

Office of the Governor

PO BOX 004
TRENTON, NJ 08625

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Wendi Patella
Steffanie Bell 609-777-2600

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Governor Whitman Swears in Christine Grant as New Health Commissioner

Gov. Christie Whitman today swore in Christine Grant as Commissioner of the Department of Health and Senior Services.

"Chris Grant has a genuine concern for the future of our health care institutions and the people who work for them," said the Governor. "She brings with her a willingness to listen and she has shown that she's willing to take the time to build consensus for better solutions."

"The Governor has given me the privilege of furthering the health and well being of New Jerseyans," said Grant. "With her continued leadership and commitment and in partnership with the state's health care leadership, I am resolved to tackle the complex issues we face."

Grant most recently was the vice president of public policy and business at Pasteur Merieux Connaught, the world's largest vaccine and biologicals company, located in northeast Pennsylvania. She also previously worked as senior director of public policy for Merck & Co.

Grant was previously named as Deputy Commissioner at the Department of Health by Gov. Tom Kean and was responsible for managed ambulatory and acute care reimbursement, substance abuse and HIV treatment, CDC studies, and maternal and child health.

"The work of the Department of Health and Senior Services touches the lives of every New Jerseyan, from infants receiving vaccinations to senior citizens making decisions about long-term care," Gov. Whitman said. "Chris Grant's experience in the public and private sectors will be invaluable for the people of this state."

The Department of Health and Senior Services is charged with protecting public health and serves 1.4 million senior citizens over the age of 60. It has 1,800 employees and a nearly \$2 billion budget.

"Our goals are to promote accessible, cost-effective, high-quality health and senior services, to help hospitals and nursing homes operate within a competitive market place, to give seniors choices for long term care and to provide families with education and treatment to help our young people reject tobacco, alcohol and drugs," said Grant.

Grant holds an MBA from the Wharton School of Finance at the University of Pennsylvania and a law degree from Rutgers School of Law in Newark.

A resident of Princeton, Grant is married to Michael Halpern. The couple has two sons, Ian, 22, and Nathaniel, 15.

Grant has been serving as Acting Commissioner since early April when she replaced Len Fishman.

