

SOUTH DAKOTA

Joan Adam

Interim Secretary

South Dakota Department of Health



Joan Adam is a graduate of the University of South Dakota with a degree in Health Services Administration. She began her career in Washington, DC where Joan worked for Georgetown University Hospital in the Office of the Hospital Administrator.



After returning to South Dakota, Joan began her career with the South Dakota Department of Health (DOH). She has worked for the Department a combined 20 years. Joan worked as a program administrator in health promotion and disease prevention and served as Division Director until 1999. She then spent time at home raising a growing family. Joan returned to the Department of Health in 2010 to serve as the Division Director for Administration where she directs the SD Public Health Laboratory; Correctional Healthcare Services; the Offices of Vital Records and Health Statistics, and Health Information Technology. She was appointed interim Secretary of Health in January 2022.

Joan and Karl, her husband of 32 years, live in Pierre, SD, here they have raised their five children. Their family also includes a son-in-law, daughter-in-law, and one grandson. In her spare time, Joan stays active in the Pierre community and has served as a Board Member and President of the Pierre / Ft. Pierre Community Foundation; Co-Chair of the Helmsley Cancer Center Fundraising Committee and is currently serving as the Vice President of the Pierre School District Board of Education.