Jodi Harpstead, co-chair | Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Human Services

Governor Tim Walz named Jodi Harpstead commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Human Services in August 2019.

Prior to her appointment, Commissioner Harpstead was the president and CEO of Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (LSS) since September 2011. She also was the executive vice president and chief operating officer for LSS and spent 23 years in a variety of positions with Medtronic, Inc.

Commissioner Harpstead has volunteered in leadership capacities for a variety of other organizations including Augsburg University, Lutheran Services in America and ARRM – the statewide association of community-based service providers for people with disabilities.

She received her Master of Business Administration in finance and bachelor’s degree in business administration from Michigan State University.
Jan Malcolm, co-chair | Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Health

Commissioner Malcolm was appointed in January 2018 as commissioner for the Minnesota Department of Health.

Prior to being appointed commissioner, Commissioner Malcolm was an adjunct faculty member at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health, where she co-directed a national research and leadership development program funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Earlier she also helped develop initiatives to strengthen the nation’s public health system as a senior program officer at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

A graduate of Dartmouth College, Commissioner Malcolm previously served as CEO of the Courage Center and as President of the Courage Kenny Foundation following the merger of Courage Center and the Sister Kenny Rehabilitation Institute. She has also worked as Vice President of Public Affairs and Philanthropy at Allina Health. From 1999 to 2003, Commissioner Malcolm served as Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Health.

Throughout her career, she has been active in state and national health care, public health associations, and government commissions on health care access and quality.

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Minnesota House of Representatives

Tina Liebling (DFL) | District: 26A

Tina Liebling was born and raised in Minneapolis. She earned her B.A. from the University of Minnesota, her M.P.H. from the University of Massachusetts, and her J.D. from Boston University. She was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives in 2004 from a Rochester district and is now serving her 8th term in the Minnesota House of Representatives, where she has served on the House health and human services committees since her second term. She was chair of the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee 2013-15, minority lead of that committee 2015-17, minority lead for health on the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee 2017-19, and now is chair of the House Health and Human Services Finance Division.

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Joe Schomacker (R) | District: 22A

State Representative Joe Schomacker (R-Luverne) is the Republican Lead of the Minnesota House Health and Human Services Finance Division. He has previously served as Chairman of the Minnesota House Health and Human Services Reform Committee, and the Aging and Long Term Care Policy Committee. Schomacker was first elected to the Minnesota House in 2010. He represents Minnesota House District 22A, which includes all or parts of Lincoln, Lyon, Pipestone, Murray, Nobles, and Rock counties in southwestern Minnesota.

Minnesota Senate

Rich Draheim (R) | District: 20

Rich Draheim is a small business owner and Washington Township resident serving his first term in the Minnesota State Senate representing District 20. A graduate of Minnesota State University, Mankato, Draheim has nearly three decades of business management experience. He currently owns and manages the highly successful Weichert Realtors, Community Group of Mankato and the New Ulm Event Center. Draheim’s legislative priorities include job creation and growth of main street economies, reduced regulatory burden on farmers and small business owners, equitable education funding, government reform and accountability, term-limits, reducing the cost of health care through price transparency, and an overall emphasis on effective and efficient government.
Matt Klein (DFL) | District: 52

Matt Klein attended Mayo Medical School ('89) and completed an Internal Medicine residency and chief residency at Hennepin County Medical Center. During his years of practice, he spearheaded a hospitalist program at St. Mary’s Hospital in Madison, Wisconsin, and served on the board of directors for Dean Medical Systems, a large provider network and health insurer in Southeast Wisconsin. He was elected to the West St Paul School Board in 2013 and to the state senate in 2016. During his time at the legislature he has championed regulation of the pharmaceutical industry, prudent gun safety legislation, and a public health insurance option for all Minnesotans.

Community members and stakeholder representatives

Jennifer DeCubellis | Director of Human Services and Public Health, Hennepin County

Jennifer DeCubellis is the Deputy County Administrator for Hennepin County. Hennepin is Minnesota’s largest county and is home to over 1.2 million residents.

