



Iowa Department of Human Services

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Charles M. Palmer
Director

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Medicaid Director Jennifer Vermeer Leaving DHS Taking new position with University of Iowa Health Care

(Des Moines, Iowa) – The Iowa Department of Human Services announced Tuesday that Iowa’s Medicaid director is resigning to accept a new position with the University of Iowa.

Jennifer Vermeer, who has served as Iowa Medicaid director since 2008, has accepted a position as the assistant vice president of medical affairs with University of Iowa Health Care. Her resignation is effective Aug. 21.

“Jennifer Vermeer has shown tremendous leadership in her role as Medicaid director, and her accomplishments will impact the state’s delivery of health care services for many years,” DHS Director Charles M. Palmer said. “We wish her well in her new role as she continues working to improve the quality of health care for Iowans.”

Iowa Medicaid achievements during Vermeer’s tenure include: initiating team-based approaches to patient-centered care such as Medical Home Models and Integrated Health Homes, securing a federal State Innovation Model grant to develop new payment and service delivery models, and implementing Affordable Care Act requirements through the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan. In addition, Iowa Medicaid’s program integrity efforts have saved about \$120 million in taxpayer funds over the past 4 years.

“Serving as Iowa’s Medicaid director has been rewarding both personally and professionally,” Vermeer said. “I’m passionate about improving population health and leading health delivery reform as we did through the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan, and this new public service opportunity will allow me to help transform health care at the delivery-system level.”

In her new position, Vermeer also is charged with reducing system costs and strengthening partnerships through the University of Iowa Health Alliance LLC.

Iowa Medicaid Deputy Director Julie Lovelady, who has 20 years of experience with the program, was appointed interim director. Palmer continues to oversee key initiatives through Medicaid, which assisted more than 600,000 Iowans last year.

“Iowa Medicaid is a leader in health care policy and delivery, and there will be a smooth transition in day-to-day operations under Julie Lovelady’s solid leadership while a national search is underway to fill this critical position,” Palmer said.

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