

Media Release

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DHS Building Payment Integrity Unit to Strengthen Medicaid Program

Long-time businessman to lead new unit with focus on preventing improper use of Medicaid funds

The Department of Human Services (DHS) has hired a long-time businessman and former data analyst to lead the agency's new Payment Integrity Unit, which has a goal of strengthen Arkansas's Medicaid program, preventing improper use of Medicaid funds and increasing recoveries when the money is misspent.

John Parke of Paron will begin his new role on Nov. 9. Parke, who graduated from Vanderbilt University in 1983 with a major in mathematics and a minor in computer science, said he's looking forward to the challenge of starting a new unit and finding ways to save the taxpayers money.



"This is a tremendous opportunity, and I'm excited to get started," Parke said.

"My team will take a comprehensive look at what other states are doing and develop a plan that will meet – and hopefully exceed – the Governor's expectations."

DHS Deputy Director Mark White, who is over Medicaid and the Division of Medical Services, said Parke is experienced at digging into businesses' financial and data systems as well as processes to make the businesses more efficient.

"That's a skill he can really leverage in Medicaid," White said. "When we interviewed John for this position, he had a really good grasp of the opportunities this type of unit will find."

This new Payment Integrity Unit will focus on prevention and recoveries by utilizing data analytics and industry best practices to identify systemic sources of waste. DHS and the Office of Medicaid Inspector General will then collaborate on correcting the existing policies, new training for DHS and provider staff, and addressing shortcomings in the current claim processing procedures.

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