



Lori A. Weaver  
Commissioner

Morissa Henn  
Deputy Commissioner

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

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November 21, 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 Kirk Williamson at Step 4 for the position of Executive Director, Prescription Drug Affordability Board, Position #9U747, unclassified salary grade GG, earning \$104,562.00 effective January 22, 2024, upon Governor and Council approval. 100% General Funds.

**EXPLANATION**

The Executive Director of the New Hampshire Prescription Drug Affordability Board is responsible for directing and developing administrative, operational, and fiscal management functions on behalf of the New Hampshire Prescription Drug Affordability Board. This includes developing and supporting strategic plans and policies that optimize spending by public payors for pharmaceutical products while reasonably ensuring subscriber access to needed pharmaceutical products. The Executive Director will be expected to cultivate and maintain partnerships with numerous entities including the Governor’s Office, the General Court, the Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services and stakeholder groups.

Based on his educational background, experience and demonstrated skills Mr. Williamson is well qualified to direct and implement strategies for the operations and development of the New Hampshire Prescription Drug Affordability Board.

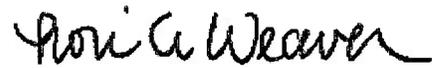
Mr. Williamson obtained a Masters of Public Health, Health Policy, in 2017 from the George Washington University, Milken Institute School of Public Health. Mr. Williamson has worked extensively in the field of health policy including as a Policy Analyst with the National Governors Association and a Senior Policy Analyst with the Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Most recently, Mr. Williamson has worked as a Health Care Manager with Arnold Ventures where he has focused his attention on the costs of prescription drugs. In addition, Mr. Williamson has co-authored more than a dozen published articles, reports, briefs and policy “roadmaps” related to public health.

Mr. Williamson’s many years of experience in the public health policy development as well as supports this request for appointment at Step 4.

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I respectfully request that Mr. Williamson be placed in the position of Executive Director, Prescription Drug Affordability Board, unclassified salary grade GG, at step 4 with an effective start date of January 22, 2024.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori A. Weaver". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lori A. Weaver  
Commissioner

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**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Arnold Ventures, Washington, DC**

Health Care Manager, July 2021 – Present

- Manage the Drug Pricing and Clinical Trials portfolio (\$78 million) and oversee 78 grants focused on lowering prescription drug prices for patients, employers, and taxpayers while maintaining incentives for meaningful innovation.
- Provide rapid technical assistance to Congress and the Administration on policy options to reduce drug prices and the tradeoffs of these policies on various US markets.
- Serve as the internal subject matter expert on Medicare Part B and D reimbursement policies at the federal level and affordability boards and supply chain policies at the state level.
- Collaborate across multiple organizational departments to manage and execute grants, coordinate drug pricing advocacy campaigns, and disseminate our work products to broad audiences.
- Advise the Board on strategic investment opportunities, growing the portfolio by over \$10 million in two years. This includes preparing schedules for completion of work, setting and refining short and long-term priorities, and delegating tasks to internal team members and other organizational partners.
- Author a variety of written policy documents, including issue briefs, statements for the record, comment letters, policy memoranda, technical assistance, talking points, presentations, and other material as required to clearly convey complex and technical policy topics to different audiences.

**Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy, Washington, D.C.**

Senior Policy Analyst, November 2020 – July 2021

- Provided subject matter expertise on COVID-19 vaccine development, distribution, and communication strategies at the federal, state, and local level.
- Developed the pandemic preparedness and response portfolio for the State Health Policy Team, with input from external partners and internal experts.
- Supported Center projects with research, writing, and analysis with a focus on medical product development and innovation, real-world data and evidence, medical device and pharmaceutical policy, and the intersection of scientific and regulatory advancement with broader U.S. health policy reforms.

**National Governors Association, Washington, D.C.**

Policy Analyst, Health Division, Center for Best Practices, February 2018-November 2020

- Advised Governors and state leaders on a range of health policy priorities with a focus on Medicaid, drug pricing, infectious diseases, opioid and substance use disorders, and COVID-19.
- Co-led the COVID-19 Reopening and Recovery project team to provide public health guidance to Governors during the pandemic and member of the NGA Internal COVID-19 Task Force (March – November 2020).
- Established and coordinated a 50-state pharmaceutical learning collaborative on cross-cutting drug pricing and access issues; additionally, the project provided six states enhanced technical assistance and strategy development to implement novel legal and regulatory approaches to balance access and affordability of medical products in public programs.
- Managed day-to-day operations of projects as part of a team and in coordination with state governors' offices and external stakeholders.
- Organized and facilitate the state-to-state exchange of best practices through webinars, summits, workshops, panel discussions, state strategy sessions, targeted technical assistance and other meeting formats.
- Provided subject matter expertise and strategic guidance to NGA federal relations to support state policy priorities at the federal level.
- Authored memoranda, road maps, presentations and reports on state policy issues.

**The George Washington University, Milken Institute School of Public Health, Washington, D.C.**

Research Assistant, Department of Health Policy and Management, February 2016-February 2018

- Collaborated with Children's National Medical Center, NIH Rare Disease Clinical Research Network, and the National Urea Cycle Disorder Foundation to recruit and enroll participants for individual interviews and focus groups.
- Designed survey and data collection instruments.

