



Governor's Office of Health Transformation

John R. Kasich, Governor

Greg Moody, Director

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Office of Health Transformation Announces Staff Changes

COLUMBUS – Greg Moody, director of the Governor's Office of Health Transformation (OHT), today announced several staff promotions to help OHT achieve Governor Kasich's directive to improve overall health system performance in Ohio.

- **Melissa Bacon** will become the executive assistant for health and human services (HHS), with responsibility for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the HHS cabinet agencies. She previously served as the director of legislative affairs at the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS). Bacon has also served as director of public policy and advocacy for the Ohio Children's Hospital Association and worked for 14 years as a policy aide in the Ohio Senate.
- **Eric Poklar**, OHT director of communications, will add legislative relations to his responsibilities and assume the position of OHT director of government affairs and communications. Poklar, who has 13 years of experience in government relations as the director of legislative affairs for Governor Bob Taft and as the legislative director for the Ohio Departments of Public Safety and Mental Health, will manage legislative outreach for OHT and coordinate the legislative liaisons in the HHS cabinet agencies on behalf of the Governor's office, in addition to his existing communications duties.
- **Monica Juenger** will continue in her role as OHT director of stakeholder relations but with additional responsibility for managing the office's initiative to engage private sector partners to improve overall health system performance. Juenger has 10 years of policy development experience, including service in the office of Governor Bob Taft and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and with the Council on Healthy Mothers and Babies, before joining OHT.

"Melissa, Monica and Eric, were instrumental in securing approval of the Governor's strategies to transform Ohio's Medicaid program," Moody said. "But our work is not done. Ohio currently spends more than all but 13 states on health care, but we rank 42nd in health outcomes. Ohio's health-care system is not giving individuals the best value for their dollar and lags most other states in offering employers a healthy and productive workforce. The Governor has said this is not acceptable, and we are going to continue to work to change it."

OHT's next policy priorities are to implement the Medicaid modernization and cost-containment strategies enacted in June in the state operating budget; improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Ohio's health and human services infrastructure, including eligibility and claims payment systems; and engage private-sector partners to improve overall health system performance.

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