



Health and Human Services Agencies: Trends in Organization and Governance

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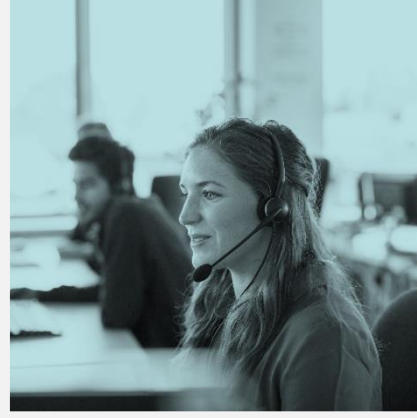
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Agency Types



Umbrella

- Sometimes called “superagency”
- Responsible for a variety of services including public health activities, Medicaid, public assistance, long-term care and mental/behavioral health and substance use services



Standalone

- Standalone agencies are responsible for one area of health and typically report directly to the governor or governing board
- Examples include agencies solely responsible for administration of the Medicaid program or solely responsible for public health



Public Health Agencies

- Organization
 - 30 agencies are standalone agencies
 - In 20 agencies, public health is a division or unit within an umbrella agency
- Governance
 - 66% of State Health Officials (SHOs) were appointed by the Governor
 - 14% of SHOs were appointed by an umbrella agency secretary
 - 10% of SHOs were appointed by a board or commission

Source: Association of State and Territorial Officials (ASTHO) "Profile of State and Territorial Health", 2017 and 2019



Medicaid Agencies

- Organization
 - 10 agencies are standalone Medicaid agencies
 - In 35 agencies, Medicaid is a division or sub-division of an umbrella agency
- Governance
 - In 29 agencies, the Medicaid Director reports to a cabinet-level leader (for example, secretary of health)
 - In 7 agencies, the Medicaid Director reports directly to the Governor
 - In one agency, the Medicaid Director reports to a board of directors

Source: National Association of Medicaid Directors (NAMD), "Seventh Annual Medicaid Operations Survey"

State Examples and Trends

Umbrella Agencies

- **Texas** enacted SB 200 (2014) and SB 208 (2014), which led to the consolidation of five health and human services agencies into two: the Human Services Commission and the Department of State Health Services
- **Kansas** in 2011, Governor Brownback signed Executive Reorganization Order No. 38 to consolidate agencies

Behavioral Health

- **Washington** enacted HB 1388 (2017) to transfer the oversight of provision of behavioral health services to from the Department of Health and Social Services to the Health Care Authority
- **Arizona** consolidated physical and behavioral health agencies in 2015

Umbrella Agencies Recent Legislation

- Utah enacted HB 365 (2021) to consolidate the Department of Health and the Department of Human Services into a single state agency
- North Dakota enacted HB 1247 (2021) to merge the Departments of Health and Human Services



NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

Reach out anytime!

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