

**Confirmation Hearing
Health and Human Services Committee
March 8, 2018**

**Matthew Van Patton, Acting Director
Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care
Department of Health and Human Services**


Good afternoon, Chairman Riepe and members of the Health and Human Services Committee. My name is Matthew Van Patton (M-A-T-T-H-E-W V-A-N P-A-T-T-O-N), and I serve as the Acting Director of the Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care within the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). I want to thank Governor Ricketts and DHHS CEO Dr. Courtney Phillips for the opportunity to serve the citizens of Nebraska in this capacity. I also want to thank Rocky Thompson for his leadership as interim director of the Division since the departure of Calder Lynch. Since assuming the role last week, I have had the pleasure of meeting you all and beginning a working relationship with you, my DHHS teammates, and other Medicaid stakeholders. I am looking forward to continuing the Governor's vision of delivering a more effective, efficient, and customer-focused state government with you.

As you know, I am a native of South Carolina. I earned my Doctorate of Health Administration from the Medical University of South Carolina. Prior to my doctoral studies, I earned a Master of Arts in Strategic Communications and Leadership from Seton Hall University and a Bachelor of Arts in Communications from the University of South Carolina Upstate. I am also a husband and father. I look forward to having my wife, Dr. Brandi S. Van Patton, who is a long-term care consulting pharmacist, and our four children joining me in Nebraska this summer.

My career has been focused in the areas of healthcare and public policy. Most recently, I was the president and CEO of Cadre Medical Technologies, LLC, a healthcare technology start-up I co-founded. The company is currently working on products in the transition of care space, as well as an HR tool for healthcare staff placement. I have also spent time at the federal level, where I served as Congressman Trey Gowdy's Chief of Staff. Prior to my time on Capitol Hill, I was the president and managing partner of Palmetto Public Affairs LLC, a public affairs firm focused on healthcare policy. My career in the healthcare field began at the Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System in South Carolina where I served in a variety of roles including the Chief of Staff to the Board of Directors, Chief Policy Officer, Director of Innovations and Planning, and administrator of the Institutional Review Board.

My academic training in healthcare administration, my professional experience in a large health system and a healthcare startup, my leadership of a health policy focused government relations firm, and my tenure on Capitol Hill as a chief of staff have prepared me to lead the Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care in partnership with our Department CEO, Dr. Courtney Phillips.

Nebraska Medicaid has a team of dedicated and talented professionals who are ready and able to seize the opportunities before us. I look forward to building on the success of Heritage Health as we enter into the second year of operations. My team continues work on major information technology initiatives including updating the eligibility and enrollment system and adding a data management analytics (DMA) system to improve Medicaid's capability to manage and utilize the vast amounts of data received every day. Additionally, I look forward to the continued work on our long-term care



redesign plan to ensure the state's long-term care supports and services system is sustainable into the future.

I am excited about these opportunities and others that lie ahead. Nebraska Medicaid is a program that impacts the lives of not only 230,000 of the state's most vulnerable residents but also our provider partners who ensure that the members are receiving the care they need to live meaningful lives. A tremendous effort has been made to establish and improve relationships and lines of communication with our providers, partners, and stakeholders. This will continue to be a high priority for me.

Over the last week I have learned a lot about the great state of Nebraska, the Department, and the Division that I am honored to lead. I look forward to the opportunity to work with this committee and the other members of the unicameral to fulfill the Department's mission of helping people live better lives as part of Governor Ricketts' vision to grow Nebraska. I am proud to be serving the people of Nebraska as part of the DHHS team. Thank you, and I am happy to answer any questions members of the committee may have.