

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
November 4, 2008**

## **GOVERNOR PATERSON ANNOUNCES ADMINISTRATION APPOINTMENTS**

Governor David A. Paterson today announced that he will appoint Dennis P. Whalen to serve as Director of State Operations, Joe Baker to serve as Deputy Secretary for Health and Human Services and Duffy Palmer to serve as Deputy Secretary for Education to the Governor. These positions were previously held by the same individuals on an interim or acting basis and are now permanent appointments.

**Dennis P. Whalen** was appointed as Interim Director of State Operations on July 8, 2008. Previously, Mr. Whalen served as Deputy Secretary for Health and Human Services to the Governor beginning in January 2007. In that position, Mr. Whalen was the chief health care advisor to the Governor and responsible for policies and operations of the State's health and human services agencies including: the Department of Health, the Office of Mental Health, the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, the Office of Children and Family Services, the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, the Office for the Aging, the Division of Veterans' Affairs, the Office of Medicaid Inspector General, the Office of Welfare Inspector General, the Commission on Quality of Care and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities, the Council on Children and Families and the Developmental Disabilities Planning Council. Mr. Whalen previously served in the Department of Health as Executive Deputy Commissioner, Director of the Office of Health Systems Management and Executive Deputy Director of the AIDS Institute. He served in policymaking positions at the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, including Deputy Commissioner for Program Services. He began his career in state government in 1974 as a Public Health Educator at the Department of Health.

Mr. Whalen is a graduate of Marist College and the National Preparedness Leadership Institute at Harvard University - Kennedy School of Government.

*As Director of State Operations, Dennis Whalen will receive a salary of \$178,000.*

**Joe Baker** was appointed as Acting Deputy Secretary for Health and Human Services to the Governor on July 8, 2008. Since January 2007, Mr. Baker had served as the Assistant Deputy Secretary for Health and Human Services. Mr. Baker previously served as Health Care Bureau Chief in the Office of the New York State Attorney General. From 1994 until 2001, Mr. Baker was Executive Vice President of the Medicare Rights Center, which became one of the nation's leading Medicare consumer organizations during his tenure. Previously, Mr. Baker was the Associate Director of Legal Services for Gay Men's Health Crisis. He has served as a member of the Standards Committee and the Consumer Advisory Council of the National Committee for Quality Assurance and the Co-Chair of the Consumer/Patient Rights Subcommittee of the Health Law Section of the New York State Bar Association. Mr. Baker has also served as a Consumer Representative of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners.

Mr. Baker received a B.A. and a J.D. from the University of Virginia.

*As Deputy Secretary for Health and Human Services to the Governor, Mr. Baker will receive a salary of \$165,000.*

**Duffy Palmer** was appointed Interim Deputy Secretary for Education on August 19, 2008. Previously, Mr. Palmer was appointed as Assistant Deputy Secretary for Education in March 2008 after serving as Director of Education Policy for the Governor since March 2007. Prior to government work, Mr. Palmer taught for 33 years in the Batavia City School District in Batavia, New York where he gained experience in a variety of certified areas including learning disabled, emotionally disturbed, gifted and talented, social studies and remedial reading. He has also worked as a teacher trainer through the Genesee-Wyoming BOCES to assist teachers throughout Western New York in the teaching and inclusion of students with special needs. Mr. Palmer has worked on many local initiatives with the Rochester City School District and served on the Education Transition team for Rochester Mayor Robert Duffy.

Mr. Palmer received an Associates Degree from Genesee Community College before receiving a Bachelor's degree from the State University College at Buffalo. He went on to pursue graduate work at the State University of New York at Buffalo, SUC Genesee and SUC Brockport.

*As Deputy Secretary for Education to the Governor, Mr. Palmer will receive a salary of \$161,000.*

*These appointments do not require Senate confirmation.*