same time, he joined Drake Law School as a clinical professor. He instructed juvenile law for third-year law students in a clinical setting, supervising students in juvenile court proceedings and in the Legislative Practice Program as they drafted bills and lobbied for passage of bills pertaining to issues involving youth.

“I’ve known Jerry Foxhoven since my time as a student at Drake Law School,” Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg said. As State Public Defender, I was honored to work with him while he led the Drake Legal Clinic. Jerry has a servant’s heart and has worked to protect children his entire career. I am thankful he has chosen to use his time and talents in this position, and I am excited to partner with him to serve the needs of Iowans.”

Most recently, Foxhoven served as executive director of Clinical Programs and Professor of Law at Drake University's School of Law. There, he supervised a number of administrative responsibilities relating to the school.

Foxhoven replaced [Chuck Palmer, who announced his retirement from his position](#) in June 2017.