

## Questions for the Office of Health Strategy Executive Director Nominee

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### Office of Health Strategy Executive Director (CGS § 19a-754a)

The Executive Director oversees the Office of Health Strategy (OHS), which is within the Department of Public Health (DPH) for administrative purposes only. The office is the successor to the (1) Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange for administering the all-payer claims database (APCD) and (2) lieutenant governor's office for (a) consulting with DPH to develop a statewide chronic disease plan; (b) housing, chairing, and staffing the Health Care Cabinet; and (c) appointing the state's health information technology officer and overseeing the officer's duties.

The office must (1) develop and implement a comprehensive health care vision for the state; (2) direct and oversee the APCD, Health Systems Planning Unit, and State Innovation Model Initiative; (3) coordinate the state's health information technology initiatives; and (4) convene forums and meetings with state government and external stakeholders to discuss health care issues designed to develop effective health care cost and quality strategies.

### Questions

1. Please describe the mission of the Office of Health Strategy as you see it. How will you ensure that the office fulfills this mission? What particular experience, expertise, knowledge, and skills do you bring to this task?
2. The Office of Health Strategy was created by [PA 17-2](#), JSS and formally established in February 2018. What hurdles have you experienced in the first year getting the office up and running? Do you believe it has the adequate resources, in terms of both personnel and budget, to meet its statutory obligations?

3. What do you consider to be the greatest challenge for OHS? What were your goals for your first year as executive director? Did you accomplish these goals?
4. OHS recently received a \$12.2 million grant from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to help create and administer Connecticut's first statewide health information exchange (HIE). What is the status of the HIE's implementation? What have you learned from the state's previous initiative to implement a statewide HIE between 2010 and 2014? How do you anticipate the HIE will improve health outcomes for Connecticut residents?
5. One of OHS's responsibilities is to oversee the Health Systems Planning Unit (formerly the Office of Health Care Access), which administers the state's certificate of need (CON) program for health care facilities. In recent years, the legislature has considered legislation to make changes to the program and has debated the extent to which the program has reduced health care costs, ensured access to high-quality care, and avoided unnecessary duplication of facilities and services. Can you please comment on this issue?
6. As required by [PA 18-91](#), OHS recently issued a final report on its study of the fiscal impact of creating a statewide community health worker certification program. What were the report's major findings and recommendations?
7. OHS is placed within DPH for administrative purposes. Has this arrangement helped OHS's ability to meet its statutory obligations?
8. The office recently convened a Practice Transformation Task Force to develop options to modernize and expand access to primary care, including recommending advanced medical home standards. What types of service delivery models is the task force evaluating? Can you please comment on any preliminary findings or recommendations?
9. How does the office monitor the impact of hospital acquisitions and consolidations on communities to ensure that required community benefit allocations are aligned with community health needs?

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