



The Honorable Terri L. White, Commissioner of the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

Commissioner Terri L. White is the current Commissioner of the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, a position she has held since May 13, 2007. She previously served Democratic Governor of Oklahoma Brad Henry as a member of his Cabinet concurrent to her service as commissioner. She served as Henry's fourth Secretary of Health, becoming the first woman in State history to hold that post. Upon the election of Governor Mary Fallin in 2010, White ceased being a member of the governor's Cabinet but retained her position as commissioner.

Commissioner White is a graduate of Edmond Public Schools in Edmond, Oklahoma. She received her Bachelor of Arts in social work in 1997 and a master's degree in social work in 1998, both from the University of Oklahoma. After graduating from OU, White accepted a position with the Oklahoma Senate where she would remain until 2001. While working for the State Senate, she worked as a policy analyst and then as a fiscal analyst. As a fiscal analyst, White worked for both the Human Services (2000–01) and the General Government and Transportation (1999–2000) appropriations subcommittees, analyzing budget requests and evaluating agency performance for twenty-seven state agencies.

She joined the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services in 2001 and has served that department in multiple capacities. In her time with the department, she has served as deputy commissioner for Communications and Prevention, director of Communications and Public Policy, and a management analyst. She has also served as the executive director of two ODMHSAS field facilities – the Tulsa Center for Behavioral Health Co-Occurring Unit and the Central Oklahoma Community Mental Health Center. Concurrently with each of these positions, White served as the chief liaison to the Oklahoma Legislature for the department.

As commissioner, White serves as the chief executive of the department.