



**Sunflower Foundation**  
HEALTH CARE FOR KANSANS

December 1, 2010

## **Foundation Announces New Vice President**



TOPEKA – The Topeka-based Sunflower Foundation is pleased to announce that Doug Farmer will join the organization as vice president of public affairs. Farmer, currently deputy director of the Kansas Health Policy Authority (KHPA), will begin his duties December 20.

In the newly created position, Farmer will head the foundation's advocacy fellowship program, now in its third year. The fellowship is designed to provide intensive training to equip nonprofit leaders with the understanding and skills needed to become effective public policy advocates for their organizations and the people they serve. The 2011 class of 15 advocacy fellows will be announced next week. Farmer will also work on policy issues for the foundation.

In making the announcement, Billie Hall, president and CEO of the foundation, said, "We are delighted to have Doug joining our team. His diverse experience in leadership roles in state government and his knowledge of public policy make him the ideal person to direct the foundation's emerging work in health policy. His insight and expertise will help shape the foundation's capacity building programs around health advocacy."

Farmer has also served as chief of staff, Office of Kansas Attorney General; deputy secretary, Kansas Department of Health and Environment; and assistant secretary, Kansas Department on Aging.

The Sunflower Foundation is a health philanthropy with a mission to serve as a catalyst for improving the health of Kansans. The foundation's funding priorities are health care access, healthy behaviors and prevention, capacity building and advocacy.

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BIO: Doug Farmer has spent the majority of his professional career working in Kansas state government. He began as an analyst in the state Division of the Budget, providing budgetary and policy analysis related to a variety of state agencies. In 1999, he moved to the Kansas Department on Aging (KDOA), the state agency that promotes programs to improve the lives of Kansas seniors and is responsible for the regulation and financing of the nursing home industry. During his tenure at KDOA, he served as Commissioner of Finance and later Assistant Secretary. In 2003, he joined the Kansas Department of Health and Environment as Deputy Secretary, where he provided general agency oversight and policy development in both public health and environmental regulation. Following a year long stint as the Chief of Staff to the Attorney General of Kansas, he joined the Kansas Health Policy Authority as the Director of the State Employee Health Plan and later became the agency's Deputy Director. Farmer holds a Master of Public Administration degree from James Madison University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of California at Davis. He is a native of San Jose, California.