

Emma Forkner
Director
South Carolina Department of Health and Humana Services

Emma Forkner was named Director of the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services in July 2007. She is a native of Dillon, South Carolina and earned a nursing degree from the Medical University of South Carolina. Upon graduation, Forkner became a nurse in the United States Air Force, where she served for more than 24 years. Forkner was stationed at seven different bases around the world and held a variety of posts, including Director of Telemedicine at Alaska's Elmendorf Air Force Base. She retired in 1996 with the rank of Colonel. Prior to joining Health and Human Services, Forkner earned a Master's degree in Public Administration and was a Senior Policy Analyst with the Altarum Institute, a nonprofit health care research institute in San Antonio, Texas. Her published research spans a variety of important health care topics, including the relative clinical and financial effectiveness of disease management and the use of data to optimize care delivery systems. One of her top priorities at Health and Human Services is to improve health outcomes for Medicaid beneficiaries through enhanced care coordination. Forkner's husband, Larry, is an attorney and a retired United States Air Force JAG officer. They live in Columbia and have three children and one granddaughter.

