

## **Governor-Elect Shapiro Health Agency Nominees**

January 11, 2022

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Governor-elect Shapiro and Lieutenant Governor-elect Davis announced their cabinet nominees for various health-related agencies on January 11. The nominees are required to be confirmed by the state Senate. The following are the agency nominees and a brief overview of their respective backgrounds.

### **Dr. Valerie Arkoosh – Secretary of the Department of Human Services (DHS)**

Dr. Arkoosh is currently serving as Chair of the Montgomery County Commissioners. She has been a commissioner for Montgomery County, the state's third most populous county, since 2015. She is widely credited with leading the county's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to serving as commissioner she led the National Physicians Alliance, a national non-profit organization of physicians focused on health care reform. She also served as the Chair of the Department of Anesthesiology at the Drexel University College of Medicine and was a Professor of Clinical Anesthesiology and Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Perelman School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Arkoosh unsuccessfully ran for the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.

### **Dr. Debra Bogen – Secretary of the Department of Health (DOH)**

Dr. Bogen is currently the Director of the Allegheny County Health Department, a position she has held since March of 2020. Like Dr. Arkoosh, Dr. Bogen is credited with shepherding Allegheny County through the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to her current role, Dr. Bogen worked as a Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Pittsburgh. In addition to pediatrics, she held secondary appointments in psychiatry and clinical and translational science. She also served as Vice Chair of Education for the Department of Pediatrics at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

### **Dr. Latika Davis-Jones – Secretary of the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP)**

Dr. Davis-Jones, the Senior Director of Behavioral Health at Highmark Wholecare, previously served as the Assistant Deputy Director in the Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services in the Allegheny County Department of Human Services. In that role she was responsible for the planning, organization, coordination, and evaluation of drug and alcohol programs in the county. She also is an adjunct professor at the University of Pittsburgh. Prior to her public service she worked at Tadiso, an opioid treatment provider in Pittsburgh, as the director of satellite operations. She holds a Ph.D. in social work and public health from the University of Pittsburgh.

### **Jason Kavulich – Secretary of the Department of Aging**

Mr. Kavulich is Director of the Lackawanna County Agency on Aging; he has served in this role since 2016. He has been recognized for his success getting senior citizens vaccinated against COVID-19 in Lackawanna County, an accomplishment for which he received Pennsylvania's Friend of County Government award. Prior to being appointed director he served as a case worker and manager at Lackawanna County's Office of Youth and Family Services for 17 years.

## **Michael Humphreys – Insurance Commissioner**

Mr. Humphreys is currently serving as the state's Acting Insurance Commissioner, a position to which he was appointed in February of 2022. Prior to that he served as chief of staff to former Insurance Commissioner Jessica Altman. During his time at the Pennsylvania Insurance Department he has worked closely on Pennie, Pennsylvania's state-based insurance exchange, and on implementing the federal No Surprises Act. Mr. Humphreys also served as co-chair of the Commission on Adult Behavioral Health, which was established in Pennsylvania's FY 2023 budget and was charged with recommending how the General Assembly should appropriate \$100 million in federal funds to address the state's behavioral health crisis. He holds a Master's in Public Administration from Bowling Green State University and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University at Buffalo.