



# SHAPIRO DAVIS

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Contact: [press@joshshapiro.org](mailto:press@joshshapiro.org)

## **Governor-Elect Josh Shapiro Nominates Experienced Public Servants to be Secretaries of Human Services, Health, Drug and Alcohol Programs, Aging, and Insurance Commissioner**

*Governor-Elect Shapiro nominates world-class physicians, public health experts, and human services practitioners from across the Commonwealth to lead critical health agencies*

**HARRISBURG, PA** – Today, **Governor-Elect Josh Shapiro** announced five cabinet appointments: **Dr. Val Arkoosh** to be **Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services**, **Dr. Debra L. Bogen** to be **Secretary of Health**, **Dr. Latika Davis-Jones** to be **Secretary of Drug and Alcohol Programs**, **Jason Kavulich** to be **Secretary of Aging**, and **Mike Humphreys** to be **Insurance Commissioner**. These experienced physicians, public health experts, and human services leaders have decades of experience and will work to improve the health and well-being of the people of Pennsylvania.

Governor-Elect Shapiro set out to build an administration that is representative of the entire Commonwealth, and with today's announcement, he is making good on that promise – nominating experienced leaders from Western Pennsylvania, Northeastern Pennsylvania, and the Philadelphia region. All five of these nominees are experts in their fields and they will work to ensure every Pennsylvanian, no matter where they live, has equitable, affordable access to medical care; and invest in substance use treatment, child welfare services, and elder care.

“The health and safety of our communities is of the utmost importance, and I’m proud to nominate tested leaders like Dr. Val Arkoosh, Dr. Debra Bogen, Dr. Latika Davis-Jones, Jason Kavulich, and Mike Humphreys to key cabinet posts in my Administration – they are well qualified public servants who are passionate about public health and ready to get to work on day one,” **said Governor-Elect Josh Shapiro**. “With today’s announcement, we continue to build our diverse, hard-working team with leaders who will

bring decades of public health experience to their roles. Every Pennsylvanian deserves access to quality, affordable health care and a social safety net that is there for them in times of need – I’m confident these five leaders will help us deliver that for communities all across our Commonwealth.”

“As a physician and public health advocate, I spent my career fighting for health care access and affordability for families, and I am deeply honored to be able to continue this fight alongside my friend, Governor-Elect Josh Shapiro,” **said Dr. Val Arkoosh, Chair of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners.** “Working together as Montgomery County Commissioners, I saw Governor-Elect Shapiro’s commitment to enhancing the health and well-being of his constituents firsthand. I look forward to advancing the Governor-Elect’s agenda to ensure vulnerable populations across the Commonwealth have the support they need and every Pennsylvanian has equitable, affordable access to health care in their community.”

“The health and wellbeing of Pennsylvanians is critical to our success as a Commonwealth, and I am truly grateful for the opportunity to work with Governor-Elect Shapiro to serve the healthcare needs of people across Pennsylvania,” **said Dr. Debra Bogen.** “In Allegheny County, we’ve brought people together to expand access to clinical care, advocate for family and child health, and protect the most vulnerable. I am excited to advance the Shapiro Administration’s agenda and to make evidence-informed decisions to improve the health and wellbeing of all of our residents.”

“I am humbled by the opportunity to serve the Governor-Elect as Secretary of Drug and Alcohol Programs,” **said Dr. Latika Davis-Jones.** “As Secretary of DDAP, I will work diligently to advance the Governor-Elect’s agenda by expanding education, intervention, treatment, recovery supports programs across the Commonwealth. Governor-Elect Shapiro has said he believes addiction is a chronic disease – and the Department will put in the work to make sure every Pennsylvanian can get access to the treatment they need.”

“It is a privilege to serve the Governor-Elect and to work with the Shapiro Administration to advocate for the interests of all older Pennsylvanians as Secretary of Aging,” **said Jason Kavulich.** “With over two decades in the human service field and as the Director of P4A, I know that too often our seniors are making impossible choices between meeting basic needs and staying in their home or paying for their prescriptions. Our seniors deserve better – that’s why I’m looking forward to leading the Shapiro Administration’s work to develop programs to ease the burdens felt by our Commonwealth’s seniors, working with our Commonwealth’s 52 AAAs to expand access to home and community-based services.”

“I’m looking forward to continuing our work at Pennsylvania Insurance Department, and I’m honored Governor-Elect Shapiro has entrusted me with this role in his cabinet,” **Acting Insurance Commissioner Mike Humphreys.** “As the Governor-Elect has said, every Pennsylvanian, no matter where they live, deserves to have access to equitable, affordable access to health care – and I’m proud of our work to expand access to high-quality, affordable health insurance plans in Pennsylvania and to ensure such plans provide fair and robust mental health coverage protections. I’m confident the Shapiro Administration will serve the people of Pennsylvania well as we work to expand insurance coverage and protect consumers from predatory practices.”

**Read more about these key appointments below:**

**Dr. Val Arkoosh**

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Dr. Valerie A. Arkoosh has served on the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners since she was first appointed to fill a vacancy on the Commission in January 2015, and later elected to two full four-year terms in November 2015 and November 2019. She served as Commission Vice Chair until her election as Commission Chair in November 2016, the first woman to assume this role. As Chair, Dr. Arkoosh oversees a budget of over \$500 million and directs more than 2,800 employees and manages human services for more than 100,000 residents.

