

Nevada | Dena Schmidt

Administrator

Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health

A fourth-generation Nevadan raised in the breathtaking landscapes of Lake Tahoe, Dena Schmidt has dedicated over two decades to public service, shaping policies and programs that enhance the well-being of Nevadans. Her career began in 2001 with the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services in Elko, where she gained firsthand insight into the challenges faced by individuals seeking vital support.

From early roles in Medicaid policy to executive leadership positions within the Department of Health and Human Services, Dena has played a key role in implementing major healthcare reforms, strengthening services for aging and disability communities, and fostering interagency collaboration to improve public health.

In June 2025, Dena was appointed Administrator of the Division of Public and Behavioral Health, bringing her strategic leadership and deep commitment to serving Nevada's diverse populations. With a passion for progress and a vision for a healthier future, she continues to champion initiatives that support the well-being of all Nevadans.

