

State of Alaska  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES**

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**NEWS RELEASE**



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## **Health Care Services and Public Assistance directors named** *William Streur appointed as HCS director, Ellie Fitzjarrald appointed as DPA director*

(Juneau, Alaska) — Health and Social Services Commissioner Karleen Jackson today announced the appointments of William Streur as Health Care Services director and Ellie Fitzjarrald as Public Assistance director.

Streur will begin work Apr. 1, 2007. Streur comes to the department from First Health Services Corporation where he has served as the Senior Director of Alaska Operations since 2003. First Health Services Corporation manages the state's Medicaid claims system.

"Bill brings significant experience in Medicaid to the department — and Medicaid is such a critical part of department operations as a whole," Jackson said. "I'm pleased to have someone with such strong experience to tackle our current challenges with Medicaid as well as leading the development of a new Medicaid management information system."

Streur has over 25 years working in health care and working with Medicaid, including managing a behavioral health system, and establishing and operating a Medicaid HMO in Michigan. Streur earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Northern Michigan University.

The appointment of Ellie Fitzjarrald as director of Public Assistance is effective immediately. Fitzjarrald has served as acting Public Assistance director since June 2006.

"Public Assistance touches many lives on a very personal level, and it requires a unique kind of leadership," Jackson said. "I am pleased to have Ellie continue in this leadership role — she has a great understanding of the importance of public assistance in helping people achieve the highest possible degree of self sufficiency while in the most vulnerable of circumstances."

Fitzjarrald previously served as the Division's Chief of Policy and Program Development, and held a key role in helping lead the agency through the successful efforts to reform the state's welfare system.

Fitzjarrald has a breadth of experience in public assistance. She has worked in the medical assistance and public assistance areas in the department since April 1980. She worked 10 years on the front lines as an eligibility technician, providing direct service to customers. She has been involved in many special projects, including systems design and testing, helping Alaska Native organizations build Native Family Assistance Programs, and has earned several awards for her exceptional achievements.