

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
October 4, 2011

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## **DMHC ANNOUNCES SENIOR STAFF APPOINTMENT**

**(Sacramento)** – Brent Barnhart, Director of the Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC), has announced the appointment of Maureen McKennan as Deputy Director for Plan and Provider Relations.

“Maureen has long been a great asset to the DMHC and we are very pleased that she will be overseeing the DMHC’s role in regulating the California managed care industry and ensuring that consumers continue to receive the care they need and deserve,” said Barnhart. “She is well-qualified to help lead the DMHC as national health care reform efforts are implemented and expanded to benefit California enrollees.”

As Deputy Director of Plan and Provider Relations, McKennan is responsible for fostering proactive and effective relations between the DMHC and its licensed health plans, while serving as primary advisor to the Director on critical plan and provider issues and providing strategic planning and policy direction on emerging issues and industry trends.

She has served as the Acting Deputy Director of Plan and Provider Relations since February 2011, having previously been the Assistant Deputy Director, Office of Health Plan Oversight, where she directed all activities of the 60 staff in the Division of Financial Oversight and the Division of Licensing. After joining the DMHC in 2005, she first worked as a staff counsel in the Office of Legal Services, and later in the Licensing Division.

McKennan is uniquely qualified to work in the health care field, having extensive experience as both an attorney and a nurse. She came to the DMHC from the Office of the Attorney General, where she worked in both the correctional law section and the licensing section. She has been an attorney at the Department of Health Services, and in private practice at Porter, Scott, Weiberg and Delehant.

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**Department of Managed Health Care**

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In addition to her juris doctorate at McGeorge School of Law, McKennan has a master of science degree in nursing from the University of California, San Francisco, and worked as a registered nurse and nurse practitioner for 14 years at the University of California, Davis Medical Center.

The California Department of Managed Health Care is the only stand-alone HMO watchdog agency in the nation, touching the lives of more than 21 million enrollees. The DMHC has assisted more than one million Californians resolve their HMO problems through its 24-hour Help Center, educates consumers on health care rights and responsibilities, and works closely with HMO plans to ensure a solvent and stable managed health care system.

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