



One Eagle Square, Suite 510
Concord, NH 03301

For information: Doug Hall, 603-798-5579
Steve Norton, 603-226-2500
Martin Gross, 603-224-2341

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NH Center for Public Policy Studies Appoints Steve Norton Executive Director
Doug Hall Becomes Executive Director Emeritus

The Board of Directors of the New Hampshire Center for Public Policy Studies has selected Steve Norton of Concord as its new executive director. Norton, who is currently the Center's Deputy Director, succeeds Doug Hall, who has served as the Center's director for ten years. The Center is an independent, non-partisan organization that conducts objective research on public policy.

"The Center's work is important to New Hampshire. Our primary objective in seeking Doug's successor has been to assure that the Center will keep doing what we've been doing under Doug's leadership," said board chair Martin Gross.

Doug Hall, the Center's founding executive director, plans to reduce his level of activity, and will be available to Norton to provide counsel and to work on policy topics as needed, but with a reduced workload and more flexible schedule. The transition in responsibility becomes effective July 10. Hall has been named Executive Director Emeritus by the Center's board of directors.

Steve Norton has been working in the New Hampshire public policy arena since 1998. As state Medicaid director, he focused on efforts to modernize the Medicaid program through the use of private sector best practices. Prior to that, he directed the NH Office of Policy and Analysis and the Department of Health and Human Services' efforts to use information in decision-making. Before coming to New Hampshire, Norton worked as a researcher at the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C. where he conducted health services research and published extensively on a variety of topics.

"In preparing for this important leadership transition, the Center's Board identified the qualities essential for our next executive director: objectivity, credibility, strong

communication and listening skills, and high competency in analysis and understanding of issues important to New Hampshire,” added board vice chair Donna Sytek. “In Steve, we believe we’ve found an executive director who will help maintain and build on the work the Center has pursued since 1996 to help improve New Hampshire’s policy making process,” she said.

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The New Hampshire Center for Public Policy Studies is an independent, non-profit, non-partisan organization that pursues data-driven research on public policy. Established in 1996, the Center’s mission is to raise new ideas and improve policy debates through quality information and analysis on issues shaping New Hampshire’s future. Since its founding 10 years ago, the Center has grown to include three full-time research staff in addition to its executive director. Its work includes research on the state budget, public school funding and health care finance. More information at nhpolicy.org.