

NEW MEXICO

K. Lynn Gallagher, JD

Cabinet Secretary

New Mexico Department of Health



K. Lynn Gallagher joined the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) as deputy cabinet secretary in August 2013. In 2016, Governor Susana Martinez appointed her secretary of health.

Among many public health priorities, she is committed to preventing and treating substance abuse, improving health outcomes for all New Mexicans, strengthening vaccination rates statewide, and advancing community engagement in population health priorities throughout New Mexico.

In her role as cabinet secretary of the state's largest agency, Gallagher manages the department's \$550 million budget and leads more than 3,200 employees in evidence-based, strategic health initiatives and health systems innovation. In addition to operating the state's accredited, centralized public health system, the NMDOH operates six 24/7 facilities including the state's mental hospital, one community program for persons with developmental disabilities, the developmental disabilities supports division, health facility certification, licensing and oversight division, and the medical cannabis program.

Gallagher also served as general counsel at the Aging and Long-Term Services Department. In this role, she provided legal representation to the agency related to older adults, adults with disabilities, and caregivers and acted as tribal liaison to ensure compliance with the State-Tribal Collaboration Act.

Prior to her career in public service, Gallagher lived in New York City, working for U.S. Bank in the wealth management, corporate and municipal bond market fields. She also worked for the Home Shopping Network in Florida, providing state and federal compliance and contract management. She returned to New Mexico in 2009 where she entered private practice for a short time.

Gallagher was born and raised in Truth or Consequences. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from the State University of New York at Stony Brook and a Juris Doctor degree from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.