

News release

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National open government leader joins Oregon Health Authority

Carolyn Lawson, a national leader in using technology for open and accessible government, will join the Oregon Health Authority as chief information officer, it was announced today.

Lawson will join OHA July 1. Her hiring comes after a nationwide search for a CIO who can serve both OHA and the Department of Human Services and bring innovation and vision to the agencies as they continually improve to meet the health and human service needs of Oregonians.

She currently is director of the California eServices office and deputy director of the Technology Services and Governance Division. Previously, Lawson was CIO at the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and also has served other leadership roles including in the California State and Consumer Services Agency and Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs.

Lawson has a reputation for being a change agent who can deliver complex information system projects on time and on budget. Her background is in using technology for open government and creating innovative partnerships that leverage technology for increased public access to services at a lower cost. She holds several national leadership positions, including service on the advisory boards of [Information Week](#) and [Code for America](#).

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At the PUC she led an [initiative](#) to bring cloud computing to the agency to allow staff better access to their desktop computers while in the field. And in her most recent position, she spearheaded the redesign and execution of the award-winning California state government [website](#) portal and the state's [open government data](#) website.

"In a time when our work is dependent on effective technology as a tool for everything from client services to public communication, and our agencies are going through great change, Carolyn is a strong leader who will bring a vision of open government and efficiency to our agencies while sharing our strong values of caring and public service," said Bruce Goldberg, M.D., director of the Oregon Health Authority.

"The Oregon Health Authority and Department of Human Services are national leaders when it comes to being bold enough to improve government to serve people better," said Lawson. "I am greatly looking forward to joining this team."

OHA and DHS share an Office of Information Services. Lawson will serve on the leadership teams of both agencies and report to Dr. Goldberg. This is part of the DHS/OHA new shared services model that leverages the resources of both agencies wherever possible for greater efficiency and lower costs.

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