



## Drozda to Lead Louisiana Association of Health Plans

The LAHP Board of Directors has named Jeff Drozda as chief executive officer beginning March 5.

Since 2006, Drozda has served as vice president of state government affairs for UnitedHealthcare. In this role, he has been

responsible for legislative, political and regulatory affairs in the southeastern U.S. covering Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina and South Carolina. He has worked with governors, legislators, insurance commissioners and their staffs on key health care issues.

He also served six years as a state senator of Indiana, where he represented over 135,000 citizens and served on numerous legislative committees, including the Senate Insurance Committee.

"We are extremely pleased to be able to name someone of Jeff Drozda's caliber to the CEO position," said J Pegues, CEO of Coventry Health Care of Louisiana and president of the LAHP Board of Directors. "His extensive experience makes him the ideal professional to lead our association in the rapidly-evolving and challenging health care environment."

Drozda will be responsible for managing all activities of the association. These include advocating on behalf of the health benefits industry, coordinating legislative and regulatory activities, promoting membership, conducting educational events, coordinating workgroups and committees, overseeing communications and managing the association's administrative functions.

LAHP is familiar to Drozda, who has been a member for several years and has actively served on the Legislative Affairs and Regulatory Affairs committees.

"The role of the health benefits industry is particularly exciting during this time of change and innovation," said Drozda. "I look forward to building on the current strength of the association and moving an agenda that includes educating policy makers on improving health outcomes and modernizing affordable health care."

Drozda is succeeding outgoing CEO Gil Dupré, who has led LAHP's operations for more than 15 years. Dupré will retire March 2.

"It was imperative that we find a new CEO who could build on LAHP's strong foundation," said Dupré. "In Jeff, we have someone who has a deep knowledge of health and policy issues, as well as experience in the legislative and political arenas."

Drozda graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a B.A. in International Relations, and Government and Philosophy. He also completed 30 hours of post-graduate work in Business Administration at George Washington University. Drozda, who enjoys golfing and hunting, lives near Clinton, Louisiana with his wife, Cheryl, and their eight children.

Beginning March 5, members can reach CEO Jeff Drozda by calling the LAHP office. Also, welcoming e-mails can be sent to [jdrozda@lahp.net](mailto:jdrozda@lahp.net).

Jeff will begin his LAHP duties at a fast pace, since the 2012 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature convenes exactly a week later. LAHP's annual *Health Care at the Capitol* event, set for the afternoon and evening of March 13, will afford members a great opportunity to meet their new CEO. □