

**Mike Willden, Director**  
**Department of Health and Human Services**



Mike Willden has served as Director of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) since July 2001, first appointed by Governor Kenny Guinn and reappointed by Governor Jim Gibbons. He is responsible for oversight of the largest department in Nevada state government, with approximately 5200 employees and 29% of the budget.

The divisions within DHHS include Aging Services, Child and Family Services, Health, Health Care Financing and Policy, Mental Health and Developmental Services, Welfare and Supportive Services, and the Office of the Public Defender. Major programs within the Director's Office include Senior and Disability Rx, Office of Aging & Disability Services, Office of Suicide Prevention, and the Grants Management Unit.

Mike has been recognized for his advocacy in human services by many organizations, including: Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Centers (2004); National Association of Social Workers, Nevada Chapter, 2005 Community Advocate of the Year; and by the Foundation for an Independent Tomorrow (2005 Citizen of Distinction).

He has been appointed to serve on many boards and commissions, including the Welfare Reform Task Force, Child Care Advisory Board, Early Intervention Interagency Coordinating Council, Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, Commission on Aging, Governor's Statewide Work Investment Board, Certified Public Manager's Advisory Board, and the Nevada Academy of Health Steering Committee.

Prior to his appointment as Department Director, Mike was the State Welfare Administrator and worked in that agency in different capacities for 25 years, beginning his career at DHHS as a case worker.

A native Nevadan, Mike earned a degree in Business Administration from Southern Utah University.