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Alaska Health and Social Services announces leadership appointments
Former DHSS Chief Medical Officer Dr. Jay Butler returns to state service

ANCHORAGE — Health and Social Services Commissioner Valerie Davidson today announced appointments to her leadership team. Effective Dec. 15, 2014, Dr. Jay Butler will assume the dual roles of Chief Medical Officer and Director of the Division of Public Health. Jon Sherwood was named Deputy Commissioner for Medicaid and Health Care Policy, effective immediately. Both appointments are subject to legislative confirmation.

Butler most recently was Senior Director of the Division of Community Health Services at the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium in Anchorage, where he was also an infectious diseases consultant and Medical Director for Infection Control and Employee Health. Prior to joining ANTHC, he was Director of the H1N1 Task Force at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia. From 2007 to 2009, Butler was Chief Medical Officer at DHSS.

Butler, a graduate of the University of North Carolina Medical School, has an extensive medical background and has authored or co-authored more than 100 scientific papers and medical textbook chapters on medicine and public health. He is an Affiliate Professor of Medicine at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

Sherwood, a 25-year DHSS administrator, most recently was Division Operations Manager for the Division of Senior and Disabilities Services where he was responsible for Medicaid nursing facilities, home- and community-based services waivers, and personal care. He also oversaw supported housing, grants for seniors and those with developmental disabilities, brain injuries and other disabilities, among other assignments.

Immediately prior to his service with Senior and Disabilities Services, Sherwood was manager of Medicaid Policy and Planning, Medicaid Special Projects manager, and senior policy analyst for the Medicaid program within the Division of Health Care Services and earlier in the Office of Program Review.

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