



Managing the Medicaid program to provide the best healthcare value for South Carolinians.

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Medicaid agency announces new Deputy Director for Long Term Care and Behavioral Health Services

COLUMBIA, S.C. — South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Director Tony Keck announced today the reorganization of the Medicaid program's Bureau of Long Term Care and Behavioral Health Services. Effective immediately, Sam Waldrep, currently Program Manager of the bureau, will assume the role of Deputy Director for Long Term Care and Behavioral Health Services and report directly to Keck.

"This move is recognition of the importance of long-term care and behavioral health services to our residents' well being," Keck said. "It also signals our commitment to aggressively pursue rebalancing of our system towards more home and community-based services, more consumer direction, better integration of primary care and behavioral health and better management of individuals with dual diagnoses."

More than 60,000 seniors and South Carolinians living with disabilities and behavioral illness receive services through the South Carolina Medicaid program. These recipients represent only 6 percent of the total Medicaid population but comprise 25 percent of Medicaid total spending; or \$1.3 billion in state fiscal year 2010. In fact, 70 percent of nursing facility admissions to the state's 150 contracted facilities is paid for by Medicaid.

Waldrep, a native of South Carolina, has more than 30 years experience in working with these individuals at both the state and local provider level. He was involved in the early efforts to move the state toward home and community-based care. In his new role, his responsibilities will include the management of policy and operations related to nursing homes, Medicaid's elderly and disabled waivers, as well as waivers and other services for persons living with developmental disabilities and mental illness. Currently SCDHHS contracts with the Departments of Mental Health and Disabilities and Special Needs to administer those waivers.

"Sam is passionately committed to the people we serve, highly respected by stakeholders and his peers, and has a track record of successful execution. By directly reporting to me, I will be better able to support him as the department's lead on these issues," Keck said.

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