Gary Jessee  
Managing Director

Qualifications

Gary is the recent former Deputy Executive Commissioner for Medical and Social Services in Texas, the largest division in the Health and Human Services System. In that position Gary oversaw four departments comprised of over 13,000 staff and an operating budget of over 50 billion, bringing together client services, including eligibility services, Medicaid/CHIP services (fee-for-service and managed care) and functions, and community programs under one coordinated division. Prior to this, Gary served as the State Medicaid Director where he was responsible for overseeing services and supports for more than four million Texans across the state. He also previously served as the Chief Deputy Director for Program Operations in the Medicaid/CHIP Division. Before joining Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Gary served as the Assistant Commissioner for the Access and Intake Division at the Department of Aging and Disability Services, where he was responsible for overseeing functions of the Area Agencies on Aging, Local Intellectual and Developmental Disability Authorities, Community Services and Program Operations, Community Living Assistance and Support Services, Contracts, Guardianship services and other specialized programs.

Relevant Experience

Sellers Dorsey

Role: Managing Director

Gary Jessee joined Sellers Dorsey in 2017 and serves as the Managing Director leading the firm’s work in managed care and long-term services and supports.  With over 20 years of experience working in health and human services both at the state and national level, Gary assists states, managed care organizations, service providers and support vendors working within the Medicaid space with relationship support and strategic advice and assistance with the design, implementation and expansion of their business.

Texas Health and Human Services Commission

Role: Deputy Executive Commissioner, Medical and Social Services

Texas Health and Human Services Commission

Following consolidation of health and human service agencies in Texas, a division was established to oversee the functions of four departments which brought together client services, including eligibility services, Medicaid/CHIP services and functions, and community programs under one coordinated division. Gary was appointed in 2016 and oversaw the division of over 13,000 staff and an operating budget of over 50 billion. In addition to extensive legislative activity, public speaking and work with a diverse stakeholders and advocates, specific functions of the division included:

* Eligibility services including SNAP, TANF, Disability Determination and Medicaid
* Community services funded with general revenue, Title XX and Title III (e.g., home delivered meals, emergency response services, family care, in-home family support
* State and federal funded programs for individuals with behavioral health needs and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities
* Services for individuals with autism
* Services for individuals with traumatic brain injuries
* Early childhood intervention services
* Women’s health services
* Medicaid funded services and supports within the fee-for-service and managed care programs. This includes all programs and administrative support services (e.g., MMIS, enrollment broker, external quality review organization)

Role: Medicaid Director

Texas Health and Human Services Commission

As the Medicaid Director for one of the nations’ largest programs, Gary, appointed in 2015, oversaw a division of over 500 staff who operate the State Medicaid Program, the Children's Health Insurance Plan and other operations within the Medicaid and CHIP Services department within the Health and Human Services Commission. In addition to extensive legislative activity, public speaking and work with a diverse stakeholders and advocates, responsibilities included:

* Contracting and complete oversight for 19 managed care organizations who deliver acute and long-term services and supports and 2 dental maintenance organizations who deliver Medicaid and CHIP benefits to over 4 million children and adults across Texas. Programs include STAR, STAR Health, STAR+PLUS, CHIP and Medicaid/CHIP Dental
* Oversight of the fee-for-service program and the Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) that supported it
* Overall planning, implementation, coordination, and evaluation of programs and policies to promote effective program administration and service delivery, set priorities for self and staff to assure agency objectives are met
* Management of functional areas include communications, contracts (e.g., MCOs, MMIS, etc.), vendor drug program, health plan management, health information technology, medical services, program policy development and support, data analytics, program support and utilization management, quality oversight and reporting, medical benefits design, finance, audit coordination, management and oversight of the transformation waiver (1115 waiver and DSRIP) and supplemental payment programs.

Role: Chief Deputy Director for Program Operations

Texas Health and Human Services Commission

Beginning in 2012, Gary was appointed to oversee the Medicaid program operations. In this role he was responsible for the management and oversight of over 250 staff. In addition to extensive legislative activity, public speaking and work with a diverse stakeholders and advocates, specific functions of the division included:

* Program management responsible for managing the program and operational policy aspects of the Medicaid and CHIP managed care programs, including STAR, STAR+PLUS, STAR Health, CHIP, STAR Kids, and CHIP and children's Medicaid dental services. The area is also responsible for managed care quality initiatives, managed care Frew monitoring and reporting, and the Texas Medicaid Wellness Program
* Financial management responsible for financial oversight of all the contracts with the Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) that deliver health care services to Medicaid and CHIP eligible members. Duties included monitoring financial performance of MCOs, reviewing and validating MCO self-reported financial deliverables, administering the recovery of excess profits through the Experience process
* Contract oversight responsible for the development and management of contracts including the managed care contract and related policies adopted by reference in the contract. This function also included responsibility for imposing penalties and sanctions on MCOs for failure to meet contractual obligations
* Health plan management serving serves as the primary point of contact for MCOs. Work included regular review of contract reporting deliverables, network adequacy, marketing and outreach materials, and MCO metrics including hotlines, complaints, out-of-network utilization, encounters and other reporting elements, on-site reviews and readiness activities.

**Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services**

Role: Assistant Commissioner, Access and Intake Division

Texas Health and Human Services Commission

Beginning in 2006, Gary was appointed to oversee a division of over 1600 staff with a five-billion-dollar operating budget. Areas of oversight included:

* Area Agencies on Aging across the state who are responsible for the delivery of services and supports funded under the Older Americans Act. Oversight included development and execution of performance contracts, training and technical assistance, programmatic, fiscal, performance and contract accountability and oversight, policy development and state and federal reporting
* Local Intellectual and Developmental Disability Authorities (LIDDAs) across the state that have primary responsibility for enrolling individuals in the Home and Community Based Services and Texas Home Living 1915(c) Medicaid Waivers and for the provision of services for members of the priority population who reside in their counties. LIDDAs assist consumers in accessing appropriate services and supports. The mix of services delivered at the local level varies, with each LIDDA identifying local service needs and priorities Oversight is focused on ensuring all individuals who receive community services receive quality services appropriate to their needs and preferences and includes management of statewide interest lists, development and execution of performance contracts, technical assistance and training, programmatic, fiscal, performance and contract accountability and oversight, policy development and state and federal reporting
* Regional and local services staff who determine functional eligibility for Title XIX, and functional and financial eligibility for Title XX, and state funded Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) programs. Staff determined functional capabilities of persons living in the community who would be eligible for Medicaid-funded (Title XIX) nursing facility care but who wish to continue to live in the community. Oversight includes management of statewide interest lists, policy development, training, development and execution of performance contracts, programmatic, fiscal, performance and contract accountability and oversight, state and federal reporting
* Guardianship Program service are provided on behalf of a individuals with diminished capacity. Chapter 13 of the Texas Probate Code defines the purpose, laws and responsibilities of a guardian. Services include arranging for placement in facilities, such as long-term care facilities, hospitals or foster homes, managing estates; and making medical decisions.

Education

* BS, Applied Sociology, Southwest Texas State University, San Marcos, TX
* MS, Interdisciplinary Studies, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX