



Speaker Bios

Kevin Concannon

USDA Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services

Kevin W. Concannon was nominated by President Obama and Secretary Vilsack and confirmed by the U.S. Senate in July 2009 to serve as Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services in the United States Department of Agriculture.

Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services has principal responsibilities and funding authority for Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), which feeds 1 in 4 Americans, and has lead responsibilities for promoting healthful diet through the Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion.

Working in partnership with State and local organizations, FNS oversees the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as the Food Stamp Program, which serves over 43 million Americans each month; child nutrition programs including National School Lunch, School Breakfast, and Summer Food Service Programs; The Child and Adult Care Food Program; the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); the Commodity Supplemental Food Program; Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations; The Emergency Food Assistance Program; and other nutrition programs.

Under Secretary Concannon has had a lengthy and distinguished career in public service. Over the past twenty-five years, he has served as Director of State Health and Human Services departments in Maine, Oregon, and Iowa. He has championed expanded services, improved access, alternatives to institutions, consumer choices, affordable health care, diversity in workplace and programs, and modernization of public information technology systems.

He has served in a number of national organizations, including serving as President of the American Public Welfare Association, President of the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors, trustee of the American Public Human Services Association, board member of the American Humane Association, and co-chair of the Milbank Memorial Fund state steering committee.

He has received a number of awards, including the Lifetime Human Services Award from the American Public Human Services Association in 2007.

He is a native of Portland, Maine, a graduate of Saint Francis Xavier University, Nova Scotia with both Bachelor of Arts and Master of Social Work degrees. He has continued his studies at the University of Southern Maine and the University of Connecticut Graduate School of Social Work.

Concannon has taught graduate courses at the University Connecticut, Portland State University, Oregon, and the University of Iowa as Adjunct Professor of Social Work.

Will Lightbourne

Director, California Department of Social Services

Will Lightbourne was appointed Director of the California Department of Social Services by Governor Jerry Brown in April of 2011. Having served as the director of three county social services agencies as well as being a member of numerous commissions, councils, boards and nonprofits, over the past three decades, he has been deeply involved in a wide range of social welfare issues in California.

Prior to coming to the California Department of Social Services, Director Lightbourne served as Director of the Social Services Agency of the County of Santa Clara for more than ten years. He also served in the administration of Mayor Willie Brown as Executive Director of the Human Services Agency of the City and County of San Francisco, and as Director of the Santa Cruz County Human Services Agency.

Before his role in the public human services field, Will served as General Director of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, one of the oldest and largest private human services organizations in the Bay Area.

Lanier Cansler

Secretary, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

Lanier M. Cansler serves the citizens of North Carolina as the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. Governor Bev Perdue appointed Cansler to this position in January 2009, to ensure the health, safety, and well being of all North Carolinians in almost every phase of life.

Under Cansler's leadership, the Department of Health and Human Services is establishing a renewed commitment to enhance public confidence in the agency's ability to successfully meet the challenges and address the needs of North Carolina's citizens. Through strengthened and more open management, DHHS is focused on achieving greater effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of vital services.

Lanier Cansler is a certified public accountant who began his career in public accounting in 1973 in Lenoir, North Carolina. He moved to Asheville in 1978 and established his own CPA firm in 1981. The Asheville firm built a substantial clientele and reputation among the health care provider industry.

In 1994, Lanier was elected to the North Carolina House of Representatives for the 51st House district. Successful in reelection efforts in 1996, 1998, and 2000, he served on numerous health care committees including co-chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, co-chair of the Joint House/Senate Legislative Health Care Oversight Committee, and vice-chair of the Public Health Committee. Lanier also served on the Mental Health Committee and the Select Committee on Health Care Delivery. In 1999, Lanier was appointed to the North Carolina Institute of Medicine by Governor Hunt, and was reappointed to the Institute by Governor Easley in 2004 and now serves on the Institute's board of directors.

During the 2001 Legislative Session, Lanier left the General Assembly to become the Deputy Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, a position he held for four years. As Deputy Secretary, Lanier had management and oversight responsibility for the budget and business functions and planning of the State's largest agency.

Lanier has been the recipient of numerous awards for his efforts in the health and human services arena. Among them are Legislator of the Year awards from the NC Low Income Housing Coalition, The ARC of NC, the NC Council of Community Programs, and Autism Society of NC. He received the Valand Award from the NC Mental Health Association and the Excellence in Public Service for Children Award from the NC Pediatric Society and NC Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. In addition, he received the Red Spoon Award from NC's Second Harvest Food Banks and the Children's Hope Award from the Eblen Children's Charities.

In the spring of 2005, Lanier made the decision to leave his responsibilities at DHHS to return to the private sector. From 2005 until 2009, Lanier served as a consultant and advisor to health care providers, care provider and advocacy organizations, information technology companies, insurers, quality assurance organizations, and a list of others.

In January of 2009, Governor Beverly Perdue asked Lanier to join her Cabinet as the Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

Jim Jones

Senior Consultant, Sellers Dorsey

Jim Jones is a Senior Consultant at Sellers Dorsey, joining the firm in the summer of 2011. Jim has extensive expertise in Medicaid, CHIP and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) policy and operations. He has also provided strategic planning and technical support for Health Insurance Exchange planning and eligibility and enrollment programs.

Recently, Mr. Jones has led the State of Colorado's Health Insurance Exchange development of early requirements efforts for eligibility, verification and enrollment. He also led the Colorado team working on the User Experience 2014 project and was a member of Colorado's Robert Wood Johnson-funded State Health Reform Assistance Network team. While in Colorado, Mr. Jones helped with strategic planning for Colorado's eligibility systems for health and human service programs.

Mr. Jones had a long career with the State of Wisconsin, serving as Deputy Administrator of Wisconsin's Division of Health Care Access and Accountability, SNAP Program Director and Deputy State Medicaid Director. He was responsible for the implementation of BadgerCare Plus, which extended health care access to all uninsured children and expanded coverage of pregnant women and parents. Jim also led the effort to secure Wisconsin's Health Care Reform Exchange Early Innovators Grant from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) as Wisconsin's Planning Grant Director. The grant was approved in February 2011 and secured more than \$37 million for the State to develop a transferrable health insurance exchange. In addition, he led efforts to develop the policy and process underpinnings for Wisconsin's Health Benefit Exchange as Project Director, including the development of a web-based prototype for the Exchange in 2010.

In addition, Jim was responsible for aligning Medicaid, CHIP and SNAP policies which resulted in a huge increase in SNAP program participation and significantly lowered Wisconsin's payment error rate and negative error rate. Mr. Jones represented Midwest States on the American Association of Food Stamp Directors' Board and served for five years on the Eligibility Technical Advisory Group for CMS.