- Performed qualitative data analysis using NVivo software to code 66 transcripts.
- Conducted 61 in-person interviews and five focus groups, each with 6-8 participants.
- Published in Millbank Quarterly [here](#).

**U.S. Senate Finance Committee, The Office of Honorable Ron Wyden (OR), Washington, D.C.**

**Health Policy Intern, August 2016-December 2016**

- Quickly gathered and synthesized academic literature and public data sources into succinct memos for the Senator.
- Provided legislative support to pass the bipartisan 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act.
- Staffed meetings with industry specialists, federal agencies, and trade associations.
- Attended numerous congressional briefings on behalf of Senator Wyden and Oregon constituents on issues including health reform, Medicaid managed care, and maternal & child health issues.

**EDUCATION**

**The George Washington University, Milken Institute School of Public Health**

**Master of Public Health, Health Policy, 2015-2017**

**The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**

**Bachelor of Arts, Global Health; Minor, Chemistry, 2011-2015**

**SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

**Williamson, K., Anderson-Cook, A., Noda, A. (2022, May). *Arnold Ventures FTC Comment Letter: Business Practices of Pharmacy Benefit Managers and Their Impact on Independent Chain Pharmacies*. Arnold Ventures. Read the letter [here](#).**

**Williamson, K., Jones, E. (2022, March). *Aduhelm Only Latest Drug to Make Case for Reform*. Arnold Ventures. Read the story [here](#).**

**Williamson, K., Greene, K., LeBlanc, M., Roy, B., & Tewarson, H. (2021, June). *State Strategies for Engaging and Leveraging Primary Care Providers as COVID-19 Vaccinators*. Washington, DC: National Governors Association Center for Best Practices and Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy. Read the report [here](#).**

**Williamson, K., Tewarson, H., & Greene, K., (2021, May). *Addressing Early Challenges in COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution: State Strategies to Achieve Efficiency and Equity*. Washington, DC: Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy. Read the report [here](#).**

**Williamson, K., Tewarson, H., & Johnson, K., (2021, March). *Increasing Utilization of COVID-19 Antibody Treatments: Considerations and Promising Practices for States*. Washington, DC: National Governors Association Center for Best Practices and Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy. Read the issue brief [here](#).**

**Greene, K., Williamson, K., Tewarson, H., McClellan, M. (2021). *An Agenda for Ending the Addiction Crisis: Key Priorities and Considerations for the Biden Administration*. Washington, DC: Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy. Read the report [here](#).**

***Expanding Access to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder in Corrections and Community Settings*. Washington, DC: National Governors Association (2021). Read the roadmap [here](#).**

***Allocating COVID-19 Vaccines in Initial Phases of Distribution: Federal Recommendations and Considerations for States (2020)*. Washington, DC: National Governors Association. Read the report [here](#).**

**Greene, K., Tewarson, H., Campbell, H., Huber, K., Thoumi, A., Williamson, K., Johnson, K., LeBlanc, M., Amritt, C., Ricker-Kiefer, K. (2020). *Supporting an Equitable Distribution of COVID-19 Vaccines: Key Themes, Strategies, and Challenges Across State and Territorial COVID-19 Vaccine Plans*. Washington, DC: Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy. Read the report [here](#).**

**Williamson, K., Alikhan, S., Greene, K., Becker, M., & Tewarson, H. (2020). *Expanding Access to Non-Opioid Management of Chronic Pain: Considerations for Governors*. Washington, DC: National Governors Association Center for Best Practices. Read the report [here](#).**

- Greene, K., Williamson, K., Stephens, R., Baddour, K. (2020). *Key Steps and Considerations for Building a COVID-19 Contact Tracing Workforce: A Primer for Governors*. Washington, DC: National Governors Association Center for Best Practices. Read the primer [here](#).
- Johnson, K., Williamson, K., Wilkniss, S. (2020). *Update on COVID-19 Vaccine Development and Production*. Washington, DC: National Governors Association Center for Best Practices. Read the update [here](#).
- Johnson, K., Williamson, K., Wilkniss, S. (2020). *Update on COVID-19 Treatment Development*. Washington, DC: National Governors Association Center for Best Practices. Read the update [here](#).
- Greene, K., Williamson, K. (2020). *Implementing Effective Social Distancing Policies to Mitigate the Spread of COVID-19*. Washington, DC: National Governors Association Center for Best Practices. Read the memo [here](#).
- Tewarson, H., Greene, K., Williamson, K., Fraser, M., Plescia, M., Lane, J.T., Sharfstein, J., Wilson, L. (2020). *Roadmap to Recovery: A Public Health Guide for Governors*. Washington, DC: National Governors Association Center for Best Practices. Read the report [here](#).
- Becker, M., LaBelle, R., Canzater, S., & Williamson, K. (2019). *Addressing the Rise of Infectious Diseases Related to Injection Drug Use: Lessons learned from Kentucky*. Washington, DC: National Governors Association Center for Best Practices. Read the case study [here](#).