



Roxane A. Townsend, MD
Deputy Secretary
Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH)
State of Louisiana

Dr. Roxane A. Townsend received a BSN in May of 1979 from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA. Following graduation she spent nine years working as a nurse in various capacities. These included ICU staff nurse, shift supervisor, Director of Education, and Associate Executive Director of Nursing in Humana Hospitals across the Southeastern United States. In 1988, she entered medical school at LSU in New Orleans and graduated from LSU School of Medicine-New Orleans in 1992.

Post-graduate training was completed in Internal Medicine in Baton Rouge, LA. Since completing that training, she has served LSU/EKL Medical Center in Baton Rouge in various capacities. First, she was asked to remain as Chief Resident in Internal Medicine; then being hired as Internal Medicine Faculty. Dr. Townsend went on to work for Dr. Cerise as the Chief Operating Officer at Earl K. Long. Upon Dr. Cerise's departure for the Department of Health and Hospitals, Dr. Townsend was named as the Interim Chief Executive Officer.

In July of 2004, Dr. Townsend moved to the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals as the Medicaid Medical Director where her responsibilities included oversight of all aspects of the Department's Disease Management and Clinical Quality activities. In her new position as Deputy Secretary with the Department, she oversees most of the agency's major offices, including the offices of Public Health, Mental Health, Addictive Disorders, Citizens with Developmental Disabilities and Aging and Adult Services.