



David Gifford, MD, MPH

Incoming Senior Vice President, Quality & Regulatory Affairs



Beginning May 2011, Dr. David Gifford will serve as AHCA/NCAL's senior vice president of quality and regulatory affairs. The American Health Care Association (AHCA) and National Center for Assisted Living (NCAL) represent more than 11,000 for- and not-for-profit nursing homes, assisted living residences, and facilities for the care of people with mental retardation and developmental disabilities.

Since 2005 David R. Gifford, MD, MPH, has served as the Director of the Rhode Island Department of Health. In this capacity he refocused the nursing home survey process to promote a more home-like person-centered model of care and championed efforts to prevent medical errors such as wrong-sided surgery and retained objects following surgery. He has continuously advocated for public reporting of quality of care, which resulted in Rhode Island being the first state to publicly report consumer satisfaction data for all hospitals, nursing homes and home health agencies. He led Rhode Island's effort to address H1N1 resulting in the nation's highest vaccination rate and was recognized by the National Governor's Association (NGA) as the recipient of their public service award in 2010. Under his leadership, the Department of Health designated a state Regional Health Information Organization (RHIO) to develop a statewide Health Information Exchange (HIE). He also served as the state's Health Information Technology (HIT) Coordinator where he promoted the use of electronic medical records (EMRs) and electronic prescribing achieving the second highest rate of e-prescribing in the country and first state to have all their pharmacies capable of receiving e-prescriptions.

Prior to his appointment as Director of Health, Dr. Gifford served as Chief Medical Officer for Quality Partners of Rhode Island where he directed CMS's national nursing home-based quality improvement effort. Dr. Gifford participates or chairs numerous national, state and local health-related committees. Dr. Gifford serves as council chair for the National Quality Forum's Public & Community Health Council and is a member of the National Commission on Prevention Priorities. He served on the National Governors' Association Health Information Communication and Data Exchange Task Force. He also was on the Board of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) and was a member of their executive committee.

He completed his primary care residency and geriatric fellowship at the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA) after graduating from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. While a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar, Dr. Gifford received his Master's in Public Health (MPH) in Epidemiology from UCLA. He currently holds a position as clinical Associate Professor of Medicine and Community Health at Brown University.

For more information, please visit www.ahcancal.org