

CONNECTICUT

Deidre Gifford, MD, MPH

Acting Commissioner

Connecticut Department of Public Health



On May 12, 2020, Governor Lamont appointed Dr. Deidre S. Gifford to serve as Acting Commissioner of the Department of Public Health (DPH), during a national search for a new DPH Commissioner. This appointment took effect immediately and is in addition to her continuing role as Department of Social Services Commissioner, a role she has held since June 2019.

Prior to beginning service in Connecticut, Commissioner Gifford was Deputy Director for the Center for Medicaid and CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program) Services at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) since 2016. Before joining CMS, she served as the Director of State Policy and Programs at the National Association of Medicaid Directors, where she led that organization's efforts with states to support and advance value-based purchasing in Medicaid.

From 2012 to 2015, Commissioner Gifford served as Medicaid Director in the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services, having previously served as the agency's medical director. During her tenure, she advanced changes in the payment and delivery system to improve the quality of care and enhance the value of Medicaid services, including the development of numerous initiatives in care coordination, information technology, and provider payment innovations.

Commissioner Gifford was co-founder and Project Director of Rhode Island's multi-payer Medical Home demonstration, one of the nation's first and most enduring multi-payer payment reform initiatives. She was also the Director of Healthcare Policy and Programs for Rhode Island's Medicare Quality Improvement Organization.

A graduate of the University of California at Los Angeles, Commissioner Gifford received her medical degree from Cornell University Medical College in New York. She specialized in obstetrics and gynecology, and received a master of public health degree in epidemiology from UCLA.

