



Lori A. Weaver
Interim Commissioner

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

129 PLEASANT STREET, CONCORD, NH 03301-3857
603-271-9200 1-800-852-3345 Ext. 9200
Fax: 603-271-4912 TDD Access: 1-800-735-2964 www.dhhs.nh.gov

July 20, 2023

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to RSA 94:6, the Department of Health and Human Services respectfully requests to place Krista Morris at Step 2 for the position of Director, Intergovernmental Affairs, Position #9U422, unclassified salary grade HH, earning \$101,387.00 effective September 1, 2023, upon Governor and Council approval. 50% General Funds and 50% Federal Funds.

EXPLANATION

This position directs and manages the intergovernmental affairs across all Department business entities. Part of this role develops and maintains effective relationships with the Governor's Office, state legislative leadership, county government, state and federal agencies, and other internal and external stakeholders to advance the understanding of, and advocate for, Department programs, goals, and critical outcomes.

This role provides the Department with a central resource to ensure Department initiatives, programs, policies, and plans are advancing at all levels of state, county, and federal government. This role work collaboratively with the Department's senior leadership and will continue to develop and apply a diverse knowledge base about complex state and federal health and human services programs and policies.

Based on her educational background, experience and demonstrated skills Ms. Morris is exceptionally well qualified to direct and implement strategies for the operations and development of this role.

I respectfully request that Ms. Morris be placed in the Director, Intergovernmental Affairs position, unclassified salary grade HH, at step 2 with and effective start date of September 1, 2023.

Sincerely,

Lori A. Weaver
Interim Commissioner

KRISTA MORRIS

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS PROFESSIONAL | POLICY ANALYST | POLICY DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

Results-focused and accomplished **Government Affairs Professional, Policy Development Specialist, and Policy Analyst** with 10+ years of experience leveraging research and analysis to support operational objectives while monitoring key policy issues to identify potential advocacy opportunities. Methodical and articulate program developer adept at developing, conducting, and analyzing surveys to generate original research, frame issues, develop project plans, manage projects, collect data, formulate recommendations, and communicate results to leadership to advance shared organizational goals. Meticulous and logical problem solutions expert seeking to leverage a background of innovative thinking and participation in key strategic initiative development into a policy analysis, compliance or development role with a focus on ensuring agency / individual organizational effectiveness for a progressive organization.

**Cross-Functional & Interpersonal Communications ♦ Grant Writing ♦ Contract Maintenance ♦ Project Management
Policy Analysis ♦ Data Analysis ♦ Policy Development ♦ Regulatory Compliance ♦ Quality Control
Budgeting & Cost Control ♦ Federal & State Policy ♦ Team Leadership & Development ♦ Staff Motivation**

KEY CONTRIBUTIONS

- Strengthened division relations with various state legislators and other state agencies.
- Broke down silos between divisions within the department to ensure a team atmosphere on projects.
- Negotiated amendments and the enactment of landmark legislation preventing childhood lead poisoning.
- Coordinated with other state agencies to ensure the successful transfer of a program from one agency to another.
- Championed DHHS-requested bills on various public health-related topics.
- Navigated complex administrative rules activities and prepared staff for public hearings.
- Captured over \$50K in annual savings by developing new communication procedures with customers to automate workflow.
- Collaborated with leadership and cross-functional staff on grant applications for DHHS-funded programs.
- Authored the application on program functionality and congruence in a Continuum with a focus on ongoing progress.
- Motivated team members, managed staff members, monitored performance, and trained staff on policy curriculum, operational best practices, and daily protocol to ensure optimal productivity.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TXDOT) | STATE OF TEXAS

2019 TO PRESENT

FEDERAL AFFAIRS LIAISON

Assist in developing TxDOT's official position regarding policies to convey to Congressional members and staff. Communicate and coordinate with Congressional offices, federal agencies, and special interest organizations regarding transportation issues. Develop and prepare reports and correspondence. Identify and initiate the review and consideration of relevant issues with potential impact on TxDOT. Maintain direct communication with Administration on TxDOT's official position on time-sensitive issues, concerns, priorities, and activities. Monitor federal legislative hearings, general sessions, and national transportation organizational meetings. Represent TxDOT at various meetings to convey the Department's official position on issues, while fostering productive working relationships on behalf of TxDOT with outside organizations. Research, analyze, and coordinate with districts and divisions on requests from Congressional offices, federal agencies, and private entities. Track legislative and regulatory activities and implementation efforts, federal register notices, and briefing documents regarding transportation issues and report on potential impact to TxDOT. Draft white papers for internal and external audiences. Assist State Legislative Affairs on policy and constituent matters. Coordinate emergency event communications to state and federal elected officials.

OFFICE OF THE JOURNAL CLERK | TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2019 TO 2019

MANUSCRIPT CLERK / JOURNAL PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Supported the house journal clerk's office in the production of the House Journal, the official record of formal house proceedings. Performed work necessary for production of the house daily and permanent journals during house sessions on the chamber floor. Work involved completing specialized manuscript forms or notetaking to reflect proceedings and action taken by the house on all measures, motions, and questions of order. Additional work included transcribing floor debate from audio/video recordings and assisting with special projects as assigned.