Jennifer is responsible for Health and Human Service operations, which includes over 4000 employees and a budget of over $1 billion dollars. Human Services include: income assistance, child and adult protection, chemical health and mental health services, services and supports for people with disabilities, veteran services, and children and family services. Health operations include: Hennepin Health (a safety net Accountable Care Organization), Public Health, NorthPoint Health and Wellness Center (a county-operated Federally Qualified Health Center), and the Medical Examiner’s Office. In addition, Jennifer oversees business alignment with Hennepin Healthcare System.

Jennifer has a Master’s degree in Clinical Psychology from the Illinois School of Clinical Psychology and a Bachelor’s degree in Special Education (Emotional and Behavioral Disorders) from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Jennifer has spent the last 20 plus years in public program administration with an emphasis on program redesign, system efficiencies, and quality improvements to ensure positive resident outcomes for lower cost.
Jennifer DuPuis | Associate Director, Fond du Lac Nation Human Services

Jennifer DuPuis is an enrolled member of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. She has served as an Associate Director for the Fond du Lac Human Services Division since 2012. In her role she is responsible for oversight of the business office including program budgets and third party billing, as well as the behavioral health, substance abuse disorder, and social services departments. Jennifer served as a technical advisor to the Tribal Technical Advisory Group (TTAG) of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and was a member of the Medicare and Medicaid Policy Committee (MMPC) for CMS. She is also sits on the Healthy Nations Advisory Board for Mayo Clinic.

Nona Ferguson | Vice President, Economic Stability and Aging Services

Nona Ferguson has been with the Wilder Foundation since 1995, providing a wealth of experience and expertise in health and human services work, program design, employment services and housing. She oversees Wilder’s housing support services, early childhood and parent education, aging services, and basic needs programs. She focuses on creating integrated service models that meet the needs of whole families and multiple generations. Nona holds a B.A. in Psychology from Tougaloo College, Mississippi, and a Master’s in Rehabilitation Counseling from Minnesota State University-Mankato.

When she’s not working, Nona enjoys spending time with family and friends, and learning about the capacity of human beings to be resilient and rebound from life circumstances. Her favorite quote comes from author Paulo Coelho’s book The Alchemist, and in summary says that once you commit and determine what you want, the whole universe conspires to support you in achieving that goal.
Julia Freeman | Senior Organizer, Voices for Racial Justice

Julia Freeman is the Senior Organizer at the Voices For Racial Justice. Since 2007 she has led the Education Equity work using a healing and racial justice lens. Julia has helped Districts and Schools use co-created tools that put students and parents in the center of equity solutions. The narratives that come out of this work are very powerful. She is a racial justice trainer and coach. Julia is a grandmother of ten and education is her passion, which she brings to her work coordinating shared learning opportunities for the Education Equity Parent Fellowship.

Sheila Kiscaden | Commissioner, Olmsted County

Sheila Kiscaden, an Olmsted County Commissioner (2012- present) who previously served in the Minnesota Senate representing Rochester/Olmsted County (1992-2006). She is currently the Vice Chair of the State Community Health Advisory Council and is the Vice Chair of the Association of Minnesota Counties Human Services Policy Committee. Her long career in health and human services includes managing small non-profit organizations, serving as Olmsted County’s human services planner and legislative liaison, and being a consultant in private practice specializing in the organizational development needs of public and non-profit health and human services organizations. Sheila holds a Master’s Degree in Public Administration from the University of Southern California and a Master’s in Participation, Development and Social Change from the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex.
Debra Krause | Vice President, Minnesota Health Action Group

Ms. Krause is Vice President of the Minnesota Health Action Group, a nonprofit coalition of public and private purchasers whose sole purpose is to represent the collective voice of those who write the checks for health care in Minnesota. In this role, she is directly involved in major Action Group initiatives, including the organization’s Mental Health Learning Network, annual employer benefits survey, annual employer leadership summit, community dialogues, and member meetings. She collaborates with other purchasers nationally by representing The Action Group on work groups led by the National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions. Deb also represents employers/purchasers on Minnesota Community Measurement’s Board of Directors and several committees/work groups. Deb has a B.S. in Business Administration from Valparaiso University and an M.B.A. in Finance from the University of Wisconsin—Madison.

