

Former DOH chief of staff returning to Florida after heading Kansas welfare agency

Christine Jordan Sexton, 12/19/2011 - 04:33 PM



Florida Department of Health. Photo Credit: Ana Goni-Lessan

Rob Siedlecki is returning to Florida after resigning his post as **Secretary of the Department of Social and Rehabilitative Services** in Kansas.

Siedlecki has taken a position as the assistant secretary for Substance Abuse and Mental Health and will earn \$120,000 annually, said **Department of Children and Families communications director Joe Follick**. Siedlecki's first day is Jan. 5. He replaces **David Sofferin** who has resigned, effective Jan. 5, said Follick.

Former **Department of Health Secretary Ana Viamonte Ros** hired Siedlecki in 2009 as her chief of staff. He served in that position until 2011 when he agreed to take the position at the Kansas social welfare agency.

Although in Kansas just one year Siedlecki made headlines quickly. While there he pushed for marriage and fathering programs and advocated for faith-based initiatives, according to a [Topeka Capitol-Journal story](#) announcing Siedlecki's resignation. The story says Siedlecki issued a statement saying he wanted to be closer to his family.

Before working in Florida, Siedlecki worked at the **U.S. Department of Justice** where he was senior legal counsel for the **Task Force on Faith Based and Community Initiatives** and the **Review Panel on Prison Rape**.

Before working for government Siedlecki was an associate with law firm of **Gunster, Yoakley & Stewart**, among other firms.

He graduated from Harvard College in 1991 and Cornell Law School in 1995.