

**PRESENTERS' BIOGRAPHIES**  
**PRESESSION ORIENTATION PROGRAM FOR NEW LEGISLATORS**  
**DECEMBER 6, 2012**

**BRIEFING ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TOPICS**

**Michael J. Willden** has served as the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) since 2001. He is responsible for the oversight of the largest department in State government, with approximately 5,200 employees and nearly 29 percent of the budget. Prior to his appointment as Director, Mike was the Administrator for the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services and worked in that agency in different capacities for 25 years, beginning his career as a case worker. He is a native Nevadan and has a degree in business administration from Southern Utah University.

**Jane Gruner** is the Deputy Director of the DHHS. Prior to being appointed Deputy Director, she served as Deputy Administrator for the Mental Health and Developmental Services Division, a position Jane held since February 2011. She started working at DHHS in 1978 as a professional teaching parent. Jane has also worked as a mental health counselor, community services director, and administrator for the Sierra Regional Center. She holds a bachelor's degree in special education and a master's degree in counseling and personnel services.

**Amber Howell** is the Administrator of the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) of the DHHS. She was previously the Deputy Administrator over Child Welfare programs. Amber has worked as a substance abuse counselor and a drug court coordinator. She has actively worked in various mental health programs and case management. For the past five years, Amber has been employed by DCFS in various capacities in the child welfare area. She is a graduate of the University of Nevada, Reno, with a degree in psychology, and also attended graduate school in Boston, Massachusetts.

**Marsheilah D. Lyons** is a Supervising Principal Research Analyst and has been with the Research Division of the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) since 2000. Prior to working at the LCB, she worked in social service organizations and local and state government. Marsheilah earned her master of arts degree in Christian education from the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary with an emphasis in social work and her bachelor's degree in occupational education with a minor in criminal justice from Wayland Baptist University. She currently staffs the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services and the Interim Legislative Committee on Health Care.

**Kirsten Bugenig** has been a Senior Research Analyst with the Research Division of the LCB since 2010. She previously worked at the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy, DHHS, and the Aging Services Division, DHHS. Kirsten holds a master's degree in public administration and gerontology from the University of Southern California.