

## SOUTH DAKOTA

### Kim Malsam-Rysdon

#### Secretary

South Dakota Department of Health



Kim Malsam-Rysdon is the Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Health. She also serves as the Governor's Senior Advisor and is a member of the Governor's Executive Committee and Cabinet. She chairs the Governor's Primary Care Oversight Committee, which is focused on improving access to quality primary care across the state.

As Secretary of Health, she oversees provision of public health care in a frontier-populated state spanning 77,000 sq. miles. The Department has over 450 employees in more than 60 communities and a \$98 million annual budget. Kim also co-chairs the South Dakota Health Care Solutions Coalition to develop innovative funding and operational solutions to health care access in South Dakota, including for members of the nine American Indian tribes in the state.

In her twenty years serving in the state government of South Dakota, Kim has also served as Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Social Services, and as Director of the Divisions of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities in the Department of Human Services. Prior to working for the state of South Dakota, Kim worked to help people with disabilities live and work in their communities.

Achievements during her career include development of sustainable funding for services for children with disabilities, implementation of health homes for people with chronic conditions and strategies to reduce use of emergency room services and expansion of several state health care workforce recruitment efforts. She received the South Dakota Association of Health Care Organizations award for State Official of the Year and the Children's Home Society Friend of Children awards in 2014.

Kim graduated cum laude with a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of South Dakota and was one of the initial graduates from the University Honors program. She received a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, with a concentration in health care policy.

