

**Health and Human Services Committee  
Confirmation Hearing – Calder Lynch  
April 30, 2015**

**Calder Lynch  
Director, Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care  
Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services**

Good afternoon, Senator Campbell and members of the Health and Human Services Committee. My name is Calder Lynch (C-a-l-d-e-r L-y-n-c-h) and I'm the Director of the Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care within the Department. I've had the privilege to now serve in this role for just over eight weeks.

I appreciate being here before the committee again today on the subject of my confirmation as well as the opportunity I've had to meet with many of you during the past few months.

I will begin by sharing a little about my background and then talk about how I believe we can move forward together.

I earned a Bachelor's Degree from Louisiana State University in Business Administration. I wasn't quite ready to commit to a particular graduate degree at that time, so I chose to enter the workforce. Since then, I have returned to school and expect to graduate this August with of Masters of Science in Health Administration from the University of Alabama Birmingham through their executive program.

I began my tenure with the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals shortly after having graduated from LSU. I spent the early part of my time there working in more policy-oriented roles, including Special Assistant to the Secretary where I was responsible for researching and developing policy and briefings statements that would shape our internal and external messaging. I later became Policy Advisor and then Policy Director where I had the opportunity to play a leading role in developing and executing on the Department and the Secretary's policy agenda and business plan as well as leading successful Medicaid reform efforts.

In 2013, upon Courtney Phillip's promotion to the Deputy Secretary position, I took her place as the agency's Chief of Staff. In this role I served as a senior member of the management team for the largest state agency in Louisiana. In addition to directing the activities of the executive Office of the Secretary and its employees and serving as a primary spokesperson for the Department and liaison with key officials and stakeholders, I also continued to lead priority Medicaid reform efforts.

My educational and work experiences have proven to be incredibly valuable and have helped me to better understand and appreciate the challenges on the front-lines of health care for

both patients and providers. Medicaid is an incredibly important program with complex financing mechanisms that requires effective management and strong accountability.

In just my short time here I have grown even more excited about the challenges ahead. We have a team of incredibly dedicated and talented professionals within the Division who are eager to tackle the opportunities before us. The eligibility team is hard at work with our new contractor to build a newer and more modern eligibility and enrollment system. We are continuing to look at how we can best meet our needs through the MMIS replacement effort, which will include more advanced data analytics and fraud detection capabilities. Our programs team is busy working on the details of our next phase of the managed care contracts, which will fully integrate physical and behavioral health services and provide for greater accountability with a larger emphasis on quality. These are just a few examples of the exciting opportunities ahead.

One of our key priorities will be continuing to build and improve relationships and lines of communication with our providers, partners and stakeholders. The can-do spirit of the people of Nebraska and their willingness to pitch in to help lead successful change is invigorating, and it's a resource that we must harness.

I'm looking ahead with great excitement and optimism, and I'm happy to answer any questions you might have.