

Trump Administration Bolsters Health-Care Team

By Shira Stein

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- Political appointees come from White House, Justice Department, Capitol Hill, industry
- HHS appointee worked to support nullification of Affordable Care Act

The Trump administration's health-care team has added members from the executive branch, Capitol Hill, and industry, according to a Sept. 17 announcement.

Stacy Amin was named deputy general counsel and chief counsel at the Food and Drug Administration. Amin previously was a special assistant to the president and senior associate counsel to the president on health-care matters, among other topics. Amin was had been chief counsel to the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee and counsel to the House Energy and Commerce committee.

Brenna Jenny joined the Department of Health and Human Services as deputy general counsel from her position as the counsel to the assistant attorney general of the Civil Rights Division at the Justice Department. Jenny was one of three names on the brief the DOJ submitted to support the nullification on the Affordable Care Act in a Texas lawsuit.

Rebekah Armstrong was named deputy assistant secretary for legislation at the HHS. She previously was special assistant to the vice president for domestic policy, including health-care policy, and a policy staffer on the Republican Study Committee.

From Capitol Hill

Jennifer Sherman joined the HHS as a senior adviser for communications to Assistant Secretary for Health Brett Giroir. She was previously the press secretary for the House Energy and Commerce committee and the director of communications for Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-Ky.).

Michael Rubino was named a senior adviser to the HHS Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs. Rubino had been a lobbyist and an operative on the Donald Trump presidential campaign.

Liam Anderson joined the HHS as a communications assistant to the assistant secretary for public affairs. Anderson was a staff assistant for Rep. Mike Gallagher (R-Wis.).

The Sept. 17 announcement on Twitter also covered Lynn Johnson, who was confirmed as the assistant secretary for children and families at the HHS Aug. 28. She had been the executive director of human services for Jefferson County, Colo. and had run a consulting firm that focused on mental health and child welfare.

Chris Traylor joined the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services as the deputy administrator for strategy in June. Most recently, Traylor led Advanced Perspectives Group, a health-care consulting firm working with managed care organizations and providers. Traylor also had been executive commissioner of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission and the director of Texas Medicaid.

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