Department of Health and Human Services Commissioner's Office

Commissioner Jeanne M. Lambrew, PhD January 2023



Who We Are



Advisors to the Commissioner

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Who We Are



Who – and Where – We Are ~3,460 Headcount



Who We Are



Who We Serve

DHHS By the Numbers Dashboard: www.maine.gov/dhhs/about-us



Why: Goals



How: Role of Commissioner's Office

Staff Support:

- Set common expectations and training across all Offices to create common culture to work toward goals
- Implemented permanent telework policy
- Implementing strategies for diversity, equity, and inclusion
- **Operational Support**: Dedicated staff to support Offices in hiring, contracting, budgeting, management

Communication and Engagement

- Issue frequent press releases, created a blog, and overhauled website
- Created Department wide and Office-specific data dashboards
- Improved constituent services, stakeholder engagement, and FOAA process
- **Initiatives and Special Projects:** Deployment of leadership time and specialized staff to coordinate and support high priority, urgent, or complicated work

Inter- and Intra-Department Initiatives

<u>Children's Cabinet Goal for Young</u> <u>Children:</u> All Maine Children Enter Kindergarten Prepared to Succeed

Children's Cabinet Goal for Youth: All Maine Youth Enter Adulthood Healthy, Connected to Workforce and/or Education

EYESPEN



OPTIONS

Department of Health and Human Services

SAVE LIVES



TRAINING REAL STORIES EV

COMPASSIONATE CAREERS

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan

IOB OPENINGS

SAFE SLEEP SAVES LIVES



Investing in Maine's Businesses, Workers, People, and Communities

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- Workforce
- Transportation
- Housing
- Food Security
- Energy Costs
- PFAS

Examples Progress to Date

- **Public health:** Ran one of the best-rated state responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to analyses by the <u>Commonwealth Fund</u> and the <u>National Bureau of Economic Research</u>.
- Health coverage:
 - Led the nation with the <u>largest drop in the state uninsured rate</u> from 2019 to 2021, largely due to expanding Medicaid, <u>Governor Mills' first action</u>.
 - Launched a State-based Marketplace, CoverME.gov, for private coverage, reversing enrollment declines.
 - Working with the Bureau of Insurance, implemented a <u>State Innovation Waiver</u> that reduced the average health insurance premium for small businesses for the first time >20 years.
- **Health disparities:** Supported community-based organizations to address <u>COVID-19</u> disparities, serving nearly 30,000 people, addressing other <u>disparities</u>, created an Office of Population Health Equity, and <u>removing barriers to services for asylum seekers</u>.
- **Training:** Implemented <u>Higher Opportunity for Pathways to Employment (HOPE)</u>, with 193 parents earning 205 degrees and credentials; expanded statewide "two-generation" or "whole family" supports; and ranked 4th best in support for direct care workers according to a new study.
- Child care: Expanded <u>child care slots</u> beyond pre-pandemic levels, creating <u>permanent salary</u> <u>supports</u> for over 7,000 child care workers, and supporting child care construction to add as many as <u>4,700 slots</u>.

Examples of Work in Progress

Improving child safety systems:

- \circ Continue expanding capacity and placement: +22% more positions; +33% more resource families; +42% more adoptions than in 2019; replaced outdated information system.
- Relentlessly refining and improving policies and practices; implementing historic changes made in the 130th Legislature.
- Strengthening Maine's behavioral health system:
 - Added a unit to Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center tailored to serve older adults and restored Federal funding for the Riverview Psychiatric Center.
 - Launched pilots including the MaineMOM program; a crisis center "living room" as an alternative to jail or an emergency department; and mobile crisis planning process.
 - Invested \$230 million in behavioral health services in 2022 and 2023 alone.
- **Reforming how Maine pays for Medicaid**: Implementing an award-winning law that ensures ٠ regularly updated, evidence-based payments that support high-quality health care for Maine people and fair and sustainable reimbursement to Maine's providers.
- Advancing healthy aging: In addition to reforming payment systems, continuing work on the Elder ٠ Justice Roadmap and social supports like home-delivered meals.
- Expanding capacity and range of supports for individuals with intellectual or developmental ٠ disabilities: Increased by 46% from 2017 to 2022 the number of adults with IDD receiving residential services supports; implementing American Rescue Plan \$239 million that advances access, innovation, and quality. Maine Department of Health and Human



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