



Aug. 8, 2011

For information contact
Roger Munns (515) 281-4848

Iowa Medicaid Director Named to Prestigious Institute

DES MOINES, Iowa—Iowa Medicaid Director Jennifer Vermeer has been chosen to participate in the yearlong Medicaid Leadership Institute, an advanced professional development program managed by the Center for Health Care Strategies and funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Vermeer is one of six state Medicaid directors selected in a competitive process to participate in the institute, now in its third year.

The institute is designed to enhance strategic thinking, individual leadership, and technical skills that directors will need to lead their state's Medicaid programs, which are set to grow dramatically under provisions of the Affordable Care Act.

Medicaid is the health coverage system for children in low-income families, the disabled, and the elderly. There are currently about 400,000 Iowa Medicaid members, a number that is estimated to grow by 80,000 to 100,000 by the year 2014. Medicaid is already the second largest healthcare provider in Iowa.

The Center for Health Care Strategies, based in Hamilton, N.J., is a nonprofit health policy resource center dedicated to improving health care quality for low-income families.

The other directors selected were Katie Dunn of New Hampshire, Valerie Harr of New Jersey, Julie Weinberg of New Mexico, Elena Nicolella of Rhode Island, and Billy Millwee of Texas.