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New director named to lead Division of Senior & Disabilities Services

Successful candidate has more than 20 years of social service experience

(Anchorage, AK) — Gov. Sean Parnell has named Duane Mayes to lead the Division of Senior & Disabilities Services, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services. Mayes begins his new position on December 20, 2010.

“Mr. Mayes brings a deep awareness of the challenges that the division’s clients face, as well as the ways they enrich our communities and the talent they offer Alaska’s employers,” said Health & Social Services Acting Commissioner William Streur. “He also has a background in quality assurance that will serve the division well.”

Mayes has more than 30 years of experience supporting and advocating for Alaskans with disabilities. Most recently he worked as a health and social services planner for the Governor’s Council on Disabilities & Special Education, which works closely with the Division of Senior & Disabilities Services. Previously he was the assistant chief of rehabilitation services for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

“I look forward to working with the division’s skilled and dedicated staff to support the independence, health and dignity of the all the division’s clients — older Alaskans and Alaskans with disabilities — and their caregivers and providers,” Mayes said.

One of Mayes’ duties will be to coordinate with former Acting Division Director Kimberli Poppe-Smart, who now returns full-time to the Division of Health Care Services, where she awaits reconfirmation as director of the division that oversees Medicaid matters for the department.

“I’m delighted to have a partner in our ongoing improvements to the division’s Medicaid waiver programs,” said Poppe-Smart.

For more information on Senior & Disabilities Services, visit <http://hss.state.ak.us/dsds>.

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