Gayle M. Kvenvold | President and Chief Executive Officer, LeadingAge Minnesota

Gayle M. Kvenvold is the President and Chief Executive Officer of LeadingAge Minnesota and has held this post since 1989. With a membership encompassing nearly 1,000 organizations engaged in the delivery of services and supports to older adults in more than 700 Minnesota cities and towns, LeadingAge Minnesota is one of the largest associations of its type in the nation. Under Kvenvold’s leadership, LeadingAge Minnesota has broadened the base of its members from care centers to an ever-evolving spectrum of residential and home-based services for older adults and has focused the organization on advancing change in service delivery and financing models. Collaborative work in Minnesota’s aging and health care services network includes the Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging, the Minnesota Alliance for Patient Safety, the Department of Human Services’ Own Your Future Initiative, Act on Alzheimer’s, Silos to Circles, the Minnesota Gerontological Society, Robert L. Kane LTC Chair Advisory Committee, and the University of Minnesota Duluth Health Care Management Advisory Council. Kvenvold holds a master’s degree in Social Work from the University of Minnesota, Duluth.
Sida Ly-Xiong | National Program Manager, Nexus Community Partners

Sida Ly-Xiong has spent over 18 years serving and learning from communities in order to change systems. At Nexus Community Partners, Sida manages a national initiative in partnership with Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. She is responsible for developing community and civic engagement processes strategies for collective impact. In a previous role at the Minnesota Dept. of Health, Sida worked with public health teams and health policy. Sida supported community health initiatives to apply a racial equity lens in their work and build authentic relationships in and with communities they serve. Sida also serves as Chair of the Program in Health Disparities Research community-academic advisory board at the University of Minnesota Medical School and is the Chair of the Ramsey County Libraries Board. Sida holds a Master’s of Science degree in Science, Technology and Environment Policy from the Humphrey School for Public Affairs.

Shauna Reitmeier / Chief Executive Officer, Northwestern Mental Health Center

Shauna Reitmeier serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the Northwestern Mental Health Center, Inc. for a six-county rural and frontier Community Mental Health Center in NW Minnesota and has over 20 years of administrative and clinical experience. She holds a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. Prior to her current endeavor, she worked with the National Council for Behavioral Healthcare providing technical assistance for demonstrating the integration of primary and behavioral healthcare. She has extensive experience in Quality and Process Improvement, Strategic Planning and integration of systems. She serves as the past President of the Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs and a newly elected board member for the National Association of Rural Mental Health. Most recently through the Excellence in Mental Healthcare Act the NWMHC became a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic, implementing a new integrated service delivery and payment model of care for impacting overall health outcomes of individuals with behavioral health conditions.
Sue Schettle / Chief Executive Officer, Association of Residential Resources in Minnesota (ARRM)

Sue Schettle serves as the Chief Executive Officer of ARRM, a trade association representing nearly 200 home and community based service providers in Minnesota. Sue joined ARRM in late 2017 after working nearly 30 years in the healthcare sector. Prior to joining ARRM, she was the CEO of the Twin Cities Medical Society, a membership association representing more than 4,000 physicians from the 7-County Metropolitan Area, leading several ground-breaking public health initiatives on behalf of members. Sue provides the strategic vision and organizational management for ARRM, working collaboratively with the Board of Directors, staff and members to ensure the association is a leading voice in the advocacy for community-based providers and the people they support.

Lisa Weed | Executive Vice President, SEIU Healthcare Minnesota

Lisa Weed joined the labor movement in 2003 by organizing a union where she worked as a Licensed Practical Nurse at Infinia Owatonna Nursing Home. Lisa was actively involved with SEIU HCMN as a member organizer and in October 2004 moved into a position as an external organizer. In 2007, she was an Internal Organizer, and in 2012, became the Long Term Care Director. Lisa has been an Executive Vice President since January 2013. She was appointed by the Executive Board in 2013 and elected by the membership the following year. In 2014, Lisa became the Southeast Sector Director. She currently serves on the Department of Labor’s Rehabilitation and Review Panel, as a Labor Member, and sits on the Health Professionals Services Program Advisory Committee.