

Cory Turner

State-Operated Specialty Care Director



Cory Turner serves as the State-Operated Specialty Care Division Director for the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Turner graduated from Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kansas, with a master's degree in liberal studies with an emphasis in Justice Studies and a Bachelor of Science degree in Justice Studies. He brings a broad range of experience to the Division Director position including experience with the juvenile justice system, civil commitment programs for sexually violent predators and general psychiatric programs. Turner was director of the Kansas Sexual Predator Treatment Program (SPTP) for two years, and Director of the Kansas Psychiatric Services Program for seven and a half years before moving to Iowa. He also has extensive experience working with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and The Joint Commission (TJC).

He has served for the past ten plus years as Superintendent of the Cherokee Mental Health Institute (CMHI) and the Civil Commitment Unit for Sexual Offenders (CCUSO). He was the interim Division Administrator for Facilities from January 2020 to May 2020 before being permanently appointed in May 2020. Turner continues to serve as Superintendent at CMHI and CCUSO, and will work from Cherokee, which will ensure that agency leadership is closely connected to facility operations.

Turner lives in Cherokee, Iowa, with his wife Randi, son Hayden, and one dog (Ellie). He is an avid runner and self-described champion of the underdog.