

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 10, 2005

GOVERNOR NOMINATES NEAL E. LANE AS DIRECTOR OF THE STATE OFFICE OF THE AGING

Governor George E. Pataki today nominated Neal E. Lane as the Director of the New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA). Mr. Lane has been serving as the Acting Director since May 2003 and prior to that, he served as the Office's Executive Deputy Director.

"I am proud to nominate Neal Lane as Director of the Office of the Aging. Neal is a widely respected leader in the aging field and he has done an excellent job as the Acting Director of the Office," Governor Pataki said. "In this important position, his knowledge of issues that are vitally important to senior New Yorkers, combined with his leadership, will be a tremendous benefit to New York's elderly community and a great asset to the people of this State."

Mr. Lane is well respected for his knowledge of aging issues and has been recognized nationally for his efforts. Mr. Lane has served on numerous advisory boards throughout his career. His professional experience includes speaking at various state, national and international conferences on long term care and organizational and community change.

Mr. Lane was the first recipient of the Leadership in Aging Award in Memory of Dr. Patricia P. Pine, the former Director of NYSOFA. He was also recognized by the State Society on Aging when he received the organization's President's Award in 2004.

Prior to joining New York State's Office of the Aging, Mr. Lane was partner, consultant and analyst at Optimum Partners in Syracuse, New York. Over the course of ten years at Optimum Partners, he worked on care systems serving people living with HIV/AIDS; dental systems designed to provide care for high risk, low income children; community and school issues related to the troubling behavior of youth; community-based services for mental health consumers; and long term care systems, especially those serving seniors and young disabled persons.

Mr. Lane's also has extensive experience in County government. He served as the first Director of the Delaware County Office for the Aging from 1974 to 1983. Mr. Lane was asked to assume the position of Executive Director of the Broome County Community Alternative System's Agency (CASA) in 1983. Simultaneously, in 1984 he began his tenure as Executive Director of the Broome County Office for the Aging until 1989. He held both positions for a period of two years. In 1990, he was appointed Deputy Commissioner of the Onondaga Department of Long Term Care.

Among his many accomplishments, Mr. Lane worked hard to implement programs and services to meet the needs of older persons, particularly in the area of long term care. Some of the projects he was involved with include:

- Implementing a long term care access and Medicaid cost containment program in Broome County;
- Designing long term care system management program initiatives for Onondaga, Chemung and Cayuga counties;
- Evaluating proposals from large, urban U.S. counties seeking to improve access to long term care

- services, leading to the selection of four national project demonstration sites;
- Working with the Ringel Institute of Gerontology, Rockefeller College, State University of New York to provide New York State policy makers with detailed knowledge about successful approaches for long term care systems management; and
 - Assisting New York State counties to improve access, efficiency and effectiveness in their long term care service delivery systems.

A graduate of Walton High School, in Walton New York, Mr. Lane later received degrees in Radio-Television Communications, with a minor in Film, from Ithaca College, graduated from the New York State Police Academy and received a Master's in Social Work from Adelphi University.

Mr. Lane's appointment is subject to confirmation by the New York State Senate.

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