

From: DHCS Director (DIR)@DHCS [DHCSDirector@DHCS.CA.GOV]
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2014 11:19 AM
To: DHCSSTAKEHOLDERS@MAILLIST.DHS.CA.GOV
Subject: Message from DHCS Director Toby Douglas

**Message from Toby Douglas, Director
Department of Health Care Services
State of California**



For the past nine years at DHCS, with the past four as Director, I've enjoyed the unique relationship between our department and you, our stakeholders. It is a rewarding and fruitful relationship, one that challenges us to gain new understandings and to sometimes change as we work together in pursuit of better ways to meet the health care needs of Californians. I recognize and appreciate this relationship as an absolutely essential element of our collective success.

So, it is with mixed emotions that I announce to you today that I will leave DHCS in January and begin a new phase in my life and career. I enjoy my current role immensely, and I'm grateful to the Governor, Secretary Diana Dooley, and to all of the dedicated DHCS employees who do the real work of making quality health care accessible. But, I also recognize the time is right for me to move on and hand the reins to a new Director and our talented DHCS leadership team.

I plan to focus on finding a new leadership role in health care that allows me to continue contributing to and improving health care quality and outcomes. As I depart, I do so knowing that DHCS is in a strong position to continue succeeding, largely because of the knowledge we gain from you – our committed stakeholders.

I have a deep respect for all of you as you tirelessly work to help make us better, pushing us to do more on behalf of those in need. A highlight of this would be the collaboration between you and DHCS during the implementation of federal health care reform. Your input was invaluable to the effort, and it helped California stand out as a leader in this nationwide effort.

Secretary Dooley will soon begin her process to find candidates for the next DHCS Director. She'll seek leaders with extensive experience in

health care policy and with the proven leadership skills to guide a department with such great responsibility. That person will be very fortunate to work with such a dedicated group of stakeholders.

I'm certain that when I begin the next step of my career, our paths will cross again. I'm also very sure that, once again, I'll look to many of you for guidance and support in our mutual endeavors. Thank you for caring about health care in California, and for making sure that we uphold our obligations to those who depend upon Medi-Cal and all of our DHCS programs.

Sincerely,
Toby Douglas
Director