



Karen Stubbs

Office of Behavioral Health (OBH), Assistant Secretary

Karen joined the Louisiana Department of Health in 2013 and serves as the Assistant Secretary for the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) Office of Behavioral Health (OBH). As head of the state Office of Behavioral Health, Karen leads policy decisions addressing prevention and treatment of mental illness, substance use disorders, and addictive disorders. Her office acts as monitors and subject matter consultants for the children's Medicaid Coordinated System of Care program and the Medicaid Healthy Louisiana managed care plans, which manage behavioral health services. OBH also delivers direct care through hospitalization and collaborates with behavioral health community-based treatment programs through the human services districts and authorities. In Karen's role as Assistant Secretary she values collaboration with stakeholders to better serve the residents of Louisiana. OBH serves adults, families, children, adolescents, pregnant woman and the forensic population.

Karen previously held the position of Deputy Assistant Secretary for OBH Health Plan Management (HPM) Division. As deputy assistant secretary, Karen led OBH's implementation of behavioral health managed care where she created the section for health plan management. In this role, Karen was responsible for quality, health plan relations, managed care compliance, data gathering, analytics and IT systems to support this initiative.

Karen's career spans leadership roles in the Office of Juvenile Justice and as the Executive Director of the Children's Cabinet in the Governor's Office. Karen formerly ran a local drug court and was an attorney in Child in Need of Care (CINC) court cases working closely with DCFS. Karen is an attorney who graduated from the LSU Law School in 2003 following completion of her undergraduate degree from Tulane in 2000. Throughout her career, Karen has been responsible for health care policy, compliance and administration, legal and legislative activities.