As a physician and public health professional, Arkoosh led the National Physicians Alliance, a national non-profit organization of physicians, who, putting their patients before profits, joined a broad-based nation-wide coalition for reform. During this time, she developed policy and legislative strategy, and promoted public engagement in Washington, D.C., Pennsylvania, and throughout the country. Dr. Arkoosh maintains comprehensive knowledge of the implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and its impact on individuals and the health care system.

Prior to stepping into public service, Dr. Arkoosh was Professor of Clinical Anesthesiology and Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Perelman School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania. Arkoosh is a graduate of the University Of Nebraska College Of Medicine and received a Master of Public Health from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She performed her residency at Jefferson Medical College in Anesthesiology with a special focus in Obstetrics. She has an undergraduate degree in economics from Northwestern University.

**Dr. Debra L. Bogen**

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Dr. Debra L. Bogen is the Director of the Allegheny County Health Department. Dr. Bogen was confirmed by the Board of Health at its March 4, 2020 meeting and assumed the leadership of the health department nearly two months ahead of schedule as COVID-19 first spread in Western Pennsylvania. Dr. Bogen led the Allegheny County Health Department throughout the pandemic, and she and her team have stayed on top of the pandemic and provided consistent, measured and common-sense information to the public while working closely with diverse stakeholders across the county. During her time at the county, she and the ACHD team also advanced significant regulatory improvements including updating food safety, plumbing, and air quality regulations and creating paid sick time regulations.

Prior to her appointment at the Allegheny County Health Department, Dr. Bogen was a member of the Pittsburgh region medical and research community for more than two decades. Dr. Bogen was Professor of Pediatrics, Psychiatry and Clinical and Translational Science at the University of Pittsburgh and served as Vice Chair of Education for the Department of Pediatrics at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. She dedicated her career as a pediatrician to caring for children and families affected by social inequities. Her clinical research focused on the impact of mental health and substance use on families.

Dr. Bogen earned her medical degree from the University of Colorado School of Medicine and completed both her pediatric residency and General Academic Pediatrics fellowship at Johns Hopkins Hospital. She is one of the founders of the Mid-Atlantic Mothers' Milk Bank and served as the organizations Volunteer Medical Director since its inception.

**Dr. Latika Davis-Jones**

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Dr. Davis-Jones is currently the Senior Director of Behavioral Health at Highmark Wholecare. Previously she served as the Administrator for the Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services at the Allegheny County Department of Human Services. A Pittsburgh native, Davis-Jones became administrator of the county's Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services in 2011 after working for several years running a drug and alcohol counseling program in Pittsburgh. She also previously served as an adjunct professor in the University of Pittsburgh's School of Social Work.

Davis-Jones has provided public testimony before the Pennsylvania House and Senate Policy Committees on the opioid epidemic and has presented at national and local conference on this issue. In collaboration with colleagues, she has helped to publish reports and journal articles on addressing the opioid epidemic. In 2016, Davis-Jones received the Tree of Life award from Message Carriers of Pennsylvania in recognition of her work to support people in addiction recovery and their families.

Davis-Jones received a Master of Public Health and Ph.D. in social work from the University of Pittsburgh, in 2007 and a Masters of Social Work from Pitt in 2004. She received a bachelor's degree in health from Central State University.

**Jason Kavulich**

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Jason Kavulich is currently the Lackawanna County Director of Agency on Aging. In his current leadership role with the county Area Agency on Aging, he promotes the innovation and expansion of services for older adults and strongly advocates to guarantee their rights and independence. Kavulich brings 21 years of experience within the human service field to the Shapiro-Davis Administration, progressing from a county caseworker through supervisor and administrator positions within the Lackawanna County Office of Youth and Family Services and now the Director of the Lackawanna County Area Agency on Aging.

Kavulich is a graduate of the University of Scranton and a lifelong resident of Scranton. As a human services professional, he has dedicated his efforts to ending food insecurity and homelessness and improving access to services and cultural opportunities to the residents of Lackawanna County through his active board participation with the United Way, Penn State Scranton, Pennsylvania Association of Area Agencies on Aging, Food Policy Council, Lackawanna County Pro Bono and the Anthracite Heritage Museum.

**Mike Humphreys**

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Michael Humphreys was named Acting Insurance Commissioner on February 28, 2022 and has served in senior positions in the Insurance Department for over three years. He has a long track record of working to expand access to insurance coverage and enforcing the Commonwealth's laws to prevent predatory practice. At the Department of Insurance, Humphreys is charged with the responsibility of regulating the Commonwealth's insurance marketplace, overseeing licensed agents and insurance professionals, monitoring the financial landscape of companies doing business in Pennsylvania, educating consumers, and ensuring residents are treated fairly.

Humphreys joined PID as the Department was working closely with Pennie, the state-based health insurance exchange created by Act 42, to ensure a successful roll-out of the new initiative that would become the home for high-quality, affordable health insurance plans in Pennsylvania. The launch of Pennie was a landmark step for health care in the Commonwealth as Pennie continues to be a key source of affordable coverage for hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvanians.

Acting Commissioner Humphreys continues the work of his predecessor in implementing the federal No Surprises Act in Pennsylvania. The No Surprises Act went into effect January 1, 2022 and protects patients from surprise medical bills. As Acting Commissioner, Humphreys oversees a dedicated consumer complaints team that works to investigate surprise medical bills submitted by patients, with the primary goal of ensuring the protections of the No Surprises Act are being met.

Humphreys previously worked for the National Council of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL), serving as the legislative organization's Director of State-Federal Relations from 2007 until 2012. Humphreys has a Master's in Public Administration from Bowling Green State University and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University at Buffalo.

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