KRISTA MORRIS

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES | STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE LEGISLATIVE LIAISON / DIVISION POLICY ADMINISTRATOR

2016 to 2018

Coordinated the identification, analysis, and prioritization of social issues and health outcomes impacting the population. Analyzed and formulated policies for special initiatives addressing short and long-term objectives. Improved the division's performance management capabilities to achieve public health accreditation. Evaluated state and federal regulations and national health policies to prepare and maintain statewide standards, procedures, and program services. Monitored, tracked, and testified on public health related legislation. Prepared and presented testimony for legislative bills. Planned, developed, and coordinated comprehensive professional training for division staff. Utilized evidence-based methodologies to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of programs funded by state or federal governments. Ensured support during the event of a public health emergency. Partnered with bureaus and other state agencies to draft and edit administrative rules and policies.

- Mediated and negotiated pieces of state legislation for passage; became a substitute subject matter expert on a topic in order to testify before legislative committees.
- Facilitated testimony between division staff and community stakeholders on topical bills encompassing arsenic, radiological monitoring, and preflourinated compounds, to vaping and tobacco, injury prevention, bottled water, and breastfeeding.
- Oversaw a legislative open house including tours of the facility and ensuring the message of public health was promoted.
- Led the transfer of a federally-funded program from DHHS into another agency.
- Coordinated and managed subject matter experts in meetings and the State House to ensure the best information was made available to policymakers.

CITY OF SOMERSWORTH | SOMERSWORTH, NH WELFARE DIRECTOR

2015 to 2016

Strengthened outreach by referring clients and public to available community services to save city tax dollars on vouchers for food and personal/household needs. Mitigated regulatory risks by ensuring NH RSA 41:46 compliance with all policies and procedures. Reviewed city's welfare ordinance (Chapter 10) to ensure all policies are current and accurate. Cultivated relationships with other welfare directors and outside agencies to provide the best services available to clients. Minimized liabilities by placing and releasing liens, as necessary, on real property owned by clients. Strengthened traceability by filing paperwork with Social Security to ensure reimbursement for interim assistance. Processed voucher payments through MUNIS to drive objective fulfillment. Participated in a committee of three to revamp city website and the human services/welfare page and improve outreach, brand awareness, user engagement, exposure, and visibility. Interfaced with other departments to determine website needs for inclusion. Streamlined data and information sharing/retrieval by developing new method for reporting monthly data to the finance director and city manager.

- Secured \$5K in reimbursements to the city by adhering to SSA Interim Assistance requirements.
- Captured an average of 30 referrals per month, yielding \$10K in monthly savings for the city.
- Managed a 25-per-month caseload while driving efficiency to resolve operational discrepancies.
- Oversaw a \$200K budget with a focus on cost savings and zero profit erosion.

CITY OF PORTLAND | PORTLAND, ME EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT – DATA ANALYST

2013 to 2015

Ensured all vendor contracts (>20) remained current and compliant, including the HUD-managed homeless programs (RRH, PSH, SSO), and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) programs (containing emergency shelters for families and singles). Executed data reporting for division, department, city, state, community committees, and agencies, including the Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee (ESAC), the Taskforce to Prevent and End Homelessness/Shelter Task Force, and the Public Safety, Health & Human Services Committee. Developed program service agreements between the city and outside agencies to earn shelter fund reimbursements and fund distribution through the Continuum of Care. Conducted state and federal policy review and analysis while drafting new divisional policies for legal review. Managed client complaints through timely resolution to drive satisfaction and retention. Reported to department director on all programs within division. Partnered with communications director to field press inquiries. Strengthened community relations by coordinating community meetings to review new policies with other area providers.

- Managed a collaborative application and was awarded \$3.3M for the Portland FY15 Continuum of Care shelter system between the city and outside agencies, yielding \$2.6M in FY14 and \$2.4M in FY13.
- Managed the application for MaineHousing grants, including ESG funds totaling \$100K annually and the Home to Stay program funds worth \$200K annually.
- Compiled monthly statistics from 6 area shelters (4 outside agencies) to account for up to 10K monthly bed nights.
- Assisted with the annual budget process by managing projections, drafting justification narratives, and working with managers to ensure optimal cost control with a \$5.5M Social Services Division budget.
- Coordinated the Shelter Planning Taskforce to consider options of a consolidated shelter to merge multiple shelters in the city under a \$4M budget.
- Managed administrative aspects of contracts for 10 grants on a rolling cycle.
- Managed administrative assistants to ensure the administrative needs of the Division.

KRISTA MORRIS

NOTE: ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE AS AN EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, GRADUATE ASSISTANT – DATA ANALYST, COMPLIANCE AND QUALITY CONTROL SPECIALIST, AND HUMAN RESOURCES COORDINATOR. DETAILS FURNISHED UPON REQUEST.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/EDUCATION

MPA in Health Care Policy & Nonprofit Management, University of Maine
BS in Business Administration & Business Management, Husson University

Credentials: Basic Pistol Instructor, National Rifle Association
Webelos Archery Instructor, Boy Scouts of America