

April 16, 2013

NR 013-009

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

**Dorothy F. Teeter, Director, Health Care Authority, 360-725-1040**

**MaryAnne Lindeblad, State Medicaid Director, Health Care Authority 360-725-1040**

**Nathan Johnson, Assistant Director, Health Care Policy, HCA 360-725-0857**

## **Health Care Authority appoints Karol Dixon as agency's new Medicaid tribal liaison**

OLYMPIA – Washington State's Health Care Authority announced today it has appointed a new agency tribal liaison with significant tribal affairs experience in Alaska and Washington as well as a passion for improving tribal communities' access to quality health care.

Karol Dixon has worked for the Alaska Tribal Health Consortium for four years and earlier spent about a year with the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe near Sequim on the Olympic Peninsula. She also has worked with other Northwest tribes, individual health clinics, the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board, and served as co-chair of the technical workgroup for the Tribal Self Governance Advisory Committee to the Indian Health Service (IHS).

"Karol has a deep understanding of tribal issues in the Affordable Care Act and will be instrumental in working with tribal health programs and the American Indian Health Commission as the Medicaid Expansion moves forward this year," said Health Care Authority Director Dorothy F. Teeter.



Karol Dixon

Teeter said Dixon's work with Washington tribes also provided experience about state legislative and budget issues. Dixon will report to Nathan Johnson, Assistant Director for Health Care Policy, and will work closely to coordinate and maintain HCA's government-to-government relationship with the state's 29 federally recognized tribes. Her appointment is effective April 16.

Dixon has a Bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Alaska in Anchorage and received her Juris Doctorate from the University of New Mexico's School of Law. She is currently working on a Master's in Public Health from the Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health.

She succeeds Deborah A. Sosa, who left HCA to accept a position as CMS' Native American Contact in Idaho, Oregon, Washington and Montana.

**EDITORS/REPORTERS: FOR MORE INFORMATION OR BACKGROUND:**

A photo of Karol Dixon is available by emailing [stevej2@hca.wa.gov](mailto:stevej2@hca.wa.gov)

The Medicaid Expansion 2014 website: <http://www.hca.wa.gov/hcr/me>

Jim Stevenson, Communications, HCA 360-725-1915 [jim.stevenson@hca.wa.gov](mailto:jim.stevenson@hca.wa.gov)

Beth Luce, Communications, HCA 360-725-0867 [elisabeth.luce@hca.wa.gov](mailto:elisabeth.luce@hca.wa.gov)

*The Health Care Authority does not discriminate and provides equal access to its programs and services for all persons without regard to race, color, gender, religion, creed, marital status, national origin, sexual orientation, age, veteran's status or the presence of any physical, sensory or mental disability.*