



*Expanding the world of possibilities
for aging in Oregon*

**DHS Announces
Ashley Carson Cottingham
New Deputy Director of DHS Adult and People with Disabilities**

Dear APD Stakeholders:

After careful consideration of an outstanding pool of candidates, I am pleased to announce Ashley Carson Cottingham as the new Deputy Director for DHS Aging and People with Disabilities programs.

Ashley comes to us with a wealth of advocacy and programmatic experience related to older adults and people with disabilities. As Deputy Director, she will oversee the successful execution of several priority initiatives underway in APD.

Ashley worked as the staff director for the Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee at the U.S. Senate; she worked with Medicare, Medicaid, aging, disability and primary health care issues for her boss, Chairman Bernie Sanders. Most notably, her team was tasked with pushing the bi-partisan reauthorization of the Older Americans Act forward. While not completed during her tenure, many of the policies Ashley worked on were adopted by the Committee in S. 1562. She also worked for the Senate Special Committee on Aging, specifically on hearings and policies related to preventing elder abuse and strengthening retirement security.

Prior to the Senate, Ashley was the Executive Director of the national non-profit organization, the Older Women's League, where she highlighted the issues that impact women as they age – including retirement security, access to health care and other quality of life issues. Most recently, Ashley worked as the Director of Policy and Advocacy for Compassion & Choices, an organization dedicated to improving care and expanding choices at the end of life. In this role, she led the development of a new policy department and also a consumer-driven campaign to end unwanted medical treatment.

Ashley received her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Oregon and her law degree from the Vermont Law School. Ashley has a passion for seniors and people with disabilities and is excited for the opportunity to positively impact the lives of those we serve. Ashley will start April 8th. Please join me in welcoming her.

Mike McCormick, Director
Aging and People with Disabilities
Department of Human Services