



Media Release

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DHS Hires Allison to Oversee State Medicaid Program

Little Rock, Ark. – The Department of Human Services (DHS) has tapped Andy Allison, who has more than a decade of experience researching and running Medicaid programs, to serve as the next Division of Medical Services (DMS) Director.

Dr. Allison currently works for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment as the Executive Director of the Division of Health Care Finance, overseeing that state's Medicaid program, Children's Health Insurance Program and state employee health plans. He also is a founding board member and current President of the National Association of Medicaid Directors.

During his tenure in Kansas, Dr. Allison served as the principle staff for a comprehensive redesign of Medicaid, led an initiative to secure a \$40 million grant to help fund a new Medicaid and CHIP eligibility system, and achieved hospital payment reform. He received his Bachelor's Degree in History from Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia before earning a Master's Degree in Public Policy from Duke University and a Ph.D in Economics from Vanderbilt University.

"Andy has extraordinary qualifications and is well-respected by his peers," DHS Director John Selig said Monday. "He knows Arkansas, he knows Medicaid and he is a proven innovator."

Dr. Allison first began working in the Medicaid field in 1992 as a Medicaid budget analyst at the Office of Management and Budget in Washington D.C., a position he held for three years. He then spent six years at the Kansas Health Institute as a researcher, focusing on health care and health insurance policy in Kansas. His work there included an evaluation of Kansas' Medicaid and CHIP programs.

Dr. Allison said Monday that he believes states will have to take extraordinary measures to both contain Medicaid spending and improve health outcomes for patients who rely on the program as their safety net. To achieve that, he said, the culture of the program and all of health care must change.

"Arkansas understands the challenges ahead for Medicaid and is already working to transform the payment model for the state's entire health care system," Dr. Allison said. "I've spent my career working to improve the Medicaid program, and I'm pleased John Selig has asked me to be a part of his team."

Dr. Allison will start Dec. 5.