

# Iowa Medicaid Director Jennifer Vermeer Biography



Jennifer Vermeer was appointed the State Medicaid Director in September 2008. Prior to being named Director Jennifer served as the assistant Medicaid Director for 3 years. Before her work with Medicaid she was a senior analyst for the non-partisan Iowa Legislative Service Agency for two and a half years, specializing in Medicaid and other Department of Human Services programs. Jennifer served for seven years at the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in the Arizona Legislature, the last three years as Deputy Director, before moving to Iowa in December 2002. Jennifer earned her Masters of Public Administration from the University of Arizona and is a graduate of Central College in Pella.

In her work at Iowa Medicaid Vermeer manages Iowa's \$4 Billion Medicaid program. The Iowa Medicaid Enterprise processes over 20 million medical claims per year and contracts with over 38,000 Iowa health care providers. Iowa Medicaid serves over 450,000 Iowans. Iowa Medicaid is currently undertaking a variety of new endeavors including implementation of the Medical Home Model (a team approach to patient-centered care), expanded access to the IowaCare program, implementation of the Affordable Care Act, and modernization of the 30-year-old Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS), among other projects. Vermeer is committed to ensuring the delivery of health care to the most vulnerable Iowans while utilizing best practices to maintain program integrity to fight fraud and abuse. Vermeer believes that holding the program to the highest quality standards is the best way to fulfill her responsibilities to Medicaid recipients, health care providers and taxpayers. In addition, Vermeer is a believer in strengthening partnerships in the delivery of health care and increasing awareness among policy makers about Medicaid programs. She is a frequent speaker at Iowa Legislative hearings and other settings such as the University of Iowa.

In 2011 Vermeer was awarded the "Underserved Champion of the Year Award" by the Iowa Nebraska Primary Health Care Association, now known as the Iowa Primary Care Association. In 2011 Vermeer was selected in a competitive process to participate in the *Medicaid Leadership Institute*, an advanced professional development program managed by the Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS) and funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Iowa was one of only six states represented in the program.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Vermeer".