

# Memorandum

PREPARED FOR: Senate Interim Committee on Rules  
and Executive Appointments

DATE: October 31, 2025

BY: Leslie Porter, Legislative Analyst

RE: Legislative Review of Executive Appointments



**LPRO**  
LEGISLATIVE POLICY  
AND RESEARCH OFFICE

## DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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The Governor has appointed the following individual to serve as the Director of the Department of Human Services, subject to Senate confirmation.<sup>1</sup> *This is a paid, full-time position.*

### New Appointment

Leisl Wendt of Milwaukie

### Term

Serves at the pleasure of the Governor.

### Appointment/Confirmation Authority

[ORS 409.100 \(2023\)](#)

### Statement of Economic Interest<sup>2</sup>

Required.

### Duties<sup>3</sup>

#### The Department of Human Services (DHS)

DHS is responsible for the delivery and administration of programs and services relating to:

- children and families, including child protective services, foster care, residential care for children, and adoption services;
- elderly persons and persons with disabilities, including social, health, and protective services;
- persons who, as a result of the person's or the person's family's economic, social, or health condition, require financial assistance or other social services;
- developmental disabilities and vocational rehabilitation;
- licensing and regulation of individuals, facilities, institutions, and programs providing health and human services and long-term care services;
- services provided in long-term care facilities, home-based and community-based care settings, and residential facilities; and,
- all other human service programs and functions delegated to DHS.

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<sup>1</sup> [Or. Const. art. III sect. 4, ORS 171.562 and 171.565 \(2023\)](#).

<sup>2</sup> [ORS 244.050 \(2023\)](#).

<sup>3</sup> [ORS 409.010 to 409.180 \(2023\)](#).

## DHS Director<sup>4</sup>

The director provides supervision and control of DSH and is responsible for providing programs for the delivery of services and undertaking long-range planning necessary for the effective and deficient delivery of those services. The director must:

- require from personnel within DHS such information, reports and documentation, as the director determines will be necessary to execute responsibilities;
- develop and report to the Governor on legislative, budgetary, and administrative programs to accomplish comprehensive, long-range, coordinating planning and policy formulation;
- file with the Department of Administrative Services the DHS budget request;
- oversee the development of standards and procedures for assessment, investigation, and enforcement of child protective services;
- establish minimum standards for specified social service providers receiving grants or other financial assistance;
- establish specified programs to provide services;
- establish the annual assessment rate for long-term care facilities;
- appoint advisory and review committees on specified topics and consult topic area advisory committees and councils in administering related programs;
- administer specified funds and accounts;
- serve as a member of the Medicaid Advisory Committee;
- establish the DHS Volunteer Program;
- conduct investigations, compel the attendance and testimony of witnesses, and the production of books, accounts, documents, and other papers, administer oaths, take depositions, and fix the fees and mileage of witnesses in connection with any public assistance investigation or hearing; and,
- delegate to, and receive delegation from, the directors of the Department of Consumer and Business Service and the Oregon Health Authority by interagency agreement any duties, functions, or powers granted to those agencies.

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<sup>4</sup> [ORS 409.100 to 409.802 \(2023\)](#), [410.320 to 410.740 \(2023\)](#); [411.075 to 411.910 \(2023\)](#), and [414.211 \(2023\)](#).

